

Report in thanks for the bursary from the Myre Sim Fund
Dr Lindsay EM Reid, 19th May 2017.

On Friday 3rd March 2017 I delivered my presentation entitled “An examination of acute medical care in Scottish hospitals” at the Internal Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (IMSANZ) Autumn conference in Wellington. This was made possible by the bursary granted by the Myre Sim Fund, to which I am very grateful.

The work I presented was that which I undertook as part of a clinical fellowship with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Scottish Government and the University of Edinburgh. During this work, I reviewed the delivery of acute medical care in the 29 acute sites in Scotland: I visited each site to interview staff working there as to discuss how their care was organised, then used this data to write a report for each unit, which I then analysed to identify commonalities and differences. At the time of giving my presentation I was just in the second week of a new role as clinical fellow in Ko Awatea, a centre of improvement and innovation in Auckland.

IMSANZ represents over 700 Consultant Physicians and trainees in Internal Medicine (also known as General Medicine or General and Acute Care Medicine) within Australia and New Zealand. The Society provides a mechanism for developing the academic and professional profile of general medicine and seeks to advocate for, and sponsor the educational training, research and workforce requirements of general internal medicine. IMSANZ is a separate and freestanding body but is closely aligned with and works in harmony with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP).

My presentation was well received and stimulated a lot of interesting discussion. I was the last speaker before the coffee break, and the questions kept coming such that the session over-ran. The questions continued to come at coffee time, and also at lunch time. The questions were varied and all interesting. They included discussions surrounding the difference between the AMU model in the UK and Australasia; what the next steps for the development of the specialty are; and how the differences in the AMUs related to the differences in the size of the hospital they were situated in. I acknowledged the contribution I received from the Myre Sim Fund at the end of my presentation.

The experience of presenting my work at the conference was beneficial in many ways. It facilitated my networking in the medical community in NZ, which was important given that I had just arrived and had never worked in NZ before. I am currently preparing the work for publication, and am drawing on points made in the post-presentation discussion to help shape the message in my papers. It has promoted the work resulting from the collaboration between RCPE, the Scottish Government and University of Edinburgh: as a result of this presentation I have been invited to give another presentation at a general medicine conference in Queensland, Australia later this year. Attending the rest of the conference was also very interesting in terms of updating my clinical knowledge and also gaining an understanding of the differences in healthcare between the UK and my new setting.

In summary, presenting my work in Wellington was an extremely positive experience and I am indebted to Dr Myre Sim and the Myre Sim Fund committee for making it possible.

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