



ACAH

NEWSLETTER

GET CONNECTED

A SUMMARY OF ACADEMY ACTIVITIES FOR 2020-22



FROM THE ACAH CHAIR

Dear colleagues and friends,

It's a pleasure to bring you this newsletter, updating you on what has been a busy and growth-filled two years for the Academy of Child and Adolescent Health. As you will read, we have made great strides in our core aims to advocate for child health, and to connect, educate and inspire clinicians around Australia.

Most recently, it was a great pleasure to see delegates face-to-face once more at the annual scientific meeting of the Academy in Sydney. We engaged in some current themes of our time such as Aboriginal child and adolescent health, climate change, trans health, among others. You can read more about our inaugural Academy Champions awards, impressive researchers and dynamic speaker program, (all expertly curated by A/Prof Has Gunasekera, Prof Liz Elliott and their superb team) further in this newsletter.

Our strong advocacy efforts are ongoing as you will see, and we have continued to grow our board of directors with the recent addition of Ashfaque Quadir, who will bring another young voice to the team. I also thank our other Directors for their continued enthusiasm and contribution.

We hope you find value in the work of the Academy, and continue being a part of the broader Academy group. Our aim this year is to grow our multidisciplinary membership, focusing on all disciplines. If anyone has any ideas for the Academy or would like to become more actively involved, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Best wishes,

Jenny



Dr Jenny Proimos

Adolescent Physician, Royal Children's Hospital and University of Melbourne;
Past President RACP Paediatrics Division

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ACAH 2020/2021 WEBINARS

Over the past two years, ACAH has organised a series of cutting-edge webinars designed to be relevant and accessible to a broad audience. We had over **2500 registrations** for our 2020/2021 webinar series! ACAH Members can access all webinar recordings for free. Instructions have been emailed to members previously, or contact acah.publicrelations@gmail.com for further information.

2020 PLENARY WEBINARS

COVID, Careers and Kids - 9th October 2020
Prof Peter Doherty AC

75 years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki & the Prevention of War - 22nd October 2020
A/Prof Tilman Ruff AO, Dr Sue Wareham AOM

Refugee Child Rights: A UNHCR Perspective - 12th November 2020
Prof Gillian Triggs

Global Child and Adolescent Child Health - 11th December 2020
Prof Zulfi Bhutta, Prof Susan Sawyer AM

2021 PLENARY WEBINARS

The Environment, Development and Children of the Lucky Country? - 18th February 2021
Prof Fiona Stanley AC

Special WHO World Hearing Day Presentation: Aboriginal Ear Health - 3rd March 2021
Prof Kelvin Kong

2021 STUDENT WEBINARS

Paediatric Training 101 - 20th May 2021
Dr Jenny Proimos, Dr Dan Dorevitch, Dr David Tickell

The Forgotten Children - 9th September 2021
Dr David Isaacs, A/Prof Hasantha Gunasekera, Dr Sarah Cherian

Eating Disorders in Paediatrics - 23rd September 2021
Dr Jenny Proimos, Ms Arabella Thomas, Dr Michaela Muscat

2021 PRIMARY CARE WEBINARS

Common Infant Issues - 27th October 2021
Dr Jacqueline Dalby-Payne, Ms Michelle Meehan, A/Prof Mary Sharp

Mental Health in the School-Aged Child - 17th November 2021
Dr Katherine Knight, Dr Kenneth Nunn, Dr Joey Le

Co-Managing Chronic Issues in Adolescence - 1st December 2021
Dr Bianca Forrester, Dr Jemma Anderson, Dr Beth Shelton, A/Prof Sandra Radovini



ADVOCACY

The Academy has had an active 2 years in the advocacy space, particularly in the area of refugee and asylum seeker health. We aim to continue this work and have our members engaged in directing and driving our advocacy agenda in the coming years. Further information on our activities can be found on the [ACAHA website](#).

AUSTRALIAN REFUGEE CHILD HEALTH NETWORK (ARCH)

The Australian Refugee Child Health (ARCH) Network works tirelessly within the Academy to improve outcomes in this area. We released multiple statements, open letters, and social media campaigns particularly around the release of the Murugappan children from harmful held detention, during the #hometobilo campaign. In breaking news, the incoming government has just announced that it will allow the Murugappan family back to Biloeala!



