
AAAPC News - August 2022

Hello everyone,

Welcome to Spring! August was a busy, meaning lots of news for you. Make sure you don't miss anything including:

- SAPC online workshop TODAY, 6pm
- 2022 AGM summary
- AAAPC subcommittee chair introductions
- 2022 Annual Research Conference summary
- New MRF consumer reference panel

...And much much more. Happy reading!

SAPC online workshop TODAY

The first of many new SAPC and AAAPC joint events, is on TONIGHT from 6pm AEST!



[Register Now](#)

[Professor Chris Dowrick](#), will lead an online workshop to explore how literary reading may ameliorate personal and vicarious experiences of suicide. The workshop aims to expand participants' understanding of the recursive relationship between literature and mental health, and in particular to see the potential value of literary reading as a means of broadening our approach to suicide prevention.

2022 Annual General Meeting Summary

AAAPC's 2022 Annual General Meeting was held August 16th from 6pm. Despite the pandemic, 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. You can find the 2022 executive reports on our [webpage](#).

The Inaugural [AAAPC Neil Carson medal](#) for outstanding contributions to primary care education was awarded at the AGM to [Professor Kirsty Douglas](#). This award recognises Kirsty's sustained commitment to leadership in primary care and medical education in Australia, and substantive international contribution. The judges noted Kirsty's increased

and outstanding contribution to academic practice including education and teaching over recent years with her shift to full-time academic/clinical practice. Congratulations Kirsty!



The 2022/23 executive committee was voted in at the AGM. Read introductions to our AAAPC 2022/23 subcommittee chairs below! Introductions for AAAPC President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will appear in next month's newsletter.

AAAPC Subcommittee Updates



AAAPC has 5 subcommittees dedicated to advancing the AAAPC strategic goals and building excellence in academic primary care. New subcommittee chairs were elected for 2022/23 at the AAAPC AGM on 17th of August.

If you would like to get involved in one or more of the subcommittees, email your interest to secretariat@aaapc.org.au.

PHC Education Subcommittee: Chaired by [Associate Professor Kylie Vuong](#), this subcommittee works to advocate for and support delivery of high quality primary care education. To join, please email secretariat@aaapc.org.au

I'm Kylie Vuong, the AAAPC Primary Care Education Chair for 2022/23. I am a GP academic based at Griffith University, Gold Coast. where I work closely with my colleagues to deliver the general practice curriculum to medical students. It was a highlight to see so many primary care education presentations at the AAAPC annual research conference 2022, and to award the inaugural Neil Carson medal for outstanding contributions to primary care education.



I look forward to working with the AAAPC and the Primary Care Education Subcommittee to celebrate primary care education and to link in with SAPC to provide ongoing primary care education professional development opportunities for our members.

ECR Subcommittee: Chaired by [Dr Jessica Botfield](#), this subcommittee works to ensure AAAPC provides support and development opportunities for ECRs in primary care research. This subcommittee runs the Friends Advancing Careers through E-based Support (FACES) group. If you are interested in joining this subcommittee or becoming a member of FACES, email jessica.botfield@monash.edu – I'd love to hear from you!



I'm Jessica Botfield, the AAAPC ECR subcommittee chair for 2022/23. I'm a clinician-researcher (registered nurse) with an interest in sexual and reproductive health. I have worked as a research fellow with the SPHERE CRE at Monash University since 2021, and prior to that worked in research at Family Planning NSW for many years. I completed my PhD in 2019 exploring the engagement of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds with sexual and reproductive health care. I use qualitative and mixed-methods research to promote equitable access to contraception, pregnancy options and abortion care; explore task-sharing and nurse- and midwifery-led models of care; and other health services research. I'm excited to be Chair of the AAAPC ECR subcommittee and look forward to working with and supporting our ECRs.

Membership & Engagement Subcommittee: Chaired by [Dr Flora Hui](#) and [Ms Shakira Milton](#), this subcommittee works to expand AAAPC membership and reach and to ensure AAAPC provides high value membership. Come and join us to help make AAAPC the best experience it can be – email secretariat@aaapc.org.au

I'm Flora Hui, the new co-chair of the AAAPC Member Engagement Subcommittee for 2022/23. I'm an optometrist and a researcher, completing my PhD in 2016 looking at whether examining the eye could provide information on the health of the brain. Now, I work as a research fellow at the University of Melbourne and the Centre for Eye Research Australia, exploring new treatments and diagnostics that could be used in the clinic and how we can make primary eyecare data more



accessible for research. I am excited to join the AAAPC Executive Committee and engage with our members to share AAAPC events and activities. I have a mission to increase our engagement and membership in different disciplines across primary care.



I'm Shakira Milton, the AAAPC Membership and Engagement co-chair for 2022/23. I am an Implementation Scientist and am currently undertaking my PhD and recently started my post-doc, both at the University of Melbourne. My PhD has a particular focus on implementing the Australian aspirin guidelines to prevent bowel cancer in general practice through conducting an RCT of a decision aid. My post-doc will focus on identifying implementation strategies for a national lung cancer screening program. I previously served as AAAPC secretary in 2021/22, where I learned a lot about the organisation, communications, and management. I am looking forward to stepping into the role with the membership engagement subcommittee to help guide AAAPC to reach new members and ensure value for existing members.

