

GP OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2006



GP of the Year

Dr Bryan Connor



Dr Bryan Connor from Richmond in northwestern Queensland is the 2006 GP of the Year.

In presenting the award, RACGP President Dr Vasantha Preetham said: 'Dr Connor's extraordinary dedication to Richmond began when he arrived in the one doctor town in 1999 as an International Medical Graduate. His commitment is evident in the fact that he stayed beyond his 5 year program, delivering important health care services to his

community and even building a modern surgery where he has trained medical students and general practice registrars. Dr Connor's wholistic approach to health care, his delivery of emergency and obstetric care and his commitment to 24 hour care, 7 days a week mark him as a truly dedicated member of our profession.

'Dr Connor has demonstrated a strong commitment to the future of our profession, hosting medical students from the University of Queensland and James Cook University in his practice. He also holds an adjunct appointment at James Cook University, where he serves as an interviewer for the selection of medical students.

'Dr Connor has demonstrated enormous commitment to his profession, to training and continuing professional development and, most importantly, to the community he serves. His significant efforts in ensuring the sustainability of general practice in rural and regional Australia truly deserve the recognition he is receiving.'

Registrar of the Year

Dr David Mitchell



Dr David Mitchell from Williamstown in New South Wales is the 2006 General Practice Registrar of the Year.

In presenting the award, RACGP President Dr Vasantha Preetham said: 'Dr Mitchell has already displayed significant leadership skills. He has shown great skill in balancing the demands of studying for the RACGP Fellowship exam while working as Senior Medical Officer at the Royal

Australian Air Force base and in mainstream practice.

'He has shown a capacity to work under pressure in an unfamiliar environment, taking part in the medical response to the 2005 Bali bombing where he assisted in the evacuation of victims. Dr Mitchell also played an important role in the evacuation of expatriate Australians and victims of violence during the recent violence in East Timor, where he was serving as a medical evacuation officer for the United Nations. While on this posting, he volunteered his free time at the Baru Pide clinic for local civilians.

'In continually striving for excellence Dr Mitchell has set an excellent example for our profession. The future of general practice is in good hands.'



Practice of the Year

Alexander Park Medical Centre, Bundaberg, Queensland

Bundaberg's Alexander Park Medical Centre is the 2006 Practice of the Year.

In presenting the award, RACGP President Dr Vasantha Preetham said: 'The Alexander Park Medical Centre is leading the way with workforce innovation, the use of evidence in the development of preventive health strategies, and training future general practitioners.'

The practice sees general practice in the 21st century as having three main roles: traditional problem solving medicine, preventive health, and chronic disease management and offers a full range of general practice services over the patient lifecycle from childhood to geriatric and palliative care.