OTHER ADVOCACY WORK BY THE ACADEMY

JANUARY 2021

The Academy of Child and Adolescent Health strongly endorsed The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that came into force on January 22, 2021.

<https://acah.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/global-child-health/>

OCTOBER 2021

The ACAH recognises the effects of the global climate crisis on children's health, and endorsed the International Society for Social Paediatrics & Child Health (ISSOP) Declaration Responding to the Impact of Climate Change on Children.

<https://acah.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/climate-change-and-health/>

DECEMBER 2021

UN General Assembly (UNGA) formally adopts the first-ever UNGA Resolution on "Addressing the Challenges of Persons Living with a Rare Disease and their Families". Proudly supported and lobbied for in Australia by ACAH board member Dr Gareth Baynam who continues this work ongoing, with ACAH endorsing the AMA statement on this topic.

MARCH 2022

Invited by the National Children's Commissioner to participate in PAFRA workshop, advocating for the end of corporal punishment of children.



STUDENT CORNER

ACAH has been thrilled with the success of our membership drive in 2021, particularly with the number of new student members - we are excited to have these future clinicians involved and actively engaging with ACAH!

ACAH STUDENT COMMITTEE

ACAH has teamed up with a passionate group of medical and allied health student volunteers this year. They have assisted with our 2021 webinar series, social media presence as well as curating medical student workshops for our upcoming ACAH2022 conference.

We look forward to the continual involvement of students in the Academy's future and hope that we can inspire the next generation of child and adolescent health professionals.



Members of the student committee at the ACAH2022 Conference

AMSA COLLABORATION

In 2021, ACAH collaborated with the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) to create a 3-part series about some key issues in paediatrics, with over 400 registrants. With a focus on the paediatric training pathway, refugee health and eating disorders in paediatrics, this webinar series received great feedback from medical students as well as students from other health disciplines.

ACAH x AMSA - Paediatric Training 101

Dr Jenny Proimos, Dr Dan Dorevitch, Dr David Tickell

ACAH x AMSA Crossing Borders - The Forgotten Children

Dr David Isaacs, A/Prof Hasantha Gunasekera, Dr Sarah Chieran

ACAH x AMSA Mental Health - Eating Disorders in Paediatrics

Dr Jenny Proimos, Ms Arabella Thomas, Dr Michaela Muscat



2022 STUDENT WEBINARS

We will be continuing this collaboration with a series of upcoming webinars in 2022.

Paediatrics 101

Gender Affirming Care in Paediatrics

June 8th - In collaboration with AMSA Queer

The Impact of Childhood Trauma on Neurodevelopment

June 23rd - Prof Kim Oates, Dr Ken Nunn

The Experience of Indigenous Children in Healthcare Settings

July 12th - The impact of transgenerational trauma



ACAHAH 2022

GAME CHANGERS IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH - ACAH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We welcomed over 150 international and local delegates from all health professions, both online and in person at Doltone House in Sydney. This year's program focused on achieving practical solutions across a range of priority areas including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Advocacy, Climate Change, Obesity, Adolescent Trans Healthcare and more.



Medical students attending the Student/Trainee Workshops



National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds



Dr James Muecke AM presenting on Obesity Pandemic Solutions



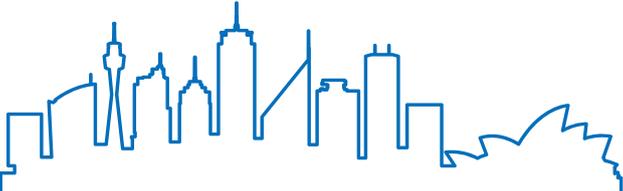
ACAHAH conference delegates from a range of research and allied health professions



First Nations Health Panel - Dr Dana Slape, Dr Ngaree Blow and Prof Kelvin Kong

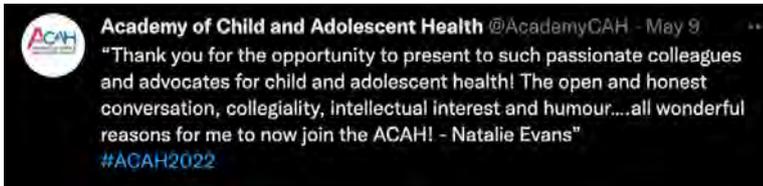


Dr Micah Vincent in The Great Debate - Working in Healthcare: Better Now than Then?



