Section news

Consultation
NZNO consults with members on a range of issues. The full outline can be found here.

New Zealand news

Pacific graduate on track to become nurse practitioner - Massey Uni
When Catherine Tu’akalau graduates this week it will be another study milestone, but not the end of her academic journey. The registered nurse will be conferred with her Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing, but is already partway through her next degree. Her aim is to become New Zealand’s first Pacific Nurse Practitioner focused on child health, and to do that she needs her master’s degree. Read more

Bill banning smoking in cars with children inside passes
A bill banning smoking in cars with children has passed its final reading, with support from all parties. Read more

Government to provide free sanitary items in schools
The government is taking steps to tackle period poverty by providing free products in schools. Read more

Plunket’s new website will help families even if they don’t have the internet
Thanks to a new free-data website, Kiwi families without internet or data on their phones can now access parenting support they need online. Read more

Bullying

Yale study finds bullying as common factor in LGBTQ youth suicides
Researchers at the Yale School of Public Health have found that death records of LGBTQ youth, who died by suicide were substantially more likely to mention bullying, as a factor than their non-LGBTQ peers. The researchers reviewed nearly 10,000 death records of youth ages 10-19 who died by suicide in the United States from 2003 to 2017. Read more
Evidence-Based Interventions for Chronically Bullied Children: Candidate Mechanisms and Potential Strategies,
Samantha J. Gregus, James T. Craig & Timothy A. Cavell (2020)
Toward Evidence-Based Practice in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 5:1, 83-101, DOI: 10.1080/23794925.2020.1727796
Current anti-bullying interventions are designed to reduce the overall prevalence of bullying and victimization. Systematic reviews document the efficacy of these programs, but emerging evidence suggests that chronically bullied children are less likely to benefit and possibly experience increased problems following program implementation. Recent investigations into processes contributing to chronic peer victimization help explain the limited impact of anti-bullying programs. We drew from that literature to offer a working model of the plight of chronic victims.

Cancer
Children with cancer are not at a higher risk for COVID-19 infection or morbidity, study finds
Researchers have found that children with cancer are not at a higher risk of being affected by COVID-19. Read more

Child development
Tummy time in infants is associated with positive health outcomes
In a systematic review, awake prone positioning (tummy time) in healthy infants was positively associated with:
• total development,
• gross motor development,
• decreased body mass index (BMI),
• prevention of brachycephaly, and
• ability to move while prone, supine, crawling, and rolling. Read more

Clinical
The article below is not freely available in full text, but may be available at a DHB library, the NZNO library, or through resources offered at an academic library.
Evaluation of an Innovative Model of Care for a Limited-Stay Pediatric Unit,
Johnson-Salerno, Elizabeth… et al
JONA: The Journal of Nursing Administration: June 2020 - Volume 50 - Issue 6 - p 328-334
doi: 10.1097/NNA.0000000000000893
Information about paediatric observation and limited-stay unit design and function is lacking in the literature. A quality improvement approach was used to create new care processes on an inpatient unit within a large children's hospital. High-level parent and patient satisfaction, and decreased nursing turnover resulted in the use of these outcomes being included in:
• advanced practice nurse patient care management,
• creation of 30 clinical pathways to model care, and
• consistent and faster transfer from emergency department to inpatient unit,

COVID-19
'University of Auckland study to explore impact of COVID-19 lockdown children’
The country’s largest longitudinal study is about to launch a new research project to discover how the COVID-19 lockdown has affected children in Aotearoa New Zealand. Read more
What to Know About Kawasaki Disease, the Paediatric Inflammatory Condition Possibly Linked to COVID-19
Six weeks ago, in the relatively early days of the U.S. COVID-19 outbreak, Dr. Veena Goel Jones, a paediatric hospitalist with Palo Alto Medical Foundation in California, treated a six-month-old baby girl for what she calls “classic Kawasaki disease.” The infant had fever, rash and swelling characteristic of the paediatric inflammatory condition. Read more

Dutch coronavirus study: children are not big spreaders
AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - A study by the Netherlands’ National Institute for Health (RIVM) published on Wednesday concluded that children under the age of 12 play little role in transmitting the new coronavirus. Read more

Coronavirus infection in children -- it may not start with a cough
A new study by doctors from Wuhan, China recommends children suffering from sickness and diarrhoea, coupled with a fever or history of exposure to coronavirus, should be suspected of being infected with COVID-19. They detail five cases of coronavirus in children who showed no initial signs of respiratory illness. The research also suggests that the gastrointestinal symptoms first suffered by some children hints at potential infection through the digestive tract. Read more

Cartoon-style PPE: how staff are reassuring young patients on a paediatric unit
Staff on an NHS children’s unit have added cartoon characters to the visors they wear to try to reassure young patients during the pandemic. Read more

Ethical considerations for paediatrics during the COVID-19 pandemic: A discussion paper from the Australian Paediatric Clinical Ethics Collaboration.
This guidance provides a framework for health services and authorities to ensure paediatric concerns are considered during the development of COVID-19 related guidelines and decision-support tools when resources may be constrained by the emergency response. It was developed by a working group of paediatric clinical ethicists, intensive care and other specialty clinicians. This document is an extension to the other general documents available. 2-4 It is intended to be read by clinicians and executives of paediatric and general hospitals, and by health-related government departments. Read more

COVID-19 is now a global pandemic. At the time of survey, fewer than 150 children in Australia and New Zealand had documented infection. The aim of this study was to assess attitudes, readiness and confidence in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic through an online survey of paediatric physicians and sub-specialists across Australia and New Zealand. Read more

Child protection in the time of COVID-19.
As the number of cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 rises exponentially in Australia with consequences for the health system and society at large, we need to remember that during this pandemic that necessary social distancing measures, effective school closures and rising unemployment levels may lead to an increased risk for child abuse and neglect. Read more
Health literacy
The article below is not freely available in full text, but may be available at a DHB library, the NZNO library, or through resources offered at an academic library.

