



THE NEED FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION/INNOVATION PROGRAMME

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NNEdPro Down Under: Launching an Australia and New Zealand Network

March 21st 2016, Perth: One of the action points from the *First International Summit on Medical Nutrition Education and Research*, held in August 2015, was to establish a network in Australia and New Zealand with individuals who were interested in progressing medical/healthcare nutrition education and research 'down under'.

The Launch: As a result, we launched the Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) Network at the 2016 joint conference of the Ottawa and Australia New Zealand Association of Health Professional Educators, facilitated by **Prof Caryl Nowson** and **Robyn Perlstein**, Deakin University. The launch is an initiative of our Global Innovation Panel (GIP), led by Dr Lauren Ball (NHMRC/Griffith University) and Celia Laur (University of Waterloo) and supported by members of the ANZ NNEdPro Network Steering Committee, including Dr Helen McCarthy and A/Prof Gina Ambrosini. Key UK NNEdPro members, including Prof Sumantra Ray (Ex-Officio Co-Chair of the Network) and Pauline Douglas (NNEdPro Vice Chair), also travelled to Australia to support the launch.

Network Purpose: To strengthen the nutrition education and competence of medical and healthcare professionals in ANZ through **innovation in research, resource development** and delivery.

Steering Committee: Doctors, medical students, medical educators, dietitians and dietetic educators, as well as representatives of health professional organisations across ANZ, expressed tremendous interest in the establishment of this Network. Eleven individuals were nominated to form a Steering Committee through which NNEdPro hopes to support a joint vision in nutrition education and research in the region.

Through discussions with Monash University, the University of Queensland, the University of Tasmania and the Dietitians Association of Australia, a **nutrition competencies framework** was developed. This framework includes 4 knowledge based and 5 skills based competencies along with the Web based Nutrition Competencies Implementation Toolkit to support the inclusion of nutrition into medical education programmes in Australia. The ANZ Network will work with this developed resource as well as developing others to achieve its education aims.



A preliminary report of progress to date and Network aims will be presented at the 2016 International Summit on Medical Nutrition Education and Research taking place in Cambridge, UK from June 17th – 19th, 2016.

University Collaborations: NNEdPro's activities continued after the ANZ Network launch. On the other side of the country, Prof Ray presented highlights from the launch event to a group of allied health professionals at the Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University. This talk was followed by visits to University of Auckland and Massey University in New Zealand to further establish meaningful links around NNEdPro's mandate in medical/healthcare nutrition education and research.

Through the launch of the ANZ Network, NNEdPro's experience can be utilised as a potential model for the ANZ region, whilst also learning significantly from the ANZ experience. The engagement around this network exemplifies the cross-border nature of needs around medical/healthcare nutrition education and research. To be part of such conversations, attend our Summit where much of NNEdPro's Global activities will be highlighted and discussed (www.nnedprometings.wordpress.com).

Awareness

To promote awareness of the ANZ Network to key stakeholders across ANZ

Capacity Building

To support the sharing of resources for medical nutrition education across ANZ

Education

To investigate opportunities for developing interactive nutrition education modules for use in medical education across ANZ

The Event: The Network launch included a well-attended workshop, an oral presentation and a networking event. This open-invitation workshop worked to:

- Develop a set of priorities for the Australia and New Zealand NNEdPro Network
- Collate ideas from medical education stakeholders interested in developing nutrition teaching and curriculum.

For the oral presentation, Prof Nowson presented the findings of a 2010 survey involving 18 Australian medical schools, which highlighted the gap between the Australian Medical Council Curriculum Guidelines and the inclusion of nutrition in medical education in medical schools.

Events

- **International Summit in Medical Nutrition Education and Research:** 17th - 19th June 2016
- **Cambridge Summer School:** 20th - 24th June 2016

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