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## **Pain Medicine gets speciality recognition in New Zealand**



It is with great pleasure that we can advise that the Medical Council of New Zealand has accredited pain medicine as a scope of practice in New Zealand – a decision that puts pain medicine in New Zealand on the same footing as in Australia, where it has been recognised as a stand-alone specialty since 2005. The new scope and its associated FPMANZCA qualification

come into effect on December 3, 2012. Click [here](#) to see the Faculty's media release welcoming this development, which is expected to lead to a growth of interest in the pain medicine specialty in New Zealand with consequent greater care for pain sufferers.

The Faculty gratefully acknowledges the efforts of Dr David Jones, Professor Ted Shipton, Dr Kieran Davis, Associate Professor Milton Cohen and Ms Heather Ann Moodie and team at the Wellington office who have spent many long hours working towards this goal.

### **FPM Board update**

The Faculty board met on October 29. View the full board report on the Faculty [website](#)

### **Relationships**

#### **Global Year against Visceral Pain**

The Faculty of Pain Medicine is helping to promote the Global Year against Visceral Pain by focussing attention on the area of pelvic pain where there is a paucity of services and research. [Click here](#) to view the media release, report on pelvic pain, and other resources.



#### **RACGP**

The new GP Online educational program to help GPs understand and treat patients with chronic and acute pain, a collaboration between FPM, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Bupa Health Foundation, was launched at both the FPM Spring Meeting in Cooloom on September 29 and the RACGP GP12 meeting on the Gold Coast on October 26. The Dean spoke at both launches. [Click here](#) to view the media release.

## **Painaustralia**

Representatives of the Australian Pain Society, New Zealand Pain Society, FPM and Painaustralia met during the Spring Meeting in Coolum in October to discuss how best to collaborate in advancing the National Pain Strategy.

The latest Painaustralia e-newsletter is now available. Please [click here](#).



## **Trigeminal Neuralgia Association of Australia**

Please [click here](#) to view the latest Trigeminal Neuralgia Association Australia Newsletter.

## **Trainee affairs**

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### **Curriculum redesign project**

The board has approved the structure, development and governance plan for a project to redesign the FPM curriculum and training program in response to a number of factors. Details will be communicated in a separate project newsletter to be circulated in the near future. The involvement of Fellows and trainees will be crucial to the successful development of this program which is to be implemented in 2015.

### **Clinical case study guidelines**

New clinical case study guidelines and assessment criteria have been approved and will be updated on the Faculty website.

### **Summative assessment regulation**

Regulation 3.2.8, regarding applicants for election to Fellowship who have been offered summative assessment without further training has been amended. The requirement that such applicants register for the examination six months in advance has been removed. Candidates will be able to register as per the normal requirements of the examination.

### **Training unit accreditations**

Following successful paper reviews, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and The Kowloon East Cluster Pain Unit have been re-accredited for pain medicine training.

## **2012 Examination**

### Examination dates

November 23-25, 2012 (Friday – Sunday)

The Auckland City Hospital, Auckland New Zealand

Registrations have now closed.

## **Fellowship affairs**

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### **Professor Issy Pilowsky**

The board noted with regret the death of Fellow, Professor Issy Pilowsky. He was undoubtedly a major figure in the pain and psychiatry field in Australia and internationally and will be greatly missed. [A tribute](#) to Professor Pilowski was presented by Professor Michael Cousins at the Spring Meeting in Coolum.

## **Honours and awards**

Professor Michael Cousins AM, FANZCA, FFPMANZCA has recently been awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. The Faculty congratulates Professor Cousins on this well-deserved recognition of his leadership and contributions to pain medicine, nationally and internationally, over many years.

## **New Fellows**

By examination:

Dr Pieter Carel Le Roux, FACEM (WA)

Dr Duncan Morris Wood, FANZCA (NZ)

Dr Jordan Gardiner Wood, FANZCA (NSW)

Dr Romil Jain, FCICM (NSW)

## **AMC accreditation**

The AMC accreditation team visit occurred during the week of October 15. The preliminary response has been favorable. The team's final report, with any changes made in response to the comments from the Faculty, will be submitted to the AMC Specialist Education Accreditation Committee meeting on December 6.

