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In 2010, about 3.3 billion people - almost half of the world's population - were at risk of malaria. Every year, this leads to about 216 million malaria cases and an estimated 655,000 deaths. People living in the poorest countries are the most vulnerable.

World Malaria Day - which was instituted by the World Health Assembly at its 60th session in May 2007 - is a day for recognizing the global effort to provide effective control of malaria.

For more information visit the WHO website

<http://www.who.int/en/>

Or the Roll Back Malaria website

<http://www.rollbackmalaria.org/worldmaliaday/>

From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

You will by now have received the minutes of the Special General Meeting held at the Naviti.

Following the meeting your executive have taken the following steps.

FIJI MEDICAL COUNCIL

I have personally met with Dr Wahid Khan, the College nominee on the Council and we have mutually agreed that he will step down to allow myself, as President, to take the position on the board. This will take place immediately after the Annual General Meeting in June.

MEETING WITH MINISTER

I have met with the Minister of Health, Dr Neil Sharma. He indicated that he is reviewing the regulations and he has encouraged the College to move forward with developing their programs.

ENTRY INTO GENERAL PRACTICE

We have met with Dharmesh Prasad of the Fiji Medical Council and clarified the documentation required for those doctors who have applied to enter general practice and are still waiting for their practice license to be approved.

We believe these doctors have now complied.

INDEMNITY

Dr Isireli Biumaitotoya has confirmed that the petition to the prime minister has been delivered and he is waiting for a response.

The executive hope that the issues surrounding indemnity cover and the regulations governing entry in general practice, although not fully resolved, will no longer be impacting on the time we need to spend on developing our continuing education programs which should be our core purpose.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

With the website ready we need to develop the content further and the online programs are being developed at www.fijigp.org. Please check the website regularly to keep up with the new developments.

We have applied for registration as an institution for BMJ learning which will then be free to all members and we are looking to link with other programs which will provide high quality online CME points.

There will be an online log-in for members which we will be processing at the conference in June.

In the last few months we have established contacts with a number of institutions as a preliminary to developing our CME activities further. The "journal" clubs will be further developed into a more formal program which will lead into a diploma in family medicine which will in the future lead to other postgraduate qualifications.

In our most recent talks with Professor Ian Rouse, Dean of FSM, we agreed in principle to a partnership, with the university providing support for the development of the academic programs and the College providing the practical training.

We are calling for interest from members to be part of a steering group consisting of general practitioners and academics to develop the necessary programs to move this project forward. Professor Rouse will identify a project officer who will work directly with this group and our overseas contacts to develop the program.

Members will be regularly updated on the progress being made.

Upcoming World Health Events

21-28 April 2012
World Immunization Week

31 May 2012
World No Tobacco Day

14 June 2012
World Blood Donor Day

28 July 2012
World Hepatitis Day

1-7 August 2012
World Breastfeeding Week

19 August 2012
World Humanitarian Day

CONFERENCE UPDATES

CENTRAL FACULTY MINI-SEMINAR

Theme:

Maternal and Child Health

When:

April 29, 2012

Where:

Pasifica Campus, FSM, Suva, Fiji

Registration forms have been sent out over email.

These may also be downloaded from the FCGP website at:

<http://www.fijigp.org/index.php/events/45-cf-mini-seminar>

WONCA 2012 ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Theme:

Evidence Based Approach to Primary Care

When:

May 24-27, 2012

Where:

Jeju, Korea

Invitations to attend this conference have been sent out by email.

All applications or enquiries should be directed towards Dr Abdul Wahid Khan by email at awkhan55@gmail.com.

FCGP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

Theme:

The Tenth Pillar—Medico—Legal and Other Aspects of General Practice

When:

June 9-11, 2012

Where:

Novotel Lami Bay, Suva, Fiji

The Flyer and Registration forms have been sent out through the post and over email.

Members may also book rooms at the Novotel through the Secretariat to take advantage of the special rate.

Please note that registration requires a passport photo for your identification card.

UPDATE OF FIJI MEDICAL AND DENTAL REGISTERS

Excerpt from Fiji Television Limited website <http://www.fijitv.info>

10 April, 2012

The full story may be viewed at http://www.fijitv.info/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/13.100141258.wmv

The Fiji Medical and Dental Secretariat has now modernized its database system which now means that information about practitioners is only a click away.

Information on Dental and Medical practitioners is now available online giving the general public access to basic information. This also means that the general public as well as the Secretariat can monitor a practitioners eligibility.

Close to all the practitioners have renewed their annual practicing licenses, a requirement under the Medical and Dental Practitioner Decree of 2010.

FIJI MEDICAL COUNCIL TO DECIDE DOCTOR'S FATE

Excerpt from Fiji Broadcasting Corporation website <http://www.fbc.com.fj>

17 April, 2012

The disciplinary hearing of the Nausori doctor implicated in the sick sheet scam that resulted in the sacking of 114 government workers has just ended.

Fiji Medical and Dental Secretariat President Dharmesh Prasad chose to remain tightlipped on the outcome of the hearing, only saying that the next step is to make their recommendations to the Fiji Medical Council.

"But I can certainly tell you that the Professional Conduct's Committee will make it's recommendations to the Fiji Medical Council who has the authority to make the ruling in the disciplinary matter."

Prasad says they will have to hold a meeting to decide their final recommendations.

Once it is submitted, the Fiji Medical Council will have 28 days to deliberate on the recommendations and decide what step to take next.

56 government workers were terminated earlier this week, adding to the 58 who lost their jobs late last year.

GP JOURNAL AVAILABLE

A new issue of the GP Journal has been published and is now available from the Secretariat, and will soon be available for download from the website.

Copies will be distributed at the upcoming mini-seminar organized by the Central Faculty for April 28th, 2012.

Any members wishing to obtain a copy may contact the Secretariat, and a copy may be posted to them, or they may collect a copy from the Secretariat office.

Contact us:

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