

>> 'I think that my global role is providing me with insights into general practice and primary care in countries around the world. It allows me to reflect on how so much of what we do and what motivates and inspires us as GPs is similar from country to country,' he said.

'I also see how political decision-making influences the successes or failings of general practice.'

Professor Kidd remains aware of the political decision-making issues, such as the proposed co-payment and the closure of General Practice Education and Training (GPET), currently playing a significant role in Australian general practice. While he understands the view point of many in the profession, he sees reasons to be positive.

'Australia has a very strong culture of general practice as the backbone of our healthcare system and our GPs are critical to successful healthcare. We may not feel valued all the time, but we are highly respected by the people of this country,' he said.

Training for life

Professor Kidd has done extensive research work in various areas, including family medicine, e-health, health policy, safety and quality in primary care, and HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Having maintained a balance of clinical and academic positions throughout his career, Professor Kidd believes the varied and stimulating aspects of general practice

influence its practitioners in their lives outside of the consulting room.

'I try to be respectful and sensitive to the views of others. I think our training and experience as GPs reinforces these sorts of traits in each of us, but it also helps in other endeavours as well. In committee work, working with community groups, working on research projects, working with government,' he said.

'I also think my training and experiences as a GP has set me up well to be a university dean. Being able to solve problems, to make intelligent decisions, to set goals to inspire other people and motivate other people, and to coordinate the activities of multiple contributors.'

General practice has inspired Professor Kidd to put pen to paper and he has done a lot of work in publishing, including as co-author (with Dr Leanne Rowe) of *Save your life and the lives of those you love: your GP's six-step guide to good health* and *First do no harm: how to be a resilient doctor in the 21st century*. He was also the founding editor-in-chief of *Journal of Medical Case Reports*.

'General practice is a great natural laboratory. People come in every day, they share their concerns, they share their experiences, they share tales of their lives. And that's incredibly interesting,' he said.

'Many GPs are fascinated with people. We're fascinated with the way people live their lives, we're fascinated with the way that people cope with the challenges of ill health and serious disease.

'That fascination and that learning we gain through the discussions with our patients and observations that we have helps us to become better doctors and to be able to provide better care to people in the future.'

Professor Kidd has always approached his career in general practice with nothing less than complete commitment – 'my dad once told me if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well' – and views being the recipient of this year's Rose-Hunt Award as motivation to continue to strive for success in his lifelong vocation.

'It's good to note that many of the past recipients have gone on to make many further contributions to general practice and to our nation after receiving the award,' he said.

'It's not an end-of-career award and I don't have to retire just yet.'



From top: Dr Liz Marles presented the Rose-Hunt Award at GP14; Professor Michael Kidd's time as RACGP President saw him on hand with Wes Fabb (left) and John Murtagh (middle) to open the John Murtagh Library in 2005.