ACAH 2022

GAME CHANGERS IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH - ACAH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Prof David Isaacs, Dr Brendan McMullan and Prof Tom Snelling



Conference Convenor A/Prof Hasantha Gunasekera and Prof Elizabeth Elliot AM



ACAH Board of Directors 2022, Stephanie Dowden in absentia



ACA2023 will be held in **October in Melbourne next year** and we are always looking for volunteers to help with organising and running the conference! Members who would like to join the ACA2023 organising committee, should email acah.publicrelations@gmail.com



CHAMPIONS AWARDS

The ACAH Champions awards were established in 2022 and the inaugural awards announced at our conference in Sydney. They are peer-nominated, and peer-voted, looking to recognise passionate, innovative people, from diverse backgrounds, who are gamechangers in Child and Adolescent Health!

This year's winners were Alanna Maycock and Prof Kelvin Kong, who were both recognised for their outstanding contributions and dedication to children in Australia. Both of have been extremely generous with their time to the Academy in recent years.

ALANNA MAYCOCK (Emerging Leader)

"Alanna was the first nursing whistleblower highlighting her concerns about the plight of children in the immigration detention centre in Nauru. She risked 2 years in jail with the Border Force legislation but was not deterred. She was courageous enough to speak at public forums and multiple meetings with the Australian Human Rights Commission, Amnesty and as a World Vision Ambassador for the #Kidsoffnauru campaign. She is an amazingly passionate and energetic person who has always gone above and beyond in relation to fighting for children who need a champion and this contribution has not been appropriately recognised."



PROFESSOR KELVIN KONG (ACAH Champion 2022)

"Kelvin is absolutely amazing. He is the first Aboriginal surgeon in Australia and has led the way for many other specialist medical practitioners from First Nations backgrounds. He is absolutely inspirational for many young Aboriginal kids and every Aboriginal person I have met, including at international conferences, tells me that he has been a valuable mentor and support in their careers. He has a busy clinical practice but was able to support the HEALS project (Hearing Ear health and Language Services) when funding was available and managed half the operations conducted through that programme across NSW 2013-2017.

He also performs cochlear implant surgery for refugee kids who would otherwise not have access. He is heavily involved in ear health research, including NHMRC CREs, trials and other studies as a Chief Investigator. He has both state and federal government links and was instrumental in advancing the MRFF for Indigenous health. He is doing amazing, tireless work and does not receive the recognition that he deserves!"





MEMBERSHIP

The Academy has greatly increased its diversity of membership in recent years. After a rigorous membership campaign in 2021, we now include in our number: paediatricians and trainees; nurses; nurse practitioners; GPs; surgeons; psychiatrists; allied health professionals; administrators; students and academics.

At time of writing, we have over 240 official members from around Australia, with over 1650 individuals on our mailing list who have interacted with us through different ACAH events. We are always looking to further expand our membership and active participation in our student or conference subcommittees, or even for nomination to our board or directors.

Thank you for supporting the ACAH to date and we hope we can count on your support to continue building the Academy over the coming years. **As a young, largely volunteer-run organisation, ACAH relies on your membership to continue operating.**

We would not be able to provide our fantastic events, advocacy or opportunities for connection across Australia without you.

Fees: Free membership for students, non-students \$100 to \$300 depending on income

Benefits: Access to full webinar series library, nomination/voting rights for ACAH Champion Awards, discounted conference and registrations.

Renew / Apply for membership here: <https://acah.org.au/membership/apply-for-or-renew-membership/>

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- Our primary care and student webinars will return in 2022, so stay tuned...
- Continued advocacy across a range of issues - get in contact to share your area of passion and interest with us.
- We aim to broaden our membership and set up additional working parties in craft areas.
- We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne at ACAH2023 in October next year!

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