



# Focus on HITH

Winter 2008  
Volume 1 Issue 1

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*Assoc. Professor Gideon Caplan*

## *Welcome to our first newsletter!*

We have come a long way since our first meeting at the last HITH/CAPAC conference in October 2007. In just eight short months, the Society has interim Executive positions (meet the Executive on Page Two), with regular teleconferences of the Executive Council to move things forward. We also have a conference organizing committee that is busy planning our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting in November 08.

In this issue you will read about a number of meetings and submissions the Executive has made on behalf of the membership at a Federal and State level. We have been actively seeking foundation sponsorship to help get the Society off the ground, and we are thrilled that NSW Health and Intel have stepped up to support us in this crucial early phase of our development.

I encourage all professionals working in HITH to help us build the Society into a group that makes a difference!

## HITH Society Formal Submissions

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#### **National Health & Hospitals Reform Commission**

The commission was formed by Hon. Nicola Roxon to develop a long term health reform plan for a modern Australia. A face to face meeting was held with Professor Ron Penny (Commission Member) and a formal submission was drafted for the NHHRC and sent in May 2008. For more information visit the web page

<http://www.nhhrc.org.au/>

#### **Garling Inquiry into NSW Public Hospitals**

Commissioner Garling is inquiring into the delivery of acute care services in public hospitals in NSW. Members of the HITH Executive made in person appearances at two of the hearings (14<sup>th</sup> March & 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008), and a formal written submission was lodged from the Society. Proceedings from the hearings can be read at

[http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/special\\_projects/ll\\_splprojects.nsf/pages/acsi\\_publichearings](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/special_projects/ll_splprojects.nsf/pages/acsi_publichearings)

## Introducing - The Interim Executive



*Gideon Caplan*

### PRESIDENT

Associate Professor Gideon Caplan

Medical Director, Post Acute Care, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney NSW. Gideon is recognized as a leader in HITH, initiating a number of randomized clinical trials in the HITH setting.



*Nicholas Marlow*

### VICE PRESIDENT

Nicholas Marlow

Area Manager, Acute/Post Acute Care, Northern Sydney Central Coast Health, is also Editor of our newsletter, Focus on HITH



*Pauline Dobson*

### SECRETARY

Pauline Dobson

Clinical Nurse Consultant, Out & About IV Therapy Program, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle NSW



*Suchada Sternberg*

### TREASURER

Suchada Sternberg

RN, Post Acute Care, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney NSW



*Nick Collins*

### CHAIR, CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Nick Collins,

Director, Macarthur Ambulatory Care Service, South West Sydney, NSW.

### EXECUTIVE 2009

Voting will take place at the HITH Society Annual General Meeting to be held during the HITH Society 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Conference in November to replace the interim executive with permanent elected officials. Please consider whether you would like to nominate for one of the Executive positions.

#### Meeting Dates

##### EGM

Wed 23rd July 4.30pm AEST

##### Executive Council

4pm AEST

6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

##### Conference Organising C'ttee

5pm AEST

23<sup>rd</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup> Aug,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sept, 17<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

OUR EXECUTIVE NEEDS A MEMBERSHIP OFFICER TO HELP US DRIVE NEW MEMBERSHIP  
COULD THIS BE YOU? CONTACT US AT [hithsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hithsociety@gmail.com)

## From the Editor's Desk

Dear Members,

Welcome.

The HITH Society celebrates its formation with an Australia - wide membership including rural and metropolitan representation. The Society is unique as a body of medical, nursing & allied health, which reflects HITH service provision.

This newsletter is a quarterly edition, updating members with news, events and important information for members and those involved in the HITH area.

We welcome letters from members on issues relating to HITH service provision or items in the previous newsletters.

Letters should be sent via email to [hithsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hithsociety@gmail.com) or to

The Editor  
HITH Focus  
PO Box 3341  
St. Pauls NSW 2031

Nicholas Marlow  
Editor



### Upcoming Issues Call for contributions

In each newsletter there will be a 'HITH in Focus' section where we highlight a particular area of HITH practice. We are calling on members to submit short pieces relating to the following topics:

**Spring Issue - Rural HITH**  
Closing date Aug 24<sup>th</sup>

**Summer - Paediatric HITH**  
Closing date - Nov 24<sup>th</sup>

Contributions to be sent to  
[hithsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hithsociety@gmail.com)

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## Our Sponsors

We are thrilled to announce that we have been able to secure foundation sponsorship for the Society from NSW Health and Intel. The generosity of both entities has enabled us to organize a conference in our first year as a professional group.



## Parliament House Meeting

Canberra 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008, Members of the HITH Society Executive held a very successful meeting with some excellent outcomes at the Health Minister's office Parliament House with Mr Mick Reid (Chief of Staff for Hon. Nicola Roxon Minister for Health and Aging). The purpose of the meeting was to articulate with the Health Minister the value and importance of HITH and the excellent clinical outcomes that this area delivers for health care across Australia.

