Primary care reform: the next 10 years

The 12th Annual Department of General Practice Awards Night

Tuesday 20th October 2020 6:15pm-7:15pm

Guest Speaker

Professor Michael Kidd AM

Professor Michael Kidd AM is Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Principal Medical Advisor with the Australian Government Department of Health, and Professor of Primary Care Reform at The Australian National University. He is a family doctor, a past president of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, a past president of the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), and a past Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Flinders University. Prior to joining the Department of Health, he was Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Care, and Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto in Canada.
Awards Night Facilitator

Dr Nick Carr
General Practitioner at St Kilda Medical Group and Radio Presenter

Nick is a GP, writer and broadcaster. He trained at Cambridge University in London before moving to Melbourne in 1988. He completed a master’s degree at The University of Melbourne in 1992.

True to his chosen career as a generalist, Nick has a wide variety of interests without any special expertise in any of them. He has published on a range of subjects, from sore throats to parenting, baby sleep programs, enemas, sport, benzodiazepines, psychosis, consumer issues, computers, Covid and chicken bones.

Nick is a Board member of Dying with Dignity Victoria and has been providing Voluntary Assisted Dying care since the Act commenced in June 2019.

Q & A Discussion Group

Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AC
Honorary Enterprise Professor & GP at Altona North Medical Group

Dr Leanne Beagley
CEO of Mental Health Australia

Dr Caroline Johnson
Senior Lecturer in Primary Care
2019 Student Awards

MCCC GP Rural Talent Development Award
Mr Sachin Phakey

“I am very grateful to be the recipient of this award. My general practice experiences in regional Bairnsdale, East Gippsland and metropolitan Melbourne during my medical studies have been incredibly memorable and rewarding, not only for my medical learning, but also professionally and personally. This award encourages me and reinforces my desire to pursue a career in general practice and in rural medicine, for which I have a passion.”

2019 Eastern Victoria GP Training Prize
Mr Neeraj Limaye

“The rotation which I undertook with Peninsula Family General Practice, through the Department of General Practice, has been critically relevant to my clinical learning. The teaching style adopted, provided a greater appreciation and understanding about the biopsychosocial importance that primary care provides to patients; something unique to this rotation. I was able to begin to foster a clinical relationship with those with chronic health conditions, requiring long-term care. Peninsula Family General Practice taught me that there will always be time to spend the extra minute listening to patient concerns, if you choose to make it. Overall, this rotation has given me the confidence to continue to work harder and strive for excellence in the field of medicine. I am excited to continue to learn and experience the broad range of medical fields available. The Critical Care pathway is one that I am particularly keen to gain further exposure to. The knowledge and experiences I have gained during my General Practice rotation will provide me with a strong foundation to complete further study.”

2019 RACGP Victoria Prize
Mr Roshan Karri

“My general practice term was one of the most challenging yet fulfilling experiences I have had during medical school. My supervisor Dr Lichtblau was incredibly encouraging, and ensured that I had my own room to conduct patient consultations. This provided me with the opportunity to systematically complete my workup without the time pressure normally encountered in the hospital setting, enabling a productive, well supported learning environment. Whilst I consolidated a great deal of factual knowledge during my GP term, I also learnt a lot about the psychosocial factors in our community that impact patient health and wellbeing, and hope to take these lessons into my future practice as a clinician. Looking forward, I have a keen interest in biotechnology and the integration of AI into modern medicine, and aspire to a career in Ophthalmology, wherein I hope to explore further the augmentation of cutting-edge medicine using novel technologies.”

2019 Therapeutic Guidelines Award
Ms Jenni-Marie Ratten

“I thoroughly enjoyed my General Practice experience in Bayswater with Dr. Campbell. It demonstrated a practice with close relationships among staff and allied health achieving great outcomes for their patients. The positive impact that long-term relationships with patients has on their health particularly stood out to me. It inspired me to strongly consider a career in General Practice, as primary health prevention and continuity of care resemble my intentions as a medical care provider.”

2019 Graduate Primary Care Nursing Student Award
Ms Tracy Burleigh

“I have been working in general practice since I completed my Bachelor of Nursing, as a mature aged student, in 2014. I was attracted to primary care nursing after completing a clinical practicum at a General Practice when I was a student nurse. I enjoy being able to develop long term relationships with the people I see in general practice, and also love the variety of the tasks I get to perform every day. I am not currently working due to an interstate move which coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic but I'm looking forward to getting back to work soon, so that I can utilise all the knowledge I have gained through completing the Graduate Certificate in Primary Care Nursing.”
2019 Teaching Awards

Excellence as a Teaching Practice in the General Practice Term

Neal Street Medical Clinic

“Neal Street Medical Clinic are absolutely thrilled to be awarded the 2019 Melbourne University Teaching Award.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being associated with such a fantastic university and its students. We take pride in our practice and value having the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience with each and every student.