Conference & Professional Development Subcommittee: Chaired by [Dr Renee Fiolet](#), this subcommittee works to plan, run and manage the AAAPC Annual Research Conference and associated events

I'm Renee Fiolet, the AAAPC Conference and Professional Development Chair. My background is in community, primary health care and paediatric nursing however I completed my PhD in 2020 at the University of Melbourne exploring the use of technology to address the barriers Indigenous peoples experience when help-seeking for family violence. I am now a research fellow in the Indigenous Equity Unit at the School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne.



I am passionate about ensuring more equity in health care for Australia's Indigenous peoples and I am eager to see a world where health is accessible for all. I enjoy using co-design methods and have a strong interest in knowledge translation. In my role as Conference Chair in 2021 I learned a lot and I hope to see the next AAAPC conference is even more informative and allows us to grow our network. Please join us and get involved in this subcommittee – email secretariat@aaapc.org.au

Research, Policy & Advocacy Subcommittee: Chaired by [Professor Jon Emery](#), this subcommittee works to write advocacy statements, policy responses, and AAAPC position statements relevant to primary care in Australia and New Zealand. To join, email secretariat@aaapc.org.au



I'm Jon Emery, chair of the AAAPC Policy and Advocacy Sub-Committee. I am an academic GP having completed my DPhil in Oxford many years ago on computerised cancer risk assessment. From 2013 I have been at the University of Melbourne as Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research. I lead a research group with specific focus on cancer and genomics in primary care. I am also Director of PC4, the national primary care cancer trials group and am leading the development of PARTNER, a rural primary care trials network funded by the MRFF. I'm interested in how the AAAPC can influence national policy on primary care research at a time when there appear to be significant potential opportunities to advance our field. Specifically, I will continue to advocate for research infrastructure support particularly how we can develop a national trials and data infrastructure and build capacity to conduct large-scale research in primary care of national and international significance.

AAAPC 2022 Conference Summary

The 2022 AAAPC Annual Research Conference was a resounding success! BIG thank you also to AAAPC's conference subcommittee, chaired by Dr Renee Fiolet. Thank you also to all the conference delegates for your participation and support – you all helped to create a positive, supportive and engaged conference that was a pleasure to be a part of.

The excellent plenary speakers supported the key conference themes of Primary Care Reform and Indigenous Health.

First and second plenary speakers, [Professor Michael Kidd](#) and [Professor Claire Jackson](#), spoke about the journey of their teams to inform decision making for primary care reform. Both Michael and Claire highlighted that authentic engagement and collaboration between researchers, clinicians, and policy makers is needed to support meaningful change; however, as academics we may need to work in new ways to appropriately feed research into decision making. Both speakers emphasised the role of documentation, reflection, and evaluation to inform meaningful change and support understanding and applications for future decision making.

Third and fourth speakers, [Dr Mataroria Lyndon](#) and [Ms Andrea McKivett](#) shared their work in achieving real and sustainable improvements for indigenous health in New Zealand and Australia, respectively. Their presentations highlighted the need to acknowledge and understand differences and similarities between indigenous and non-indigenous ways of knowing and of conducting research. Presentations also emphasised the need for authentic engagement and early relationship building to ensure any research is by, with, and for the community, to achieve real and sustainable improvements for indigenous health.

Concurrent sessions and posters spanned a broad range of academic primary care. BIG thank you to all presenters for sharing their work, ideas and contributing to discussion. Published abstracts are available through the [Australian Journal of Primary Health \(volume 28, issue 4\)](#)

Last but not least, congratulations to all our prize winners on your exemplary work and fantastic presentations!

- **Rhea Singh:** AAAPC most distinguished paper award. Rhea presented on GP experiences in experiences and perspectives of providing early medical abortions to culturally and linguistically diverse women in Australia. Rhea will be presenting her work at SAPC 2023 as a part of this prestigious award.
- **Matthew Ridd:** SAPC most distinguished paper award. Matthew reported on his multi-year trial to find the best emollients for eczema treatment in children at SAPC 2022 and won this prestigious award to share his research at AAAPC 2022. Read Matthew's paper [here](#).
- **Danielle Mazza:** AAAPC-NAPCRG prize. Danielle presented results of a 3 year cluster RCT to increase the uptake of long acting reversible contraception in general practice: The ACCORd trial. As part of this prize, Danielle will present her work at the NAPCRG 2022 conference later this year.
- **Émilie Dufour:** NAPCRG-AAAPC prize. Emilie presented findings of how patients experience integrated care teams at NAPCRG 2021 and won this award to present her findings at AAAPC 2022. Read Émilie's paper [here](#).
- **Abigail Pigden:** AAAPC Early Career Researcher Best Paper. Abigail presented stakeholder views on developing practice based research networks in NZ primary care – a topic close to AAAPC's heart!
- **Catherine Stephen:** University of Melbourne DPG Best First Time Presenter. Catherine presented on ImPress: A primary care nurse intervention to improve blood pressure. Read Catherine's paper [here](#).
- **Celia Lee:** #AAAPC22 conference game winner! Celia engaged with the online conference platform in more ways than any other attendee. Well done Celia for getting involved.
- **Student group from Western Sydney University:** Best poster award. This group of medical students presented a poster on the benefits and challenges of electronic prescriptions in pharmacy.

