



FCGP NEWS IN BRIEF

Newsletter December 2011

Publication of Fiji College of General Practitioners

Dear Colleagues

The year is now coming to an end and the college council wish you all the best for 2012.

With the end of the year I have reflected on the progress the college has made in the last few months.

The primary objective for the first three months was the establishment of a functioning secretariat. After a bumpy start and we apologize for this, we have now engaged Litia Savu who has extensive experience in IT, Office Administration and Event Management.

The tasks of the secretariat have been:

- Compiling the membership register as required by the decree.
- Setting up new accounting procedures including an inventory register.
- Writing up a policy and procedure manual.
- Setting up the office archiving.
- Helping compile and print the flyers and registration forms for the 2012 conference.
- Setting up meetings, compiling papers, writing minutes and other necessary tasks.
- Helping compile the entries for the telephone directory

Current projects are:

Indemnity

Our policy was due for renewal on January 1st 2012 but been moved forward to January 31st 2012. Most doctors have already lodged their indemnity application forms and paid their premium. You must have this to us by January 15th or you may lose your cover.

Indemnity payments will need to be made before the re-licencing period in February in order for you to obtain a certificate of cover. Please be prepared to pay on your first invoice. We have asked for a scale of cover e.g. 1 million - 500,000 -250,000 with a view to reducing premiums and we will inform you if the insurers agree to this.

Website

Our new website is almost ready for launching and this will provide the platform for many of our activities for 2012.

There are a number of other projects we have started to address but they will need more work before implementing and these include:

Revision of the rules and regulations of the college. Since we now are part of the decree we do not need a constitution as the aims and objectives have been set under the decree. However, we are undertaking a revision of the rules and regulations that govern other areas such as membership criteria and council structures among others.

Continuing consultation with stakeholders on the educational aspects of the college and decisions on the role to be played by the college in the delivery of continuing education and postgraduate programs.

Proposals to MOH on how the college wishes to co-partner in areas of patient information, preventative medicine and the challenges of non -communicable disease.

The main issue the college has had in the past and now is the lack of interest from members to join a committee, put forward their views and work towards bringing the college in line with similar organizations overseas. This attitude is not restricted to The Fiji College but as a small group in a small country we have fewer resources to draw from than other countries and the necessary work is falling to a very small group of interested members.

With this in mind I will be proposing the abolition of chairs within the council – which for the last few years have been committees of one. Instead, we will be setting goals and setting up projects and will work within our manpower and time constraints to achieve results on a project by project route.

The secretariat will be responsible to the day to day smooth running of college matters and providing the operational support for the project teams.

Our first project has been the setting up of a professional website under the direction of Dr Bijend Ram and we thank him for his continuing commitment to develop this very important project. There will be an official launch of the site in the very near future.

Our next priority will be to:

Professionalize our education programs

We have already had a number of meetings both locally and abroad.

There will be a workshop before the end of February to discuss continuing education, postgraduate programs, mentorship, etc.

This workshop will be facilitated by The Dean of FSM and attended by representatives from Monash and New Zealand in addition to local delegates. If you are interested in being a delegate please contact Litia at the FCGP Secretariat office. The workshop will be limited to 25 delegates.

Other activities

More forms!

You are reminded that re-licencing should be complete before February 29th. You should have received an emailed copy of the forms. You will not be able to apply for a new licence without indemnity cover and we will be forwarding your cover forms shortly.

Please contact the secretariat for further information.

Conference

The plans for the conference are coming along well and you will be receiving the flyers and registration this week. Anyone wishing to present on any topic, please contact Lalita Devi.

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