The outcomes from the meeting were:

- An agreed need for HITH Society to have national participation for members across Australia, New Zealand and Asia.
- To engage Dr Christine Bennett-Chairperson National Hospital and Health Reform Commission (NHHRC) re: participation of the HITH Society
- Agreed that HITH Society provide a written submission to the NHHRC
- Agreed re need for HITH Society involvement in MBS item reform
- Agreed that HITH Society raise issues regarding lack of NHMRC research funding and opportunities to date with CEO of NHMRC.
- Agreed Hon. Nicola Roxon be invited to open our annual conference 2008




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*The HITH Society will lobby State & Federal Governments on issues of importance to the provision of HITH services in Australia. If you have a major issue, contact the Society to discuss.*

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*Above from left Dr Nick Collins, Mr Mick Reid, Mr Nicholas Marlow & A/Prof Gideon Caplan.*

### To Do List

**In August we will be holding our first teleconference for the Nurses Interest Group. If you have signed up for this group then you need to watch your email inbox for details!**

## New Members

The HITH Society welcomes the following members:

Annette Buller, Newcastle NSW	Kerryn Bullivant, West Kempsey NSW
Jenyce Campbell, Newcastle NSW	Dr. Gideon Caplan, Sydney NSW
Judith Chapman-Stewart, Geraldton WA	Maggi Clark, Kalgoorlie WA
Janis Coconis, Sydney NSW	Dr. Nick Collins, Sydney NSW
Simone Dagg, Newcastle NSW	Pauline Dobson, Newcastle NSW
Barbara Farrelly, Belford Park SA	Anne Finley, Sydney NSW
Dr. Chris Geraghty, Newcastle NSW	Jacqueline Greenham, Newcastle NSW
Dr. Geoff Hardacre, Dubbo NSW	Paulene Kittler, Gray NT
Nicholas Marlow, Sydney NSW	Kathy McNaught, Mt. Pleasant WA
Joan Micale, Spearwood WA	Wendy Milne, Bunbury WA
Anne Murray, North Coast NSW	Nicki Newton, Scarborough WA
Dr. Graeme Pickford, Bathurst NSW	Dr. Susie Piper, Central Coast NSW
Wendy Porter, Nth Nowra NSW	Mark Quadrell, Hyde Park QLD
Jayne Senior, Kingsley WA	Wendy Sidall, Sydney NSW
Emma Smart, Newcastle NSW	Suchada Sternberg, Sydney NSW
Gail Tomsic, Sydney NSW	Amanda Trist, Sydney NSW
Dr. John Van Der Post, Nedlands WA	Julie Viecei, Hobart TAS
Dr. Tai-Tak Wan, Sydney NSW	Jane Welman, Sydney NSW
Jane Whitehurst, Sydney NSW	Dr. Stephen Wilson, Sydney NSW

If your name does not appear on this list, you ticked 'No' to sharing your details with other members

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## Scope of the Society – NSW vs. Australasia

As you can see from the new members above, the HITH Society (NSW) has attracted members from across Australia. There has been a call from the membership to expand the scope of the society from a state based group, to one that represents members throughout Australia and our close international neighbours.

An Extraordinary General Meeting has been called for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July @ 4.30pm by teleconference, to consider a vote of the membership on whether to stay a state based group or move to an Australasian group. You will be sent teleconferencing info closer to the date.

To make such a change to the Society's Constitution requires a vote of 75% of the membership. We need your vote prior to the EGM. If you have not received a voting form, contact [hithsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hithsociety@gmail.com) and you will be sent one. If you have received a form and have not yet voted, please do so by fax (02) 4922 3428 or return email.

**WE NEED YOUR VOTE BY 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY**

## Announcing the HITH Society's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting HITH 2008 – “Substitution Revolution: Pioneering Care in the Home”

Plans are well underway for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at the Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi (Sydney) on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Dr. Nick Collins has agreed to Chair the Conference Organising Committee, and we currently have 12 Society members on the committee. Other members interested in assisting with the conference planning are very welcome to come on board.

The conference will be multidisciplinary, and encompass paediatric along with adult, rural and metropolitan HITH. Our international speaker is Dr. Simon Wynn-Thomas from the Pegasus Group, New Zealand, who has conducted a number of randomised clinical trials in HITH.

You should have received the conference flyer and call for abstracts by now. If not, contact [hithsociety@gmail.com](mailto:hithsociety@gmail.com) and one will be emailed to you. There will be a prize for best paper and best poster.

Following a tender process, we enlisted the assistance of ARCHI (Australian Resource Centre for Hospital Innovations) as the conference organiser. A sponsorship package has been distributed to potential sponsors, with two exhibitors signed up to date.

### Call for Abstracts

**Are you demonstrating excellent patient outcomes in HITH? Breaking new ground in Australasia? Implementing new innovative practice for patient's or HITH staff?**

Then we want to hear from you at our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, whether you are a first time presenter or seasoned professional.

Abstract submission is online at <http://callforpapers.com.au/hith2008/SubmitAbstract.php>

**ABSTRACTS CLOSE 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2008**

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## Allied Health Network

The NSW Allied Health CAPAC Network is a dynamic group of Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists working in HITH (CAPAC) services across NSW. They would like to expand across Australasia. The current focus and membership revolves around NSW, but the group would like to be a strong independent HITH Society voice for Allied Health workers in our specialty. The group formed in 2001 with the aim of:

- Providing a forum for Allied Health working in HITH services across NSW
- Planning for best practice
- Promoting the role of Allied Health in HITH Services
- Providing support for staff working in professionally isolated environments

With the help of teleconferencing facilities, our membership has grown to include members from metropolitan and rural NSW.

Interested Allied Health should contact [Amanda.Trist@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Amanda.Trist@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au) for more information.