## **FPM Strategic Plan**

The Faculty's strategic plan for 2013-2017 was launched at the Spring Meeting. The plan is a clear statement of what FPM does, what we aspire to be and how we will get there.

## **Undergraduate prize in pain medicine**

The Undergraduate Prize in Pain Medicine has been piloted for two years and following successful delivery, the prize has now become permanent. Recently, the University of Auckland and the University of Adelaide also agreed to participate in the Undergraduate Prize in Pain Medicine. That brings the number of undergraduate medical programs participating to eight.

For further information, please contact [Jennah Collins](#).

## **Overseas pain**

This year has been busy for the Essential Pain Management (EPM) program. With courses offered in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Mongolia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malaysia and the first Latin American course being offered in Honduras to both local practitioners and those from across the region. The EPM workshop was developed by Dr Wayne Morriss and Dr Roger Goucke with the assistance of ANZCA to improve pain knowledge, to provide a simple framework for managing pain and to address pain management barriers. The program was developed following discussion with Papua New Guinean anaesthetists on the lack of available training in pain medicine in PNG.

## **Research**

### **Research project grants for 2013**

Three grants (of the 16 successful applications) were awarded by the ANZCA Research Committee to projects with a pain focus:

- Associate Professor Philip Siddall (NSW) received the St Jude Medical Research Award for his project: Levels and associations of existential distress in people with persistent pain



- Dr Kelly Byrne (NZ) – Tramadol vs morphine for refractory postoperative pain in the recovery room
- Dr Nolan McDonnell (WA) received the John Boyd Craig Research Award for his project: Evaluation of the safety of intrathecal administration of magnesium sulphate in a sheep model

An academic enhancement grant was awarded to Professor Matthew Chan (HK) for his the project Transcriptional regulation of chronic postsurgical pain.

### **Research project grants for 2014**

Applications for the Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine Foundation's 2014 Research Project Grants, Novice Investigator Grants, Academic Enhancement Grants and the Simulation/Education Grants close on April 1, 2013 at 5:00pm. Application forms and guides to applicants will be available on the ANZCA website by December 1, 2012. For any inquiries regarding the grants and to obtain a RegKey please contact [Susan Collins](#), ANZCA's Research and Administration Coordinator.

### **Australian Pain Management Research Review**

Please [click here](#) to review the latest edition of the Australian Pain Management Research Review.

## **Continuing Professional Development**

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### **Meetings and events**

#### **Faculty events**

##### **FPM CME meeting**

November 19, 2012 – South Australian Regional Office

For further information, please contact [Michelle Gully](#)



##### **2013 Melbourne Annual Scientific Meeting**

“Supersition Dogma and Science”

The 2013 ANZCA/FPM Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from May 4-8. The theme is an opportunity for each of us to critically question the basis for our clinical decisions – superstition, dogma or science? The focus will be on pragmatic aspects of anaesthesia and pain medicine practice.

##### **2013 ASM Call for Abstracts**

The scientific convenors invite prospective authors to submit their abstracts for presentation at the 2013 ANZCA/FPM Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) being held May 4-8, 2013.

Submissions close February 8, 2013.

##### **2013 Refresher Course Day and Faculty Dinner**

“Selling pain science – communication and cultural competition”

The 2013 FPM Refresher Course Day and Faculty dinner will be held on May 3, 2013, in conjunction with the 2013 ANZCA/FPM ASM in Melbourne. Speakers include international guests Professor Edzard Ernst (UK) and Professor Fabrizio Benedetti (Italy) complemented by

speakers from medical and non-medical backgrounds with expertise in all facets of communication.

The annual dinner will be held at Eureka 89, Southbank which offers extraordinary views of Melbourne.

