WHILE some surgeons are happy discussing opera, politics or golf with their patients, there's one group of surgeons more likely to be comparing notes on Captain Feathersword or Dorothy the Dinosaur with theirs.

The latter are paediatric surgeons, members of the smallest of the nine surgical subspecialties — and who treat the smallest patients. But they are doctors that no child or family is likely to forget.

Nevertheless, paediatric surgery is a specialty under stress, says Anthony Sparnon, President of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Paediatric Surgeons.

That's because, as well as being the smallest surgical subspecialty, with 130 active members, it is also the one that is growing most slowly. In other surgical subspecialties, there has been an increase in the numbers of surgical graduates. But the number of graduates in paediatric surgery has stayed the same over the past decade or so, at about five a year.

Meanwhile, the population has kept increasing in number. Also, general surgeons treat increasingly older age groups and no longer treat adolescents, while the age limit of patients whom paediatric surgeons treat has risen, so they now treat adolescents up to 18 years of age.

Unlike the other surgical specialties that focus on a single body system, paediatric surgeons remain generalists, called upon to treat a broad range of pathologies and conditions, though inguinal and groin surgery, acute conditions such as abscesses and appendicitis, urology and burns account for the majority of their work, according to Sparnon.

Within their specialty, however, paediatric surgeons tend to further specialise, so that in a major hospital, for example, one surgeon will do urology; a second, burns; and a third, thoracic surgery, he says.

A typical day includes ward rounds, grand rounds, surgical lists and recordkeeping. Paediatric surgeons spend less time in the operating theatre than other surgeons — paediatric conditions are more likely to resolve spontaneously than adult conditions and there is relatively more conservative observation — only about 20%–30% of children seen will undergo surgery, he says.

There is more public work in paediatric surgery than in other surgical specialties. Few paediatric surgeons work exclusively in the private system; some do a little private hospital work but many do only public work, either as staff specialists or as visiting medical officers, or a bit of both. Most paediatric surgeons work in children's hospitals or major metropolitan teaching hospitals, although they may be seconded to

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**ANAESTHETICS VMO**

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AO for environmentalist

A prominent environmental crusader has been recognised in this year’s Australia Day Honours awards.

Professor Anthony McMichael, Professor at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health of the Australian National University, received an AO (Officer in the general division of the Order of Australia). He won the award for distinguished service to population health (especially in the area of environmental impact) as an academic and author, and through leadership roles with international organisations.

Professor McMichael is also Honorary Professor in Climate Change and Human Health at the University of Copenhagen, and Honorary Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has been an advisor on environmental health issues to the WHO (with whom he works closely on climate change), the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, and other international bodies. He currently holds an Australia Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Professor McMichael hopes this award signifies a growing recognition of the importance of population health.

“We humans are rapidly changing the way that we live, build our cities, use energy, occupy the wider landscape, and disrupt the natural environment, all on a global scale. These great changes will increasingly determine the patterns of disease and deaths in human societies in Australia and elsewhere,” he says.

For Australians, the adverse consequences will be the rising incidence of vector-borne illnesses such as Ross River fever and dengue, increased incidence of strokes and heart attacks related to heatwaves, plus the increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events.

“The extreme events in Australia and in all other continents in the past two years, including the tragic floods in Queensland and Victoria this year, are beginning to focus our minds on the sort of climate change world that we are heading into; a world not just hotter, but of more frequent and extreme weather events.”

He says progress is being made in planning for these contingencies, notably through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (based at Griffith University in Queensland), with which his own research group is associated. “However, little action is being taken in Australia and elsewhere to tackle the underlying problem of carbon emissions,” he says. “Countries are acting in their own self-interest and not thinking globally.”

“These and the other great changes we are imposing on the natural world will, in the foreseeable future, become the main forces influencing population health in this country and around the world,” he says.

Other doctors to receive awards in the category Officer in the general division of the Order of Australia (AO) are:

Dr Mukesh Haikerwal:
Former AMA president — for distinguished service to medical administration, promotion of public health through his leadership roles, his work in information technology and as a general practitioner.

Professor Alexander McFarlane:
Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Adelaide — for distinguished service to medical research in the field of psychiatry, particularly post-traumatic stress disorders, to veterans’ mental health management, and as an author.

