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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



GP journal provides new insight into chronic respiratory disease

The March 2010 edition of *Australian Family Physician*, the flagship journal of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), features a range of articles and research focusing on key issues in general practice today. The March 2010 edition includes the following articles:

Impact of structured education and self management on rural asthma outcomes

Ann Larson et al

This article details a study that trialled the outcome for asthma patients of a brief, nurse led, patient education session with general practice review of an Asthma Action Plan. The study demonstrated that structured general practice based education appears to be an effective preventive health care program, with the potential to reduce expensive unscheduled use of health services.

Children in the ACT with asthma - are they taking preventer medication according to guidelines?

Maree Brown et al

This article details a study, which aimed to ascertain whether children with asthma in the Australian Capital Territory were taking preventer medications in accordance with National Asthma Council Australia guidelines. The results suggested that home medical management of asthma with preventers for children may not be optimal.

Pharmacists in general practice - a proposed role in the multidisciplinary team

Evan Ackerman et al

This article explores a proposed role for a pharmacist within a general practice. It suggests a strategy for pharmacists to provide multiple risk management strategies to improve medication safety and focuses on interventions to high risk patient groups and disease states and to use practice information technology systems to manage quality medication systems and services.

Coronary heart disease – the benefits of exercise

Frances M Wise

This article explores the benefits of exercise for cardiac patients, details how exercise is prescribed in this group, and considers safety and contraindications to exercise in this group. Both aerobic and resistance training are important components of cardiac rehabilitation and can contribute to secondary prevention of heart disease with corresponding improvements in patient survival.

Primary care nursing workforce in Australia - a vision for the future

Rhian Parker et al

This article explores the ways in which practice nurses can contribute significantly to Australian general practice and the wider primary care sector as they respond to the Australian government's reform agenda.

All articles are available to read online at www.racgp.org.au/afp from Wednesday 3

March 2010.

Australian Family Physician is the journal of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. It is a peer reviewed journal, publishing original articles and reviews dedicated to meeting the ongoing educational requirements of general practitioners. For more information including subscription to the print version, visit www.racgp.org.au/afp.

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Media contacts

Melanie Fontolliet, RACGP Media & PR Manager, 03 8699 0513 or 0424 461 622
Jessica Warne, RACGP Media & PR Coordinator, 03 8699 0442 or 0418 583 081

About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) sets and maintains the standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice, and represents Australia's urban and rural general practitioners. Visit www.racgp.org.au.