### **2013 Spring Meeting**

October 25-27, 2013

Byron at Byron Resort and Spa, Byron Bay, is confirmed as the venue for the 2013 Spring Meeting. The meeting will be convened by Dr Michael Vagg with a theme to coincide with the IASP Global Year Against Visceral Pain with an emphasis on gynaecological/pelvic pain.

### **Participating colleges' annual scientific meetings:**

#### **RACS Annual Scientific Congress 2013**

May 7–10, 2013 - Sky City/Crown Plaza, Auckland, New Zealand.

Further information to be released shortly.

#### **RACP Future Directions in Health Congress 2013**

May 26-29, 2013 - Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre, Western Australia

#### **AFRM 2013 ASM**

“Time to move”

September 18-20, 2013 - Sydney

#### **RANZCP 2013 Congress**

“Achievements and Aspirations“

May 26-30, 2013 - Sydney Convention Centre, Sydney

### **External events**

#### **NZ Anaesthesia ASM/ICVA 2012**

“What becomes of the broken hearted? Outcomes and how to change them”

November 14-17, 2012 - SKYCITY Convention Centre, Auckland

For more information, please contact [Rachel Cook](#)

#### **ACHS Education - Accreditation for Mental Health Services**

December 6, 2012

#### **2012 National Indigenous Health Conference**

December 5-7, 2012 - Watermark Hotel, Gold Coast

“*Many pathways, one outcome*” is designed to bring together government and non-government agencies working in the field of Indigenous health. Please click here for further information.

#### **Australian Pain Society 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting**

“*Persistent Pain - A National Challenge*”

March 17-20, 2013 – Canberra ACT

### **International conferences**



## 2nd International Multidisciplinary Forum on Palliative Care

November 22–25, 2012 - Florence, Italy

  
**9th International Symposium  
on Pediatric Pain**  
June 17-20 2013 | Stockholm Sweden

## 5th Association of South-East Asian Pain Societies Conference

*"Pain: The unseen disease"*

April 28–May 5, 2013 - Singapore

## 9th International Symposium on Pediatric Pain

June 17-20, 2013 - Stockholm, Sweden

## Courses, workshops and podcasts

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### Opioid receptors

This podcast provides an overview of opioid receptors, endogenous opioid peptides and opioid receptor signalling. It also addresses current hypotheses on mechanisms that have the potential to underpin diversity in opioid receptor signaling including opioid receptor splice variants, opioid receptor complexes (heterodimers and higher order oligomers) and opioid receptor biased signaling in a ligand-dependent manner.

### **Educational podcasts - call for presenters and topics**

The FPM would like to hear from you to know which subject areas would really benefit you as we continue to expand the series of podcasts.



If you know specialists who are experts in the field and you have missed the opportunity to hear their presentations, or you have heard keynote presenters and think your fellow trainee colleagues would benefit from hearing their presentations as podcasts, please do contact us so that we can tailor resources to your needs.

To volunteer to present a podcast, please [contact us](#).

[Click here](#) to view FPM podcasts.

## Pain medicine in the media

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### Media update

#### **S8 Opioid Forum**

There was extensive coverage of a [media release](#) issued to promote the S8 Opioid Forum, including quotes from former FPM Dean, Dr David Jones, appearing in a page 1 article in [Saturday's Age](#). The forum was held at the College and involved representatives from various medical backgrounds aiming to get a consensus on guidelines for the prescribing of opioids. Coverage also appeared online at the [Herald Sun](#), [The Australian](#), [Courier Mail](#), [Brisbane Times](#), [the West Australian](#), [Medical Search](#) and the [Medical Observer](#). Dr Jones was also interviewed by ABC News Radio.