Professor Alastair MacLennan:
Professor and Head of the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Adelaide — for distinguished service to medicine as a leading researcher and practitioner in the areas of obstetrics and gynaecology and the causes of cerebral palsy, to medical education and to professional development.

Professor John Prineas:
Honorary Professor at Nerve Research Foundation, Department of Medicine, University of Sydney — for distinguished service to medicine in the field of neurology as an academic, researcher and mentor, to improving the lives of people with multiple sclerosis, and to medical education.

For a complete list of doctors who won awards in other categories in the 2011 Australia Day Honours, go to http://www.gg.gov.au/content.php/page/id/67
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- **Start 11 Apr to 21 Apr 11** $1800 pd Western NSW 120
- **Start 11 Apr to 17 Apr 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 125
- **Start 22 Apr to 1 May 11** $2500 pd Southern NSW 130
- **Start 22 Apr to 26 Apr 11** $2000pd North Coast NSW 135
- **Start 13 May to 20 May 11** $2000pd Tasmania 140

### GENERAL SURGEON
- **Start 28 Feb to 18 Jul 11** $2000pd Northern NSW 145
- **Start 19 Mar to 28 Mar 11** $2200pd Western Australia 150

### PAEDIATRICIAN
- **Start 7 Mar to 14 Mar 11** $2000pd Victoria 155
- **Start 10 Mar to 20 Mar** $2200pd Western Australia 160
- **Start 14 Mar to 20 Mar 11** $1800pd Western NSW 165
- **Start 18 Mar to 24 Mar 11** $1800pd Western NSW 170
- **Start 27 Apr to 1 May 11** $1800pd Western NSW 175
- **Start 3 Jun to 4 Jun 11** $2000pd Northern NSW 180
- **Start 1 Aug to 31 Aug 11** $2500 Southern NSW 185

### PHYSICIAN
- **Start 23 Feb to 25 Feb 11** $2000pd Western NSW 190
- **Start 14 Mar to 20 Mar 11** $1800pd Central West NSW 195
- **Start 14 Mar to 20 Mar 11** $1800pd Western NSW 200
- **Start 11 Apr to 22 Apr 11** $1800pd Western NSW 205
- **Start 18 Apr to 24 Apr 11** $2000pd Central West NSW 210
- **Start 28 Mar to 4 Apr 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 215
- **Start 8 Apr to 11 Apr 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 220
- **Start 15 Apr to 18 Apr 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 225
- **Start 23 May to 29 May 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 230
- **Start 6 Jun to 12 June 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 235
- **Start 6 Jun to 12 June 11** $2500pd Southern NSW 235

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GP LOCUM
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Feb onwards
$1500/day + oncall/weekends
Call Karman 02 8353 9070

GP LOCUM
SE WA GP/VMO (ref: 23764)
February ongoing
$1800 per day or 70% billings
Call Sara 02 8353 9045

PHYSICIAN
QLD (Ref: 21697)
From 1st to 31st March 2011
$2200 per day worked
Call Claudine 02 8353 9020

PHYSICIAN
TAS (Ref: 24147)
11th June to 5th Sept 2011
$2000 per day worked
Call Claudine 02 8353 9020

PHYSICIAN
NSW (Ref: 22025)
Ongoing for 3 months
$2500 per day worked
Call Claudine 02 8353 9020

GENERAL SURGEON
NT (Ref: 22406)
30th March to 29th April 2011
$2500 per day worked
Call Nicole 02 8353 9012

PSYCH REGISTRAR
NSW (JS130111-1)
07/02/11 - 07/03/11
$120 per hour worked
Call Lisa 02 8353 9034

PAEDIATRICIAN
QLD (JR200111-1)
01/03/11 - 31/03/11
$300 per day worked
Call Amber 02 8353 9011

MEDICAL REGISTRAR
WA (WJ221210-2)
28/02/11 - 14/03/11
$120 per hour worked
Call Lisa 02 8353 9034

PAEDiatrician
WA (Ref: 23431)
Dates from Feb 7th - May 6th
$2000 per day worked
Call Amber 02 8353 9011

PAEDiatrician
QLD (Ref: 23962)
From March 1st - 31st
$2000 per day, inc Super
Call Amber 02 8353 9011