How adolescent patients search for and appraise online health information: A pilot study.
Adolescents increasingly use smartphones to look up online health information. This pilot study aimed to explore the search and assessment strategies of adolescents looking for online health information.

Mental health

Tween and Teen Anxiety Surges
Skylight counselling and resilience hub has noticed a surge in enquiries for help with tamariki experiencing back to school anxiety. Read more

Impact of children's loneliness today could manifest in depression for years to come
A rapid review into the mental health impacts of loneliness on children and young people concludes that there could be a spike in demand for mental health services in the years to come. Read more

Children and post-traumatic stress disorder
Many children and adolescents around the world have been victims of at least one traumatic event:
• child abuse and neglect,
• war,
• school shootings,
• natural disasters,
• accidents and injuries, and
• more.
According to Alisic and colleagues, an estimated 16% of them have developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Read more

Pupils’ mental health scheme gets fellowship
A Dunedin project aimed at enhancing the mental health of at-risk Maori and Pasifika secondary school pupils has been awarded a fellowship to develop it. Read more

Harmful drinking is associated with mental health conditions and other risk behaviours in Australian young people.
Objective: To investigate factors associated with alcohol use in adolescents, with the focus on analysing the comorbidities between single-occasion harmful-drinking episodes with mental health issues and risk behaviours. Read more

Effectiveness of school-based mental well-being interventions among adolescents: a systematic review.
This systematic review aimed to identify school-based interventions for ensuring mental health and well-being of adolescents, synthesize existing interventions and summarize the quality of identified studies.
Developing Measurement-Based Care for Youth in an Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic: The Penn State Psychiatry Clinical Assessment and Rating Evaluation System for Youth (PCARES-Youth),
Daniel A. Waschbusch, … et al (2020)
Evidence-Based Practice in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 5:1, 67-82, DOI: 10.1080/23794925.2020.1727795
Measurement-based care (MBC) is an evidence-based approach to improving outcomes of mental health services. There is considerable interest in implementing it in clinical practice settings. However, relatively little attention has been paid to the pragmatics of developing and implementing MBC in youth mental health. This paper describes one effort to accomplish this goal. After a brief discussion of the advantages of MBC, the process, and initial implementation of the Penn State Psychiatry Clinical Assessment and Rating Evaluation System for Youth (PCARES-Youth) is described. Results of a pilot project of PCARES-Youth are presented, including a survey of clinicians about their experiences with the initiative. Finally, lessons learned and next steps of the project are discussed.

Respiratory

Rental Assistance May Reduce Emergency Department Use in Children with Asthma
Children with asthma who live in housing that relies on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) rental assistance programs are less likely to be admitted to the emergency department (ED) for treatment, according to study results published in JAMA Paediatrics. Read more

Measuring inflammation in paediatric severe asthma: biomarkers in clinical practice
Amelia Licari, Sara Manti, Riccardo Castagnoli, Salvatore Leonardi, Gian Luigi Marseglia Breathe 2020 16: 190301; DOI: 10.1183/20734735.0301-2019
Severe asthma in children is a highly heterogeneous disorder, encompassing different clinical characteristics (phenotypes) and immunopathological pathways (endotypes). Research is focusing on the identification of non-invasive biomarkers able to predict treatment response and assist in designing personalised therapies for severe asthma. Blood and sputum eosinophils, serum IgE and exhaled nitric oxide fraction mostly reflect type 2 airway inflammation in children. However, in the absence of available point-of-care biomarkers, the diagnosis of non-type 2 asthma is still reached by exclusion. In this review, we present the most recent evidence on biomarkers for severe asthma and discuss their implementation in clinical practice. We address the methods for guiding treatment decisions and patient identification, focusing on the paediatric age group. Read more

Rheumatic fever

Spike in rheumatic fever cases in Wellington
There’s been a dramatic spike in the number of Wellington children in hospital with the dangerous disease rheumatic fever. Read more

Vaccination / immunisation

Fears of measles resurgence as vaccinations drop away in lockdown
Another outbreak of measles is feared because of delays in child vaccination programmes, according to the director of the immunisation advisory centre. Read more
Seasonal influenza vaccination for children with special risk medical conditions: Does policy meet practice?

Ensuring children with special risk medical conditions (SRMC) are protected from influenza is important. The study objective was to describe influenza vaccination practices of medical professionals caring for children with SRMC and explore characteristics associated with a vaccine recommendation.

Newsletters
Paediatric Vaccines
Research Review
Issue 42
In this issue, we report on a number of articles relating to COVID-19, including the issue of vaccine hesitancy during the current pandemic. Read more

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of NZNO College of Child and Youth Nurses.

It is provided on the first Friday of each month, and contains an overview of news items, articles and research papers of interest to the Section members.

All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

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