#### **2012**

November 2 - [Recognition of pain medicine as a specialty in New Zealand](#)

October 26 - [Medical experts seek consensus on opioid prescribing](#)

October 25 - [Millions to benefit from Australian first pain management solution](#)

October 15 - [Pelvic Pain: the last of the modern taboos](#)

September 30 - [Urine and drug screening proposed for chronic pain patients](#)

September 27 - [Children with chronic pain miss out on services](#)

August 27 - [Do redheads feel more pain?](#)

## **Library**

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### **Can't find it? Ask the library**

If you need an article or book for clinical, research or education purposes, look no further than the ANZCA Library. The library provides access to hundreds of online journals and thousands of books but can also source articles and books that are not held in the collection. Fellows, trainees, international medical graduate specialists (IMGs) and continuing professional development (CPD) members are required to fill in a one-off copyright user agreement and provide an original copy to the library. Once this form is received by the library, articles can be requested with just a simple email.

More information about this service and the user agreement can be found on the [ANZCA Library webpage](#).

### **[eOpioid app, Opioids and Opiates Calculator for iOS](#)**

The [iMedicalApps](#) team have thoroughly reviewed the eOpioid app.

### **[Will older adults use mobile health tools to help manage their chronic pain?](#)**

from [iMedicalApps](#) by iMedicalApps Team

Chronic pain is a highly common, costly, and frequently disabling disorder among older adults. Mobile health technology is a potentially powerful tool for supporting provider and older patient management of opioids to treat chronic pain.

### **[NICE Guidelines for Android is as good as the web version](#)**

from [iMedicalApps](#) by iMedicalApps Team

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK has an Android app that is every bit as useful and functional as its desktop counterpart. It's easy to navigate, browse, and download guidelines from NICE with this handy app and there are no hindrances to access.

### **[Opioids in palliative care: safe and effective prescribing of strong opioids for pain in palliative care of adults.](#)**

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): London (UK); 2012 May. 23 p. (Clinical guideline; no. 140).

### **[New website to help grow Australian clinical trials](#)**

A new clinical trials website that has recently been launched will make it easier for consumers to enrol in clinical trials and help grow the numbers of clinical trials conducted in Australia.

### **[New MeSH descriptors for 2013](#)**

MEDLINE and PubMed use Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) to classify articles and citations in the database. Each year the headings are updated to reflect current medical practices. The following headings are among the hundreds added for 2013 and may make your database searching even more effective.

[Administration, Intravenous](#)

[Advanced Trauma Life Support Care](#)

[Central Venous Catheters](#)  
[Conversion to Open Surgery](#)  
[Crowdsourcing](#)  
[Maternal Death](#)  
[Noninvasive Ventilation](#)  
[Return to Work](#)  
[Spinal Cord Stimulation](#)

It is also worth checking the changed or deleted descriptors as you may need to update your saved search strategies in the Medline or PubMed databases.

The ANZCA Library staff are available to provide advice on searching the various databases and other tips and tricks on finding the information you need quickly and effectively. Contact the [ANZCA Library](#).

## **Positions Vacant**

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### **Opportunity for voluntary work in indigenous health in Brewarrina, NSW**

The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Sydney runs clinics (mostly in western NSW) in a range of different modalities. They are looking for a pain specialist for a clinic in Brewarrina. At this stage the role would be voluntary, although transport costs would be covered by the Poche Centre.

If you are interested in voluntary work in an indigenous health setting, please contact Ms Vita Christie, Administrative Officer at The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health:

T +61 2 9114 0829 | F +61 2 9351 3196

E [poche.admin@sydney.edu.au](mailto:poche.admin@sydney.edu.au)

W <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/poche>

Please contact the [Faculty](#) to advertise your position in Synapse.

### **Faculty Christmas closure**

A reminder that ANZCA and FPM will be closed from Monday December 24, 2012, reopening on Wednesday January 2, 2013

### **Further ANZCA news**

Please [click here](#) to view the ANZCA E-Newsletter

### **Synapse**

We look forward to receiving your contributions which should be directed to the Faculty office. Email [jstephens@anzca.edu.au](mailto:jstephens@anzca.edu.au).

The Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) is the professional medical body in Australia and New Zealand that conducts the education, training, and continuing professional development of pain medicine specialists.

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