NEUROlogist
NT (Ref: 23710)
Start ASAP – 1 mth blocks $2000 per day, flat rate
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ED REGISTRAR
ACT (SS201211-1)
ASAP - 01/06/11
$140-$180 per hour worked
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ED REGISTRAR
NSW (HN01211-1)
14/02/11 - 28/02/11
$120 per hour worked
Call Carole 02 8353 9017

ED/MEDICAL SRMO
NT (KT290110-1)
12/03/11 - 13/03/11
$130 per hour worked
Call Carole 02 8353 9017

ED/MEDICAL SRMO
QLD (Ref: 22657)
24th Jan - Ongoing
$2000 per day worked
Call Carly 02 8353 9016

NEUROlogist
TAS (Ref: 23443)
18th April - 5th July
$2000 per day worked
Call Carly 02 8353 9016

NEUROlogist
TAS (Ref: 21559)
Starts April for 3 months
$2000 per day worked
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ANAESTHETIST
TAS (Ref: 16729)
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$21500 per day worked
Call Bec 02 8353 9042

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University of Otago
Dunedin  New Zealand
14 – 25 November 2011

This revision course is for trainees who are intending to sit the FRACP Written Examination in 2012. This is an intensive 2-week residential programme for individuals intending to sit the written component of the RACP examination, and comprises of 11 days of specialty-based revision with updates on “Leading Edge” topics and includes a half-day MCQ Mock Examination. Each day is fully structured with presentations given by senior specialty consultants. There are comprehensive handouts for each specialty. Social events are scheduled. This includes a dinner and dance at Dunedin’s famous Larnach Castle.

Basic Physician Training on DVD 2011

The Department of Medicine based at Dunedin Hospital, Dunedin, New Zealand, produces a weekly DVD specifically aimed at basic physician trainees, but is also suitable for physicians wanting up to date continuing medical education. Each session runs for approximately 2 hours. All medical specialties are covered. The sessions provide an update/review of the particular medical specialty followed by review of MCQ’s in that specialty. For those interested in subscribing to this DVD Lecture Series we will commence supply of the DVD’s in early March 2011. Excerpts of lectures can be viewed on our website.

Queenstown Course in Internal Medicine
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This course is designed to cater for the practicing specialist in Internal Medicine. The meeting is held biennially at the spectacular Millbrook resort, on the outskirts of Queenstown. The Resort hosts one of the finest golf courses in New Zealand. Queenstown is serviced by an International airport. Places for the 2011 course are limited to 60 and early registration is encouraged. Registration forms are available on our website. The proposed programme includes Cardiology, Endocrinology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Neurology, Older People’s Health.

Enquiries:
Linda Cunningham
Postgraduate Education Coordinator
Department of Medicine
University of Otago
NEW ZEALAND

Email address: linda.cunningham@otago.ac.nz
Telephone:  64 3 474 0999   ext 8520   Cell:  64 27 553 4400
Fax:  64 3 474 7641
Website:  http://dnmeds.otago.ac.nz/departments/mss/medicine/teaching/postgrad/index.html
Mental Health Review Board
Expressions of Interest for Membership
(Pursuant to Part 6 of the Mental Health Act 1996)

The Minister for Mental Health is seeking expressions of interest for Membership to the Mental Health Review Board (MHRB). The duties of Members (other than the President) are performed on a sessional basis. Expressions of interest are invited from community members, psychiatrists and legal practitioners.

The MHRB is an independent body that reviews the status of persons made subject to involuntary orders under the Mental Health Act 1996.

The Minister for Mental Health requires that Members be appointed on account of their interest in, and their experience of matters relating to people with a mental illness.

Expressions of interest should be sent to:
Minister for Mental Health
10th Floor, Dumas House 2 Havelock Street WEST PERTH WA 6005
Or by email to Minister.morton@dpc.wa.gov.au

Closing date: 5.00pm 4 March 2011.

Please note: the role of President of the MHRB will be advertised shortly. Current Members of the MHRB are welcome to apply for this and sessional Membership positions.

For an information package, please visit www.mentalhealth.wa.gov.au or email contactus@mentalhealth.wa.gov.au. For other general enquiries, contact Lesley van Schoubroeck at the Mental Health Commission on 6272 1200.