The entire Neal Street team was involved in one way or another and we all get something out of this relationship. We truly appreciate being recognised for the hard work we put in to making their time with us worthwhile.

We look forward to continuing our association with Melbourne University in the future.”

Outstanding GP Term Teacher

Honorary A/Professor Malcom Clark
Medical Director IPN Medical Centres, Victoria

“Since 2001, I have had the pleasure of learning from students who have visited me at the practice, as much as helping them to learn how to be a good doctor. General practice is the broadest and most challenging discipline in medicine. Medical students who have a good experience in general practice when they are students become advocates for us in primary care. The GP training block is usually the longest teacher-learner experience of their four years at Melbourne Medical School and rated as the best learning experience at the Melbourne Medical School.

Our job is to help them understand that competence, communication, understanding of community and empathy are key skills to be a good doctor.

The icing on the cake is showing them the joy of the long-term connections: the relationships with our patients and their extended families; learning how much our patients value teaching at our practices; and the pure joy of being asked to be the GP for the baby of one of the babies I looked after 30 years ago.”
2019 Research Awards

Excellent Contribution to Research by Practice Manager

Ms Donna Mannix, Guardian Medical Highpoint and Flemington Showgrounds

Donna has contributed to the coordination, implementation and data collection for a suite of Department of General Practice research trials including Osmotic, Data for Decisions, Harmony and The ACCT Healthy Hearts Study. She is also a member of the Future Health Today General Practice Advisory Panel which plays a pivotal role in the co-design of the Future Health Today platform.

Donna is a dedicated Practice Manager, Practice Nurse, Chronic Disease Manager, Diabetes Educator and active member of the Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM) and the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA). Donna’s activities and attitude display her dedication to the health sector and belief that research is important for improving health quality and patient health. Congratulations Donna and thank you!

Excellent Contribution to Research by Practice Nurse

Ms Jane Rinaldi, Shepparton Medical Centre

Jane’s excellent contribution to research was displayed through her involvement in the CRISP tool implementation project and others. She was the Practice Champion for the project and contributed tirelessly throughout the year. Jane was always punctual, organised and enthusiastic and brought an upbeat, positive attitude to the study. She stayed committed and responsive to the project, even after the study wrapped, continuing to use the CRISP tool. Jane has consistently been a great advocate for other Department of General Practice research studies, including Future Health Today. Jane “deserves to win this award due to her phenomenal support of our research.”

Excellent Contribution to Research by a General Practitioner

Dr Meredith Lewis, Parkville Precinct Medical

Dr Meredith Lewis is an active member of VicREN and is supportive of a broader primary care strategy at Parkville Precinct Medical where she is Principal GP. She has a passion for collaboration that enables primary care research, teaching and training. Meredith was nominated for this award by the Cancer in Primary Care Research Group. She supported a PhD student project which aimed to test the feasibility and acceptability of a genomic test using snips of DNA to access patients’ risk of developing colorectal cancer. Always friendly and supportive, she enabled recruitment of her patients and contributed to a second phase of the study and also to the I-MAGIC Project. She is highly competent and values research and is always willing to do more than what is asked of her. We thank you Meredith!
Exceptional Contribution to Research by a General Practice

Altona North Medical Group

This award recognises the excellent contribution to research by all the clinical and non-clinical staff at Altona North Medical Group. This innovative community health hub is an early adopter of technology and continually seeks ways to improve the service and care they provide, including through involvement in research. They supported Data for Decisions and the Future Health Today research project by being the first practice to pilot the Future Health Today software. By acting as a project “guinea pig” they provided invaluable insights to help refine and improve the software. The staff volunteered their time and office space on multiple occasions, they participated in interviews and focus groups, did software troubleshooting, helped film promotional videos, attended workshops (sometimes in their own time) “and were generally awesome in all respects”. Congratulations to all the team!

Doctor and Master of Philosophy Graduates 2019 & 2020

Nicole Iturrieta-Guaita PhD
Partner notification for syphilis in Chile: exploring healthcare providers’ perspectives to enhance public health service delivery

Nicole’s work in Chile explored the challenges involved in gaining access to partners of pregnant women with the sexually transmitted infection, syphilis. Her findings revealed that partner notification practices need strengthening to enhance syphilis control. Her work will benefit the population by decreasing transmission of this serious disease.

Marianne Webb PhD
The design and implementation of a health and lifestyle screening app to improve the care of young people in general practice

Marianne engaged 14 to 25-year-old people and general practice in the co-design and implementation of a digital interactive tool facilitating detection and management of health risks and mental health issues. This tool improved youth engagement with health care and willingness to disclose risks, and general practitioner understanding of young people.
Christine Hallinan PhD

**Does the removal of financial incentives from Australian general practices affect immunisation rates?**

Christine used sophisticated novel modelling procedures to examine Australia’s immunisation data registry. She demonstrated that the removal of financial incentives to General Practitioners for the reporting of immunisation resulted in an immediate and statistically significant drop in immunisation coverage. These findings will assist policy makers in the future.