Upcoming Primary Care Opportunities

International research funding opportunities

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme in the UK has a long-standing collaboration with the Australian NHMRC and advertise joint commissioned calls inviting collaborative international research proposals to address shared research priorities. These collaborative commissioned calls are announced on the [NIHR](#) and funding [NHMRC](#) websites. There is also opportunity to [suggest research topics](#) that could go through the NIHR prioritisation process for future funding consideration. Joint funding applications between the UK and Australia may be one way to provide opportunity and solidify international relationships in primary health care research.

Please contact the Secretariat if you have a research idea and we can put you in touch with the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) in the UK who will assist with facilitating collaboration with NIHR.

MRFF Consumer Reference Panel Update

Please note that the MRFF consumer reference panel has been updated. You can find more details about the panel, including who is on the panel on the [MRFF website](#), or through their [news release](#).

Australian primary care specific funding opportunities

A few primary care relevant grant opportunities that may be of interest for you or your team members:

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- **MRFF International Clinical Trial Collaborations Grant Opportunity.** Grant opportunity to propose a single clinical trial in Australia in collaboration with international counterparts. Applications close February, 2023.
- **MRFF Multiple Sclerosis Research Grant Opportunity.** Primary care relevant opportunities particularly in stream 4. Applications close February, 2023.

Remember to subscribe to GrantConnect. GrantConnect provides a centralised publication of all forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities via an online portal. To receive personalised research grant updates, make sure to input your research key words (separated by commas) when you register!

Members Noticeboard

The AAAPC [members noticeboard](#) is a space to post national and international primary care opportunities: jobs, research projects, guidelines and resources – really whatever you like!



In case you missed any posts in August we have seen: A job opportunity at the University of Western Sydney, call for survey participation on translation of PCOS guidelines in general practice, and a call for rural and regional GPs and Nurses to join the ORIENT trial to help expand comprehensive women's health care in Australia.

To get regular updates on noticeboard posts in your emails, click [here](#) to subscribe, or navigate to the AAAPC members noticeboard (requires login) and click the subscribe button.

Using the noticeboard is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Sign into the AAAPC website and go to the [Members Only Section >> Noticeboard](#)
2. Underneath the big blue rectangle there is a 'Subscribe' button you can click to to receive regular messages to your inbox.
3. If you would like to leave a message for other members, click the 'Create topic' button underneath the big blue rectangle.



Celebrating AAAPC Members



Congratulations to some of our members on successful publications

- **Sally Hall** and team: [Older people, the digital divide and use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). *AJGP, September 2022*
- **Jane Desborough** and team: [What strategies have been effective in optimising COVID-19 vaccine uptake in Australia and internationally?](#) *AJGP, September 2022*.
- **Jessica Botfeld** and team: [Feasibility, acceptability and sustainability of postpartum contraceptive implant provision by midwives in NSW public hospitals](#). *Women and Birth, September 2022*.
- **Danielle Mazza** and team: [The preferences of women in Australia for the features of long-acting reversible contraception: results of a discrete choice experiment](#). *European Journal of Contraceptive care & Reproductive Health, August 2022*.
- **Phyllis Lau** and team: [Developing and pilot testing an oral health screening tool for diabetes care providers](#). *BMC Primary Care, August 2022*.
- **Kyle Eggleton** and team: [Disruptions to the doctor-patient relationship in primary care: a qualitative study](#). *BJGP Open, August 2022*.

This list does not comprehensively include the achievements of all of our members (sorry). Please send me an email at katelyn.barnes@anu.edu.au when you or another member you know has an achievement that we can all celebrate! Some previous examples include a new PhD completion, publication, or an award. Remember to

also tag @AAAPC_ANZ in tweets about achievements in primary care -- we would love to share the joy!

Welcome to New AAAPC Members

We would love to introduce new members in the newsletter - it is a great way to build networks within our community, highlight your areas of research interest and projects you might be working on. If you would like your bio to be published in the monthly newsletter, please email secretariat@aaapc.org.au or katelyn.barnes@anu.edu.au. We are excited to meet you!

Until next month!
Katelyn Barnes, AAAPC Editor
katelyn.barnes@anu.edu.au

P.S. I'm Dr Katelyn Barnes and I'm continuing as AAAPC Editor for 2022/23. I am a dietitian by trade, but researcher by nature (and training). I completed my PhD



in 2017 exploring what nutrition care in the fitness industry looked like and how it could be safer and more effective. Now, I work as a primary care researcher with Australian National University and ACT Health exploring how primary care services and health systems are working (or not working) for patients and practitioners. I look forward to sharing with you all the exciting happenings within AAAPC and any extra opportunities in primary care as they arise. Connecting with and hearing success stories from AAAPC members is the highlight of my role - so please do get in touch at katelyn.barnes@anu.edu.au