

2018 Summer Newsletter

A Note from the Chair

It is interesting to note and reflect that The Nepean Division of General Practice is now in its 24th year. Not only have we come a long way in providing a service to our members, and improving the Health of the Community, we have also needed to change the way we have been doing business. We are one of very few Divisions that are currently operating and viable in the Nation.

In the past we have been governed by the Contracts that funded the association. Whilst our bank balance still looks healthy, we are slowly eating away at our capital and living off the variables in interest rates. Our only real income is from Membership fees.

The Board remains focussed on the three main pillars that undergird our operations.

Advocacy: We remain in contact with our local parliament members and have provided input to ensure their understanding of the needs of General Practice. As a founding Member of the Wentworth Healthcare we have representation on the Board, and PHN Clinical Councils and various focus groups. We liaise with the Local Health District raising concerns and looking at ways to enable our needs to be heard. We also congratulate our Vice Chair Dr Anju Aggarwal on being elected to the RACGP Faculty Board.

Education: The first Friday of the month CPD meetings has remained a priority to contribute to the local networking of our members and conduct education that meets the needs of you our members. We have explored partnering with other organisations to offer a range of other CPD events always maintaining our high standards.

Communication. Perhaps the most difficult area to address. We recognise that you do not want to be swamped with yet another document or information overload. It demands time resources that we do not readily have. Our focus has been our webpage www.nepeangpnet.org.au During the year we average 2,600 monthly page views, 1300 unique visits and 1.430 First time visits. It is a popular site. Next year we intend listing our members with links to their practices and contact information if our member so wish.

Consumer Reference Group. Bringing the voice and understanding of the Consumer perspective to the Board table and having input into our strategic Planning is seen as very important. The Members of the CRG have input into a range of other networks and groups within our community and reflect the voice of the consumers in a variety of ways. It is indeed a proactive group that also supports the role and function of GPs.

The Future. It has been 6 years since the Government of the day decided not to fund Divisions and moved to establish Medicare Locals (Now PHN). It certainly isn't in our best interests as the Nepean GP Network to duplicate, or even to be in competition with other organisations such as the PHN. They are better resourced than what we are. Instead we work with them and in exploring ways to add value to General Practice, to identify the gaps and needs that will build up General Practice services. During the year we have taken the step to employ Heather Engels, a Practice Manager for one day a week.

Heather has two main roles. To be the CPD officer and to build up the membership base. She will be listening to your needs and finding ways to deliver solutions.

We have changed our Insurance provider to Gallagher's. Apart from saving money of our polices we now have access to a range of products suitable to our members. These will be promoted as they become available.

As we move into next year we look forward to ways and means of supporting all our members in making our community a much healthier place.

So, I would like to thank you, the members of the Nepean GP Network, who without your support, we would not be able to remain viable, to provide a strong voice and continue to advocate for General Practice.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday as we enjoy the festive season.

Dr Hany Gayed
Chair NGPN



Upcoming CPD Events

Date: Friday 1st February, 2019

Topics: **Falls and Fractures**

Speakers: Dr Neeta Menon Geriatrician & Aged Care

Venue: Wentworth Healthcare, Level 1, Suite 1, Werrington Park Corporate Centre, 14 Great Western Highway, Kingwood