

President's Report for Annual General Meeting 2022

Phyllis Lau

This past year was again a challenging year for everyone, particularly during the Delta and Omicron outbreaks. COVID-19 continues to permeate our lives. Despite this, AAAPC continues to champion our vision for a multidisciplinary primary healthcare (PHC) oriented health care system founded in patient-centred and primary care principles and developed through evidence and education. My sincerest thank you to all our members who have been unwavering in their support of AAAPC. I particularly want to acknowledge members who have contributed to the subcommittees and the Executive Committee members.

In 2021/2022, we focused on:

Advocacy for PHC, PHC research and the practice-based research networks (PBRNs)

AAAPC actively provided feedback to the Commonwealth Department of Health on the MRFF PHC research grant initiatives, and lobbied the then Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt and the then Shadow Health Minister Mark Butler in partnership with the Heads of Departments (HODs) of GP in Australia and NZ group, the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) and Australian College of Nursing, to review Australia's funding support for PHC research and PBRNs. We have continued to be tireless in our advocacy for a national network of PBRNs.

During the 2022 Australian federal election, AAAPC issued a 'Call to Action for Research and Education in Primary Care' to state and federal politicians including the potentially outgoing and incoming Health Ministers and actively lobbied urgent consideration of the key issues in the vAustralia's Primary Health Care 10-Year Plan 2022-2032.

We continued to look for opportunities to engage with our non-primary care colleagues to lobby for support on the challenges faced by primary care research, and the lack of substantial and sustainable funding from NHMRC/MRFF for PBRNs. We are grateful to the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) and Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA) for their ongoing support of AAAPC in these two respects.

AAAPC continues to and will always regard advocacy for primary care research as our key role. We are fully committed to advocating and enabling the development of a national network of PBRNs.

Responses to policy consultations on PHC and PHC research

We continue to actively represent the interest of our members and the wider primary care academic community through active response to government's policy consultations. This year, we provided responses and recommendations to the Australia's Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan 2022-2032 consultation, Medical Research Future Funds (MRFF) consultation on the Australian Medical Research and Innovation Strategy 2016-2021, the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB) consultation on strategies and priorities needed to align with the MRFF 10 year investment plan, the Commonwealth Department of Health General Practice Data and Electronic Decision Support consultation, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) consultation on Western Australia Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) application to jointly develop their own data extraction software with other Primary Health Networks (PHNs). AAAPC also participated in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Research Roundtable discussion on the college's future research strategies and directions. **AAAPC is committed to promoting a strong stance in all matters of concern to academic primary care.**

Engagement with wider PHC disciplines and New Zealand PHC research community

AAAPC is pleased to report that we have made substantial connections with the optometry discipline in the past year via the University of Melbourne Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, recently providing advice and support for optometry's bid to establish a PBRN. We have developed a strategy of consultation with the broader New Zealand AAAPC members and primary care research network, and will commence that consultation after the AAAPC conference this month. **AAAPC is determined and will make every effort to establish deeper links with multidisciplinary colleagues and across the Tasman.**

Engagement with the International community

I am pleased to represent AAAPC on the International Committee of the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), and the two organisations continue to have a productive relationship in reciprocally promoting our conferences and hosting Distinguished Paper presentations.

AAAPC has similar arrangements with UK-based Society of Academic Primary Care (SAPC) to facilitate international collaborations. However, this year, we have been looking for further opportunities to strengthen our relationship including the possibility of introducing a joint programme of activities, and shared social media activities and podcasts. We are also looking at opportunities to share methodological expertise, as well as developing collaborative research, including education research and international comparative health systems research. Please watch this space!

AAAPC is committed to increasing international networking opportunities and benefits for our members.

The Annual Research Conference 2022

AAAPC 2022 Annual Research Conference, to be held on 18-19 August, promises to be another exciting conference. We have Prof Michael Kidd AM, winner of the 2021 Charles Bridges-Webb Medal, and Prof Claire Jackson as our distinguished keynote speakers; we have an exciting plenary on Indigenous health; our prize winners will also be presenting at a special plenary; and there will be oral presentations, posters, workshops and social programs. AAAPC is grateful to our conference sponsors (CSIOR Publishing/Australian Journal of Primary Health, Australian National University, and The University of Melbourne) and supporters (RACGP, Monash University the The University of Sydney). We are particularly proud to provide scholarships and prizes to enable as many members as possible to attend the conference. While this year's conference is online, we hope for an in-person conference for 2023. **AAAPC is committed to hosting the best research conference for academic primary care in Australasia.**

Providing members with webinar learning opportunities

Our webinar series continued in 2021/2022. This year we provided three wonderful webinar learning opportunities for members. We thank Dr Chris Barton, Prof Roger Strasser AM and Dr Olayide Ogunsiji for donating their time. **AAAPC is committed to increasing value for our membership.**

Networking of early career researchers

Our commitment continues with the F.A.C.E.S. group, providing opportunities for ECRs to network and build capacities. Increasing ECR and student engagement and support are priorities of AAAPC. **AAAPC is committed to the research and career development of ECRs.**

I would like to acknowledge the contribution and quiet achievement of a hardworking 2021/2022 Executive Committee:

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| Phyllis Lau | President |
| Tim Stokes | Vice-President |
| Shakira Milton | Secretary |
| Sibel Saya | Treasurer |

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| Katelyn Barnes | Newsletter Editor |
| Jon Emery | Academic Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee Chair |
| Renee Fiolet | Conference Subcommittee Chair |
| Habiba Jahan | ECR and Capacity Development Subcommittee Chair |
| Kristi Milley (upto 3 Feb 2022) Belinda Parker/Phyllis Lau (co-chairs since 4 Feb 2022) | Membership Engagement Subcommittee Chair |
| Kylie Vuong | PHC Education Subcommittee Chair |
| Kirsty Douglas | Immediate Past President |
| Lynsey Brown | Co-opted Member |

Our members' strength and resilience had not ceased to amaze me as AAAPC thrived in the past year. I have enjoyed leading AAAPC and the Executive Committee. I am grateful to the 2021/2022 Executive Committee and all AAAPC members. AAAPC will continue to commit to ensuring AAAPC's work on behalf of its members increase in impact in Australian and New Zealand primary health care.



Phyllis Lau

AAAPC President (2020/2021- 2021/2022)