

National Rural Health Alliance E-forum – 28 March 2003

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From: Renee Henshaw <renee@orgaus.com.au>
Subject: Prevocational Medical Education 8th National Forum

The Postgraduate Medical Education Foundation of Queensland is holding the 8th National Forum on Prevocational Medical Education on the Gold Coast at the Crowne Plaza Surfers Paradise on the 5th - 7th November, 2003.

Theme - Educating For Competence And Capability In Clinical Practice

Call for papers – proposals due by Friday 30th May, 2003.

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Interested in becoming a “friend” of the Alliance? Become more involved with the work of the Alliance by becoming a “friend”. “friends” support the Alliance by being an integral part of the Alliance’s policy and evaluation process. They also receive other benefits. For more information on membership see <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

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FEDERAL FUNDING ANNOUNCED FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH FACILITIES

The Federal Government has announced funding of almost \$8 million to construct and redevelop health facilities and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in urban, rural and remote Australia.

"This year the Government has identified 13 major and 8 minor capital works projects for priority funding. Major projects range in scope and value from \$0.8m for the major redevelopment of a substance use facility to \$1.6m for construction of a new purpose built health facility," Health Minister Senator Kay Patterson said.

Projects include:

- * 4 projects within New South Wales valued at \$120,000
- * 5 projects within Northern Territory valued at \$1,974,045
- * 5 projects within Western Australia valued at \$3,285,000
- * 4 projects within Queensland valued at \$865,000
- * 1 project within South Australia valued at \$350,000
- * 1 project within Victoria valued at \$1,039,000
- * 1 project within Tasmania valued at \$230,000

The full text of Senator Patterson’s statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/kp/kp03033.htm>

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PARTYline is the official newsletter of the National Rural Health Alliance. Keep up to date with rural health policy information and good news stories on living and working in the rural health community. Available online on <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au> or receive a hard copy by emailing michele@ruralhealth.org.au

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‘EVIDENCE TO EXCELLENCE’ IN EMERGENCY CARE CONFERENCE

28–29 August, 2003, Carlton Crest Hotel, Sydney

THEMES

1. Improving emergency care through collaboration
2. Putting the patient first
3. Using evidence, measurement and data to
4. Culture, teams, leadership and innovation
5. Changing roles and relationships
6. Sustainability and spread

Open to all, the conference is aimed at emergency practitioners, health managers, leaders, policy makers, researchers, patients, carers and those who work at the interface with emergency departments.

Abstract proposals should be submitted via the conference web site at <http://www.evidencetoexcellence.com>

Contact National Institute of Clinical Studies
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PO Box 6532 St Kilda Road Central
Melbourne VIC 3004
Phone 03 8866 0400 Fax 03 8866 0499
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BUSH CRISIS LINE - 1800 805 391

Bush Crisis Line is a twenty-four hour confidential telephone support and debriefing service for multi-disciplinary remote and rural health practitioners and their families. It is staffed by qualified psychologists with remote and cross-cultural experience, is toll free and available from anywhere in Australia. For more information http://www.crana.org.au/pandp_bcl.html

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GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS UNIVERSITY RURAL HEALTH CLUBS

The Federal Government has announced funding of \$645,000 over three years for the continuing operation of university rural health clubs, which provide a forum for undergraduate students to discuss rural health issues.

"The clubs promote the benefits of rural practice to undergraduate students in medicine, nursing and allied health," Health Minister Senator Patterson said. "It is hoped that this support will encourage many students to move or return to rural and remote Australia as health professionals once their studies are complete."

There are currently 18 rural health clubs at Australian universities with a membership of about 5,000. The clubs are represented through the National Rural Health Network (NRHN) that supports and links the clubs.

This additional funding will be provided to some clubs to help them undertake further support activities for allied health and nursing students. An Indigenous project officer will also be employed by the NRHN.

The full text of Senator Patterson's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/kp/kp03032.htm>

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The "Australian Journal of Rural Health" is a refereed journal with a national and international reputation for quality scholarship. Its focus is multi-disciplinary and it includes articles of interest to general practitioners, nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacists, health administrators, universities and rural health units. Reduced rates apply to members of some organisations. For more information see <http://www.blackwell-science.com/ajr>

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From: John Wynn-Jones <johnwj@rural-health.ac.uk>
Subject: Rural WONCA 2003 – Bulletin 2

The Santiago Opening Ceremony will take place on Wednesday evening (24th September) and Professor Julian Tudor Hart will give the inaugural "Rural Health Lecture". His theme will be "Managing people and populations, achieving a balance between caring for individuals and communities". Julian is internationally respected as one of the founding fathers of primary care research and has a special interest in the interface between primary care and public health. Rural clinicians have an important public health role in their own communities. Governments are at the same time expecting family physicians to keep to strict protocols and manage cohorts rather than individuals. Julian will also be leading a workshop during the conference when some of these controversial issues will be explored in greater detail.

We have 8 plenary speakers (4 in English and 4 in Spanish). All the plenary presentations and subsequent discussion will be simultaneously translated. The 4 English language plenary speakers will be:

- * Richard Smith (editor BMJ): Writing for medical journals and avoiding plagiarism
- * Professor Mfenyana (South Africa): Maintaining quality, despite the lack of resources in the developing world
- * Ms Gerry Ejikemans (WHO): Child labour in the rural world
- * Prof. Richard Hayes (JCU, Australia): Rural medical schools and the rural health curriculum.

