

## 2007 General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference

*“Working Together”*

### Speaker biographies

#### **Bonnie Sibbald**

Professor of Health Services Research & Deputy Director of the National Primary Care Research & Development Centre, Manchester  
UK



She leads the programme of research at NPCRDC concerned with skill mix in primary care. This work has included joint research with Pharmacy Practice into the role of community pharmacists in the provision of primary care and quality of long term prescribing in general practice. Prof Sibbald led the Department of Health evaluation of salaried GPs within general practitioner Personal Medical Services (PMS) pilots and supported NPCRDC's role as the central coordination centre for evaluation of PMS.

Her research has also looked at assessing the cost-effectiveness of doctor-nurse substitution in primary care; investigating the impact of team structure and function on quality of care in general practice; and appraising the roles of new types of healthcare providers. As workforce shortages are often among the most important factors limiting primary care development, the group also investigate strategies for improving the recruitment, retention and distribution of health professionals. Identifying the determinants of inequalities in GP distribution and developing effective strategies to address these has been the main focus of this work.

#### **Chris Van Weel**

Professor of General Practice  
Department of general practice, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen  
The Netherlands

Taking a practical approach to understanding chronic diseases in general practice Chris has set up longitudinal studies on asthma/COPD, diabetes mellitus, hypertension/cardiovascular disease and depression. He is an expert on chronic disease management. The Nijmegen Continuous Morbidity Registration/Monitoring Project had resulted in more than 500 scientific papers published in international journals, and more than 35 MD/PhD theses. The programme is part of the Netherlands School of Primary Care Research (CaRe) of which Chris is one of the founders.

Concurrently, Chris is the President-elect of Wonca, having been President Wonca-Europe 1998-2001. He is active in local and international research initiatives, teaches medical students and sees patients on a regular basis, not to mention was responsible for the organisation of the Wonca Kingston conference on the future of family medicine research!

### **Professor Nicky Britten**

Professor of Applied Health Care Research and Deputy Director of the Institute of Clinical Education  
Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute  
UK



Nicky Britten is a sociologist with research interests in lay perceptions of prescribed medicines, patient-doctor communication and qualitative research methods. Before coming to the Peninsula, she worked in the Department of General Practice and Primary Care at Guy's King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine in London, where she ran the MSc in General Practice for over 13 years. Professor Britten is co-editor of the Oxford Textbook of Primary Medical Care. Her current research projects include the use of meta ethnography for the synthesis of qualitative research, and user involvement in research.

### **Professor David Currow**

Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Australia



Professor David Currow is the foundation Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Australia, a new national organisation charged with implementing key aspects of Strengthening Cancer Care, an Australian Government initiative in the 2005 budget. He continues to hold the Chair of Palliative & Supportive Services at Flinders University, Adelaide.

He holds research grants from the National Health & Medical Research Council, the National Institutes of Health in the USA, Cancer Council South Australia and the Ian Potter Foundation. Major research directions include defining the benefits derived from appropriate use of specialist palliative care services together with populations whose needs are currently unmet.

### **Dr Norman Swan**

Host of the Health Report, on ABC Radio National



Best known for his award-winning Health Report on ABC Radio National, Dr Norman Swan has hosted Life Matters for Radio National and Health Dimensions on ABC Television. A Producer with the ABC's Science Unit since 1982, he created, wrote and narrated Invisible Enemies a four part series on disease and civilisation, broadcast on SBS and in 27 countries. He has won three Walkley National Awards for Australian Journalism including the Gold and was awarded Australia's top prize for Science Journalism, the Michael Daley Award.

### **The Hon Tony Abbott MP**

Minister for Health and Ageing



Tony Abbott was elected Member for Warringah at a by-election in March 1994. Prior to entering Parliament he was Executive Director of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy from 1993-94. From 1990-93 he was press secretary and political advisor to the Leader of the Opposition, Dr John Hewson. His previous career was in journalism, where he wrote as a feature writer for 'The Bulletin' and 'The Australian'. Tony was appointed Minister for Health and Ageing on the 7 October 2003.