Jason Chiang PhD

**Multimorbidity in people with type 2 diabetes: exploration of associations with mortality and glycaemia**

Jason investigated the impact of having multiple chronic conditions, (also known as multimorbidity), in people living with type 2 diabetes across three countries. He highlighted the need for clinical guidelines to take a holistic approach considering multimorbidity beyond the immediate disease to better care for people with type 2 diabetes.

Lily Claringbold MPhil

**The provision of psychosocial support in early pregnancy assessment services in Australia**

Lily examined the psychosocial support offered to patients who experience early miscarriage and attend Early Pregnancy Assessment Services in public hospitals. The study demonstrated large variation in services, despite their common commitment to providing the best care. Poor resourcing and high patient caseload limited the provision of psychosocial support.

Robert Henning PhD

**The ethical principles which guide the allocation of healthcare resources to rural children**

Robert studied the ethical principles which guide allocation of healthcare resources to Australian rural children. He found disagreement on the meaning of equity and political, economic and risk factors limits equitable allocation to rural children. Therefore, allocation decisions ought to be re-aligned to the needs of individual children.
Elizabeth McLindon PhD

“It happens to clinicians too”: The prevalence, impact and implications of domestic and family violence against health professional women.

Elizabeth investigated the prevalence, impacts and implications of family violence against women health professionals. She found that family violence was common and associated with sensitive care of survivor patients. Her findings demonstrate the need for trauma-informed workplace responses and have translated to enhanced support for survivor staff in Victorian hospitals.

Deepthi Iyer PhD

Australian young women’s perceptions of dating and dating violence

Deepthi studied Australian young women’s perceptions of dating and dating violence. She found that the young women perceived dating to be gendered and scripted. Dating violence behaviours were not recognised and crisis points were needed to end abusive relationships. Her findings inform primary prevention efforts that must challenge gendered dating scripts.

Jonathan Kaufman PhD

Urinary tract infections in young children: optimising diagnosis with effective and cost-effective urine sample collection

Jonathan studied diagnostic processes for urinary tract infection in young children. He developed and trialled a novel method of sample collection which proved effective, quick for clinicians, gentle for children, and used qualitative data to inform research translation. This new method is now recommended clinical practice in several international guidelines.

Kaleswari Somasundaram MPhil

The role of physiotherapists in providing nutrition care to improve dietary behaviours

Kaleswari explored the role of physiotherapists in providing nutrition care. Physiotherapists reported both encouraging patients’ healthy eating and referring patients to dietitians when needed. Physiotherapists also identified the need for more clarity around scope of practice and further training to routinely provide nutrition care to all patients.
Meet our teams

Members of the Department of General Practice work with communities and practitioners to improve the healthcare system in a number of different ways. The following pages highlight the work of our teams undertaken through our programs of research and research translation, our medical student teaching and placement, and research training.

We are tremendously proud of the hard work and commitment of all of our staff and students. Many of their successes are shown:

- on our website gp.unimelb.edu.au
- in the list of peer-reviewed publications for 2019-2020
- in our newsletters

Our professional staff team support staff and students across the Department with teaching, research and engagement activities. We see first-hand the valuable contribution of the primary care community, VicREN, who respond to our calls to action by supporting our teaching, by hosting general practice placements for Doctor of Medicine students and participating in our research projects. We are committed to working with staff, students and our primary care community, offering our administrative knowledge and skills to advance the shared vision of improving health outcomes and the health care system.
Top row: Ms Bernie Cooper, Ms Helen Steer, Ms Tracy Murphy
Middle row: Dr Caroline Johnson, Dr Laura Beaton, Dr Chance Pistoll
Bottom row: Dr Claire Mahoney

It has been a busy year for the T&L team! In February, we launched the new first year longitudinal placement which enabled all first-year students to spend 1 day a fortnight in general practice. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic it has been put on hold, but we are looking forward to re-launching it again in 2021.

We have successfully transitioned all our teaching online and with the support of our fantastic GP supervisors and practices we managed to reintroduce placements in July for our third year medical students.

The team also commenced a collaboration with Imperial College, London which has already resulted in a publication.

More information: www.gp.unimelb.edu.au/datafordecisions
We've had success with grants and awards from NHMRC, Victorian Cancer Agency (VCA), Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and Cancer Australia for four trials. Jon received an NHMRC Investigator grant, Sibel the Picchi Award and the W.P. Greene scholarship, and Kristi received a Faculty travel grant. PC4 celebrated their 10-year anniversary with $10 million of grant success, and the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) podcast Research Roundup was an Australian Podcast Awards finalist. We continue to build our data linkage program with the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC). We welcomed new members: Paige, Pinn, Allison, Damien, Carmody, Javiera, Michelle, Jianrong, and Mairead.

