



From the Chair

GPpartners are back into the swing of the New Year with several Education Events coming up soon. Montserrat hosted an evening at Indooroopilly on the 5th of February. I have summarised some of the important information that came out of the meeting later in the newsletter.

It was a busy day as I met with the new Federal Health Minister Hon Sussan Ley earlier in the morning at the Wesley Hospital. I was impressed by how interested the Health Minister was in finding out about the issues and some possible solutions. The themes that emerged from the session I attended were the review of the MBS and how medicine has changed since the MBS was first implemented. The Relative Values Study be revisited as it would give guidance to changes in the MBS. If the Government really wants to crack down on 3 minute and low quality medicine to use the Professional Service Review by tightening up the criteria but also realising that a doctor falling outside the parameters is not always doing the wrong thing. It may be they have a specialised practice eg seeing a lot of Nursing Home patients etc. To consider changing the Medicare rules so doctors can charge the gap payment instead of the full cost when the patients recoups the rebate from Medicare. For some expensive radiological procedures patients sometimes are unable to pay the \$1005 but would be happy to pay the \$5 and the radiology practice claim the rest through Medicare. Discussed the high costs to the system are often in the last 12 months of a patient's life and that tests and procedures should be appropriate and more emphasis on End of Life planning in consultation with the patient.

Education

Events

'Managing Bipolar, Treatment Resistant Depression and Generalised Anxiety Disorder'

6.15pm, Monday 9th March

Pine Rivers Private Hospital, Strathpine

[Register Now](#)

[Invite](#)

'New Perspectives on Old Problems: HRT and Anal Conditions'

6.00pm, Wednesday 11th March

North Lakes Day Hospital

[Register Now](#)

'Diabetes - All the questions you were afraid to ask'

6.30pm, Tuesday 24th March

The Allan Border Field Pavilion, Albion

[Register Now](#)

Private Health Insurance was discussed and how some cheaper cover didn't always cover what the patient thought it covered. Early discharge from hospital can impact on General Practice with the subsequent expectations of the GP looking after the patient in the community. Hospital in the Home where a patient is in their home but by being in a virtual hospital bed cannot claim for services through Medicare.

The lack of funding particularly in the private sector for Palliative Care was discussed. At present the church run hospitals consider it part of their mission services.

I attended two sessions. The Health Minister was seeing people all day from 7am to 10pm so would have been exhausted at the end of it all. Hopefully she will be able to make some informed decisions after her trip around the country.

GPpartners is upgrading our website and will be hosting a Blog. This will be an easy way to let us know of issues and to have a conversation about what is happening in General Practice particularly in our local area. In the next newsletter we will give instructions on how to use the blog!

Jayne Ingham
Chair GPpartners

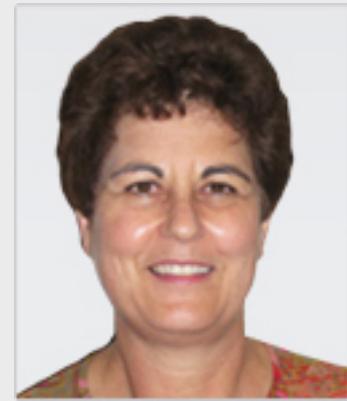
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GPpartners' Education Session

'Managing Bipolar, Treatment Resistant Depression and Generalised Anxiety Disorder'

6.15pm, Monday 9th March

5 RACGP Category 2 points

Topic: Join Dr Tom George, Psychiatrist for an update on mental health.

When: 6.15pm, Monday 9th March

Where: Pine Rivers Private Hospital, Strathpine

Register now for 'Managing Bipolar, Depression and Anxiety Disorder' - 9th Mar 15

Invitation for 'Managing Bipolar, Depression and Anxiety Disorder' - 9th Mar 15

GPpartners Education Summary

'Blood in the Poo, What Do You Do?' Education

5th February 2015

“Blood in the Poo” and “Abnormal LFTS.”

I am sure that the title was the draw card for this evening.

Dr Sam Islam took us through the causes of blood in the poo.

I know my most common referral is for colonoscopy. We have all had those young patients with carcinoma of the colon. The 27 year old I saw could have had bleeding from haemorrhoids but fortunately had a colonoscopy which showed polyposis coli with several malignant lesions.

I don't think there are any easy answers to when to order a colonoscopy in the young just have a low threshold for referral.

Dr Rebecca Ryan took us a Cooks tour of abnormal LFTs. Fortunately there were no frozen berries for desert. The slides available on the website do more justice to the presentation than my summary but what surprised me was that haemachromotosis doesn't cause abnormal LFTs and the most common cause for raised ferritin is Non Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. The ferritin level goes down in NAFLD with better control of the metabolic disorder ie weight loss and better glyceemic control.

More interesting education events are coming up, keep a look out for your invitations.

GPpartners Education Session

'New Perspectives on Old Problems - HRT and Anal Conditions'

6.00pm, Wednesday 11th March

6 RACGP Category 2 points

Speakers: Dr Archna Saraswat, General Gynaecologist

Dr Daniel Mehanna, General Surgeon and Gastrointestinal Endoscopist

Topics: Dr Saraswat will explore HRT and the new breakthrough treatment of vaginal atrophy using MonaLisaTouch vaginal laser, a noninvasive alternative to HRT for the treatment of symptoms of vaginal atrophy.

Dr Mehanna will look at Common Anal Problems from the General Practitioner's Perspective.

When: 6pm, Wednesday 11th March

Where: North Lakes Day Hospital, North Lakes

Register now for 'HRT and Anal Conditions' - 11th Mar 15



Deaths From Childhood Asthma

You may have heard of the NSW Child Death Review Team's analysis of deaths from asthma during the 10-year period 2004 - 2013 in the news this week. In particular, there has been a recent increase in deaths, the cause of which is not clear.

Dr Cherri Ryan from Asthma Foundation Queensland has provided the source article below for your reference.

['Deaths from childhood asthma 2004 - 2013: what lessons can we learn?'](#)

GPpartners' Education Session

'Diabetes - All the questions you were afraid to ask'

6.30pm, Tuesday 24th March

5 RACGP Category 2 points

Speakers: Dr Gary Deed, GP

Topic: Join Dr Gary Deed, co-editor of the RACGP Diabetes GP Management Guidelines 2014-15 for an in-depth look at the guidelines.

When: 6.30pm, Tuesday 24th March

Where: The Allan Border Field Pavilion, Albion

Register now for 'Diabetes - All the Questions' - 24th Mar 15

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