

EDITORIALS

- 131 Pelvic pain in women: common and challenging
Cynthia M Farquhar
- 132 Mandatory reporting of professional incompetence
Peter C Arnold
- 134 Venous thromboembolism — a major health and financial burden: how can we do better to prevent this disease?
Beng H Chong, Jeffrey Braithwaite, Mark F Harris, John P Fletcher
- 135 Problem gambling: what do general practitioners need to know and do about it?
Shane A Thomas, Leon Piterman, Alun C Jackson

RESEARCH

- 138 Prevalence and correlates of three types of pelvic pain in a nationally representative sample of Australian women
Marian K Pitts, Jason A Ferris, Anthony M A Smith, Julia M Shelley, Juliet Richters
- 144 The incidence of venous thromboembolism: a prospective, community-based study in Perth, Western Australia
Wai Khoon Ho, Graeme J Hankey, John W Eikelboom
- 148 How will Australian general practitioners respond to an influenza pandemic? A qualitative study of ethical values
Olga Anikeeva, Annette J Braunack-Mayer, Jackie M Street
- 151 Variable uptake of recommended interventions to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Australia, 1982–2005
Michelle L Giles, Ann M McDonald, Elizabeth J Elliott, John B Ziegler, Margaret E Hellard, Sharon R Lewin, John M Kaldor

MEDICINE AND THE MEDIA

- 155 The newsworthiness of cancer in Australian television news
Ross MacKenzie, Simon Chapman, Natalie Johnson, Kevin McGeechan, Simon Holding

MEDICAL EDUCATION

- 159 The mini clinical evaluation exercise (mini-CEX) for assessing clinical performance of international medical graduates
Balakrishnan R Nair, Heather G Alexander, Barry P McGrath, Mulavana S Parvathy, Eve C Kilsby, Johannes Wenzel, Ian B Frank, George S Pachev, Gordon G Page



- 162 Development of the Australian Core Competencies in Musculoskeletal Basic and Clinical Science project — phase 1
Mellick J Chehade, Aleksander Bachorski
- 166 Efficiency of clinical training at the Northern Territory Clinical School: placement length and rate of return for internship
Anna McDonnell Smedts, Michael P Lowe

HEALTH CARE REFORM

- 169 Health policy and reform: gathering the evidence
Martin B Van Der Weyden
- 170 What is the health service for?
John Menadue
- 171 The people principle in Australian health care
Gavin H Mooney

NOTABLE CASES

- 173 Paediatric lobar lung transplantation: addressing the paucity of donor organs
Dominic T Keating, Glen P Westall, Silvana F Marasco, Jacquie H Burton, Mark R Buckland, Colin F Robertson, Trevor J Williams, Gregory I Snell

LETTERS

- 178 (contents overleaf)

MEDICAL WORKFORCE EXPANSION — UNCERTAIN TIMES

Recently we have witnessed a substantial increase in Australian medical schools, and the number of Australian medical graduates is set to double by 2012. In this, we are not alone.

Over the past decade, medical education capacity in the United Kingdom has increased by 50% and is projected to increase even further. In the United States, there are calls for an immediate expansion of medical graduates by 30%.^{*} The pressures for increasing doctor numbers are the same: to meet the health needs of an ageing population, to manage the increased burden of chronic disorders, and to end the unethical practice of importing doctors from developing nations.

It is expected that this growth in doctor numbers will benefit society through better outcomes in quality of care and more efficient and accessible health systems — but this is not a certainty. Experts have suggested that an increase in doctor numbers will not necessarily be cost-effective or produce better patient outcomes, especially if current forces continue to influence the choice of specialisation and the geographical distribution of practices.^{*†}

Furthermore, there will be a change in the health care skill mix, with an increase in non-doctor clinicians. Uncertainty remains as to whether these practitioners will be complementary to, or competitors of, medical practitioners.

Political forces largely guide changes in the medical workforce when responding to community disquiet, either to generate more health care-related activity or to control public expenditure. These changes are too often attended by uncertainty and risk, occurring largely, as they do, in a vacuum of evidence and vagueness of costing.

If there is one thing that characterises modern medicine, it is the uncertainty of daily practice. However, the uncertainties associated with medical workforce expansion are likely to cause further anxiety.



Martin B Van Der Weyden

^{*}Weiner JP. Expanding the US medical workforce: global perspectives and parallels. *BMJ* 2007; 335: 236-238.

[†]Goodman DC. Expanding the medical workforce [editorial]. *BMJ* 2007; 335: 218-219.

LETTERS

- Pancreatitis following human papillomavirus vaccination**
178 Amitabha Das, David Chang, Andrew V Biankin, Neil D Merrett
- Feeding choice for children with immediate allergic reactions to cows milk protein**
178 Sam S Mehr, Andrew S Kemp
- Recognition of USA300 isolates of community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in Australia**
179 Thomas Gottlieb, Wei-Yuen Su, John Merlino, Elaine Y-L Cheong
- Bupropion and bradycardia**
180 Jacqueline Landau, Andrew E Ajani
- Misleading advertising of PI-based drug information?**
181 Lilon G Bandler
- Personal carbon trading: a potential "stealth intervention" for obesity reduction?**
181 Cathal A Smith
181 Barry NJ Walters
- Probiotics: sorting the evidence from the myths**
182 Shimonti Chatterjee, John Fraser
182 Sanjaya N Senanayake
182 Mimi Pham, Daniel A Lemberg, Andrew S Day
- Booster seat use by children aged 4–11 years: evidence of the need to revise current Australasian standards to accommodate overweight children**
183 Yvonne A Zurynski, Lynne Bilston, Elizabeth J Elliott
- Mandometer treatment of Australian patients with eating disorders**
184 Phillip Gray
- South African medical graduates in Australia**
184 Peter C Arnold

OBITUARY

- Cyril Swaine**
143 Peter P Thomas

BOOK REVIEW


- Medico-legal radiology**
177 reviewed by Paul Nisselle

CORRECTIONS

- 180 **Patterns and incidence of γ -hydroxybutyrate (GHB)-related ambulance attendances in Melbourne, Victoria**
(*Med J Aust* 2008; 188: 709-711)
- 180 **The increasing problem of motorcycle injuries in children and adolescents**
(*Med J Aust* 2008; 189: 17-20)

130 IN THIS ISSUE

176 IN OTHER JOURNALS



June MJA BookClub Winners

Congratulations to: Dr Danny Jones, Colac, Vic; Dr James Stoney, East Melbourne; Dr Willem Vogel, Coolum, NSW; Dr Hayley Edmunds, Wahrenonga, NSW; Dr Adam O'Brien, Ringwood North. Each have won a copy of *Blood and guts: a short history of medicine*. The winners were drawn by Marie-Ann Constantin, AMPCo's Account Manager. Thanks to everyone who purchased books from the June MJA BookClub and went into the draw. To see this month's MJA BookClub's great offers, see page 177 and the inside back cover of this issue.