



From the Chair

It seems a long time since our AGM in October at Victoria Park. Thank you to all those wonderful GPs who came so we were oversubscribed for a quorum.

We had a great mix of GPs from different backgrounds so the discussion after the formalities was robust and interesting giving GPpartners more ideas to

work with.

Sadly we said goodbye to two of GPpartners' longest standing directors, Dr Henry Bryan and A/Prof Glynn Kelly. They have promised to keep involved and have already linked GPpartners with some other projects which will affect GPs. Our new board directors are Dr Murray Bingham (St Lucia), Dr Jeanne Carpenter (Sandgate) and Dr Jayne Ingham (North Lakes).

As I said in the AGM report, GPpartners appreciate the history and experience of the original Brisbane North Division of General Practice which developed innovative programs which have now become part of General Practice such as the Chronic Disease Management Plans.

As part of our strategy GPpartners is going to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors. Our aim is to improve the systems and information to help GPs in their day-to-day work. In the long term this will help patient care.

GPpartners has applied for the tender to provide Mental Health Nurse Services to Metro North Brisbane. In my practice at North Lakes, we have had two Mental Health Nurses who support the GPs in the management of patients at the severe end of the mental health spectrum. Interestingly, recently I have been at two meetings and the GP sitting next to me has said, "I have had a stressful day trying to sort out an unwell mental health patient just trying to get some support and assistance for them never mind trying to get them admitted to hospital". My reply "What you need is a Mental Health Nurse". Watch this space, hopefully we will have some good news in the New Year.

There are a couple of other projects in the very initial stages looking at the future direction of General Practice especially with changes to the NDIS, My Aged Care and My Mental Health Services.

There may also be an opportunity to provide paid services to your patients without some of the confines of Medicare. There are many changes happening and GPpartners realise GPs are busy in their own space. Our proposed

programs will help smooth the changes (we hope).

Other contentious issues are emerging which will affect us all but particularly Practice Owners. Dr Trish Baker forwarded the newsletter from the recently formed AGPA “Australian General Practice Alliance”. [Please click here for a copy.](#)

GPpartners is hosting a Practice Owners meeting in the New Year on Wednesday the 18th of January to discuss local issues as well as the national issues. We will send out an email with the venue and time once confirmed. This will become a regular meeting, so if you are unable to get to the first one there will be more.

ICON North Lakes hosted a speed dating education evening in October. The specialists moved from table to table and presented a case for discussion. The changes in cancer treatment are surprising. One year we are talking about the genetics of the cancer the next immunotherapy. The outcomes have improved and the side effects of treatment decreased. Unfortunately some cancers still have a poor prognosis but with the research advancing quickly the outcomes will improve.

Of course we are busy arranging education events for the New Year, keeping them topical and relevant for GPs. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to present let us know at contact@gppartners.com.au

Thank you for your support for GPpartners during the past year, attending the education sessions and reading the newsletter. Next year is going to be an exciting year and we are hoping to be able to support you in more practical ways as well as with the education sessions.

GPpartners Board and Staff wish you a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Jayne Ingham

GPpartners' Board



Dr Jayne Ingham, Chair
GPpartners' Board



Dr Jeanne Carpenter, Director
GPpartners' Board



Dr Murray Bingham, Director
GPpartners' Board



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