The Should I Take Aspirin Trial (SITA) will be our first telehealth trial as we learn to run studies during COVID-19.

We would like to thank all our research students for their many contributions to our Department. Overseen by a committee with student and supervisor representation, the role of the Research Training Team is to build student research capacity. In 2019-2020, 17 Honours students and 17 medical students undertook research projects in primary care. Approximately 100 hours of research training tutorials and 300 hours of marking were delivered by academics and volunteer graduate research students to support them. At any one time, we have around 30 Masters and Doctor of Philosophy candidates. Congratulations to the 10 master and doctoral students who completed in 2019 and 2020!
Our program aims to advance the health and wellbeing of children and young people through accessible and responsive primary care and through effective interventions. Currently we are:

- exploring and health and wellbeing of university students in the study *Towards a health promoting university*
- advancing health of secondary students through support and training of GPs in the *Doctors in Secondary Schools program*
- through the Noongar boodjar trial, co-designing mental health care of Indigenous young people as part of the *Bringing family, community, culture and country to the centre* of health care program in partnership with Professor Sandra Eades (Curtin University).
- involved in many studies as part of the *Wellbeing Health & Youth* NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Adolescent Health
- contributing to *The Adolescent Health Assessment Rebate (RAd) trial* in partnership with Professor Jane Hocking (MSPGH)
HaBIC R² Research Information Technology Unit Team

Top row: Mr Mark Merolli, Ms Cathy Zhang, Ms Mai Laiprasert, A/Prof Dougie Boyle, Mr Lee Nguyen, Mr Michael Lane, Mr Sze Lee, Ms Chris Chidgey

Bottom Row: Mr Warwick Strangward, Mr Sean Lo, Mr Henry Hamidjaja, Mr Gary Sun, Mr Amit Taneja, Ms Yang Wang, Mr Roger Ward, Ms Keerthy Gopalakrishna

HaBIC R² continues to grow as it expands the breadth and scope of its technology development projects including Future Health Today, The Validitron common health data integration platform, Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) Transformational Data Collaboration (including data quality tool development, common data model conversions and terminology translations), continued national data acquisition leadership with GRHANITE underpinning national GP data and STI national surveillance, Burnet Myanmar implementation, COVID-19 First Few Families, the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Interactive Digital Technology to Transform Australia Chronic Disease Outcomes, Patron development and implementation, GenV (Generation Victoria) data linkage development, Indigenous research support and more…

Integrated Mental Health Team

Top row: Dr Matthew Lewis (Research Fellow), Ms Maria Potiriadis (Trial Coordination & Engagement), A/Professor Victoria Palmer (Program Lead)

Middle Row: Dr Cath Kaylor-Hughes (Research Fellow), Ms Roxanne Kritharidis (Research Support Officer), Ms Emily Knights (Trial Research Nurse), Ms Konstancja Densley (Data Manager and Analyst), Ms Nikka Milani (Research Support), Professor Jane Gunn (Program Mentor).

2019 achievements: Link-me, a stepped mental health care model noted in the draft report for the Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into Mental Health. A/Prof Palmer and the Agency for Clinical Innovation NSW Health awarded ‘Article of the Year 2019’ for a case study synthesis of six experience-based co-design projects.

2020 achievements: CovidCare clinical trial of a self-monitoring App for Covid-19 symptoms and mental health in self-isolation. Leading the evaluation for A/Prof Luke Burchill’s mobile app for healthcare workers’ mental health and well-being at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Two PhD students also completed successfully (Clare Hayes and Robert Henning).

https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/research-groups/general-practice-research/mental-health-program/covidda
Our relationships with our organisational partners, with the diverse communities we serve and with our colleagues, are characterised by:

■ Integrity;
■ Excellence;
■ Innovation; and
■ Respect.

Department of General Practice
Vision & Values

Through our research partnerships and education, we work with communities and practitioners to improve the healthcare system, placing the person at the heart of healthcare and improving health outcomes.

Our team has 13 staff members and 12 research students. Our focus on working with women with lived experience has strengthened through co-designing an Experts by Experience framework. We developed online tools including BETTER MAN for men who use violence, MySafety for university students, and Burndawan for Aboriginal families. We led 25 projects worth over $1.5 million, publishing 20 papers on: psychological interventions, screening and hospital programs, sexual violence and reproductive coercion, health practitioner’s readiness to address domestic violence, and health practitioner’s own experience of family violence. We developed the workforce by training 260 primary care staff to address family violence.