PRACTISING IN A WIRED WORLD

The future of general practice

THE 2002 COLLEGE Conference

Rotorua, 26–28 September 2002

The advance of information management and information technology into general practice has been rapid and for many of us daunting.

The changes and opportunities introduced by new technology are both exciting and frightening. Trying to keep up with new developments is an increasing challenge, yet the core of general practice, the consultation, and the use of our skills and art remain the same.

The pace of technological change is so great it is challenging our understanding of the important human values related to information management – for example, safeguarding privacy, and the ethical use and ownership of information.

Our challenge is to make technology our servant – not our master. By having doc.com in 2002, we are aiming to upskill general practice and enhance the vision of how information management and technology can be tamed to improve the quality of general practice care.

We will offer:

- *a series of practical clinical workshops;*
- *workshops offering training in a broad range of skills in computer use;*
- *papers and presentations showing what can be achieved within general practice;*
- *keynote addresses that will enhance the vision of how general practice will continue to lead primary health care, review the pitfalls we have to be aware of, and the privacy and legal issues we have to manage;*
- *a trade exhibition that reflects the conference theme.*

The conference is in the middle of the school holidays and will have both a children's and a partners' programme encompassing both outdoor adventure activities and computer-based fun.

Rotorua, as always, welcomes you. We look forward to seeing you all in September 2002.

Tim Fletcher
Convenor

Watch the website www.rnzcgp.org.nz for updates on keynote speakers, workshop options and information for presenters.

THE REGISTRATION BROCHURE WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The Organising Committee is delighted that the following keynote speakers have agreed to participate in the conference:

Professor Michael Kidd

Head of the Department of General Practice, The University of Sydney, Australia.

Professor Kidd also works as a general practitioner in the inner-city suburb of Darlinghurst, Sydney. His research interests include the use of information technology to improve patient care in general practice, the development of computer-based medical education and the use of the internet in health education. He is co-editor of the textbook *Health Informatics, an Overview*.

Dr Barbara Starfield

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

University Distinguished Professor with appointments in the Department of Health Policy and Management and Paediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health and Medicine. Dr Starfield is also the director of the Johns Hopkins University Primary Care Policy Center. Her overriding concerns are understanding the impact of health services on health, especially with regard to the relative contributions of primary care and specialty care on reducing social inequities in health. Her focus is both on clinical care and on services to populations as well as the inter-relationships between the two.

Professor Murray Tilyard

Dunedin School of Medicine

Professor Tilyard is the Elaine Gurr Professor of General Practice and Head of the Department of General Practice, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago. He is also the Director of the RNZCGP Research Unit housed within the Department. He has had a long-standing interest in the development of information technology and information management in the general practice arena and has twice been keynote speaker at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Computer Conference. His current areas of interest relate to: general practice and the internet; the wider aspects of data collection – including privacy; meeting the demands of funders for information and maximising the potential for information technology to improve patient care. He will also describe the extensive database held by the RNZCGP Research Unit.