We aim to run 4 "Core Workshops" during the 2 main academic days. These bilingual workshops will follow the plenaries in the main auditorium. Each will re-visit one of the 4 WONCA declarations formulated at the five previous WONCA World Rural Health Conferences. The workshops are designed to publicise and disseminate these important documents and demonstrate the progress to date. The workshops will re-evaluate the original documents and develop a strategy for taking them forward over the next 5 years

- * The Durban Declaration: Health for all rural people (1997)
- * The Kutching Statement: The health of indigenous peoples (1999)
- * The Calgary Commitment: Women in rural practice (2000)
- * The Melbourne Manifesto: A Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Health Care Professionals (2002)

You can find the original documents on the WONCA website <http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/>

We aim to give provide a stimulating and exciting program. Some of the workshops planned include :

1. Public health v Personal Health in rural practice
2. BMJ writing workshop (Richard Smith)
3. Maintaining quality in the developing world

4. Child Labour in rural areas
5. Building Capacity in Rural Practice
6. Pesticides and Poisoning in rural health
7. Training Rural Physicians
8. Disabilities in Rural Practice
9. Rural AIDs Workshop
10. Domestic Violence in rural practice
11. Developing Rural Primary Care in the old Soviet States
12. Promoting Skill Mix in Rural Practice

If you would wish to contribute to any of these workshops please contact Margaret Townsend on congresos@semfyc.es

Dr John Wynn-Jones
 Director Institute of Rural Health
 President of EURIPA

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RURAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 350 Commonwealth scholarships designed to increase the number of nurses working in rural and remote Australia have been awarded for the 2003 academic year. The 2003 round brings the number of scholarships awarded under the Commonwealth Remote and Rural Nursing Scholarship Program since 1998 to more than 1,350. Scholarships have been awarded for postgraduate and undergraduate study as well as upskilling and re-entry courses.

Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Senator Kay Patterson said the scholarships aim to increase the number of nursing students with a remote and rural background. The Program is administered by the Royal College of Nursing Australia and the next scholarship round starts in May 2003. Application forms and guidelines will be available from March 2003 by contacting the College on 1800 061 660 or by visiting <http://www.rcna.org.au>

The full text of Senator Patterson's statement is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/kp/kp03030.htm>

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EXTENSION OF MEDICAL INDEMNITY SCHEME TO RURAL OBSTETRICIANS

The Prime Minister recently announced extension of the Government's indemnity insurance package to obstetricians in rural and regional areas in recognition of their high insurance impost relative to their obstetrics income. This measure is designed to help maintain obstetrician services in rural and regional areas.

The financial support for obstetricians in rural and regional Australia will be increased from 50 per cent to 80 per cent of the difference between the cost of their premiums plus their contribution to the IBNR Scheme (if applicable) and the corresponding cost for gynaecologists in the same income band in the relevant State and Territory.

The full text of the Prime Minister's statement is available at
http://www.pm.gov.au/news/media_releases/2003/media_release2204.htm

A statement by the Rural Doctors Association welcoming this announcement is available at
http://www.rdaa.com.au/19_3_03_rural_obstetric_services.htm

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AGED CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

214 university students across regional and rural Australia will be studying aged care this year after receiving scholarships worth up to \$10,000 per year from the Federal Government. This comprises 100 undergraduate students and 114 registered nurses already working in the aged care sector who are returning to study to enhance their skills.

"We received 567 applications for aged care nursing scholarships which reflects strong interest in working in the aged care sector," Federal Minister for Ageing Mr Andrews said. "In total there will be more than 250 aged care nursing scholarships offered in the 2003 academic year," he said.

Scholarships for the 2004 academic year will be invited next month. Interested people should contact the Royal College of Nursing Australia, on 1800 11 66 96 or look at <http://www.rcna.org.au>

The full text of Mr Andrews' statement is available at
<http://www.health.gov.au/mediarel/yr2003/ka/ka03009.htm>

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SEVENTH NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

A reminder about Seventh National Rural Health Conference website.

The Program is at <http://www.nrha.net.au/nrhpublic/publicdocs/conferences/7thNRHC/program.htm>

The Communiqué and all recommendations are at
<http://www.nrha.net.au/nrhpublic/publicdocs/conferences/7thnrhc/communique.htm?>

ABC radio's coverage of the Conference can be seen and heard at:
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/ruralhealth2003/stories/s798397.htm>
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/ruralhealth2003/>
http://www.abc.net.au/rural/ruralhealth2003/indexes/papers_default.htm
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/index/weekly.htm> - see Monday 3 March - the whole program was from the Conference

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CONTRIBUTION AND SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMER

The NRHA e-forum is edited by a third party moderator, Jim Groves. Contributions are sought on any topic relevant to rural health concerns. Please send contributions to the moderator at grovesc@winshop.com.au or use the eforum contribution box at the NRHA website, <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

As such, the Alliance does not control postings and the contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Alliance. Nor do postings necessarily reflect the view of Jim Groves or any organisation he is associated with. Jim Groves can be contacted at grovesc@winshop.com.au.

This issue is going to 1,544 email addresses. Please forward a copy to any colleague you think may be interested.

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