



Included in this issue:

- peer-reviewed articles of interest
- links to reports and opinion pieces
- events and updates

Articles of interest

Measuring Physician practice, preparedness, and preference for genomic medicine: a national study

Genomic medicine is evolving rapidly and although considered as an integral component in the future of healthcare, there remains a lack of rigorous, national assessment of physicians' current genomic practice and continuing genomics education needs. Through the analysis of data from a cross-sectional survey this study sought to assess the current landscape of genomic medicine practice amongst Australian physicians and how prepared they felt for the future of medicine where a greater focus on genomics will exist.

With the availability of genomic sequencing tests becoming more widely available through the MBS, it is hoped that an assumption of responsibility by physicians in the provision of genomic medicine care will increase patient access, build workforce capacity, and provide a reduction in wait-times for genetics consultations. Gaps in the perceived capability of the physician workforce to provide genomics care without the support of genetics services were identified within this study.

As genomic medical care begins to become more common practice within the physician workforce, further education and training will need to be an immediate priority to ensure the workforce is both equipped and prepared for this rapidly evolving area of medical practice.

[Find out more](#)

Readiness to enter the workforce: perceptions of health professions students at a regional Australian university

Many university students felt under prepared to transition from university to work particularly for highly demanding and stressful professions like healthcare. With readiness for practice considered a key factor to reduce transition associated stress, this paper aimed to investigate factors impacting on work readiness and perception of readiness for

clinical practice amongst final year dental, medical and pharmacy students at the James Cook University.

Consistent with other similar studies, participants perceived that they were adequately prepared for practice in terms of patient centered care capabilities, core skills and advanced consultation skills, with clinical placements a key contributor to a feeling of preparedness for the workforce. Capabilities identified as requiring further development and adding to a feeling of under preparedness include the ability to undertake a teaching role, provide basic nutritional care, participation in clinical governance activities and utilising audit to improve patient care.

While teaching institutions play a key role in preparing students for the workplace, support networks such as family and friends, supervisors, and peers play a notable role in students self-perceived readiness for the workforce. Better induction into clinical placement sites, knowledge of health care systems, and greater support to foster clinical governance training are recommended as ways which education providers can further improve the workforce readiness of their graduates.

[Find out more](#)

Artificial Intelligence Education for the Health Workforce: Expert Survey of Approaches and Needs.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is growing and has broad impacts within the health sector and for its workforce. Those employed in senior level positions across the health workforce education sectors were the target for a six-part survey. This sought to explore how the system planned to navigate the rising use of AI and identify critical gaps in curriculum and educational resources.

While the health sector is broadly in agreement that the health workforce needs further education and training in the use of AI, a lack of progress around planning for this transition exists. While the results of this study highlighted the priorities for educators to address the social and technical facets of AI, the paper suggests that educators require more capability and competency-based content development before any of these priorities can be implemented at scale.

While it is encouraging to see the conversation on AI is gaining traction, further work is required by those responsible for enabling the health workforce in the use of AI.

[Find out more](#)

Utilising the mental health nursing workforce: A scoping review of mental health nursing clinical roles and identities

Despite global demand for mental health professionals increasing, the mental health nursing (MHN) workforce is underutilised. Achieving a greater understanding of the identities, roles, and capabilities of the MHN workforce will be critical to ensuring the MHN workforce reaches its full potential. This paper undertook a review of published research on the clinical role of the MHN workforce to better understand its professional identity and potential.

The MHN role is complex, made up of both technical and non-technical capabilities which are identified within this study. Identified capabilities include maintaining consumer safety, provision of both psychological education and interventions and the building of therapeutic connections. High levels of emotional intelligence, including self-understanding and self-reflection, along with inter-personal communication skills and strong organisational skills to meet consumer needs were considered essential capabilities for the MHN role.

The diverse nature of MHN clinical capabilities and roles identified within this review suggest the identity and therapeutic potential of MHNs can be moulded to the needs of the health service or the end user. This diversity will provide a good basis for the MHN to provide a versatile and valuable addition to future workforce reform agendas.

[Find out more](#)

Adaptive doctors in Australia: preparing tomorrow's doctors for practice in a world destabilised by declining planetary health

With healthcare emissions making up 7% of Australia's total carbon footprint it is important that medical professionals are equipped with the necessary skills to provide sustainable healthcare and promote planetary health. This study evaluated the activities of a planetary health blended learning module, which was developed and piloted after mapping current planetary health themes within the medical program offered by the Australian National University.

The results of this study, albeit from a small sample, indicate that the learning material did fill an identified curriculum gap and was well received by students. Content knowledge improved modestly as a result of undertaking this program and feedback received will assist in program refinements.

With only 15% of medical schools across 100 countries including climate change and health within the curriculum it is

hoped that this program will evolve and provide some impetus for other medical schools to include this subject matter within their curriculum.

[Find out more](#)

Events

Innovate Health 2022

26 – 27 July 2022

Melbourne

[Find out more](#)

23rd International Mental Health Conference

05 – 07 September 2022

Gold Coast

[Find out more](#)

Australian Nurses and Midwives Conference

08 – 09 September 2022

Melbourne

[Find out more](#)

Population Health Congress 2022

21 – 23 September 2022

Adelaide and Online

[Find out more](#)

Food for thought

A burnt-out health workforce impacts patient care

<https://theconversation.com/a-burnt-out-health-workforce-impacts-patient-care-180021>

Securing Australia's medical workforce will avert pending health crisis: Go8.

<https://agedcarenews.com.au/2022/05/06/securing-australias-medical-workforce-will-avert-pending-health-crisis/>

Allied health professionals could play role in easing rural healthcare issues, doctors say.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-19/allied-health-could-ease-rural-healthcare-problems-doctors-say/100968496>

PODCAST: Dr Jeremy Curtin - The Ophthalmologist who's always had eyes for the country

<https://www.destinationmedicine.com.au/podcasts/Dr-Jeremy-Curtin-The-Ophthalmologist-who-s-always-had-eyes-for-the-country>

Contact

We welcome your comments and contributions. Please contact us at

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