2015 Scholarship Recipient Report.

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International Conference Attendance.

Australasian Podiatry Conference 5th 8th May 2015

I would like to begin this report by thanking the NZWCS for their 2015 Education Scholarship grant. Whilst this report is very Podiatry focussed, the incidence of Diabetes and other chronic health conditions is a concern to all in healthcare and I hope that it allows others to glimpse into another professional field. Podiatry is fast becoming a relevant and recognised profession with its contribution to the management of chronic disease states in the eyes of Governments and others in the healthcare continuum. Evidence is building for more extensive and intensive interventions, and ideas for these projects are often birthed at conference events during informal discussions. The collegiality that develops helps support professionals in their advancement of equal and available healthcare throughout the world.

The Australasian Podiatry conference brings together members of the Podiatry profession across the Pacific region every three years with this year’s event located in the Gold Coast. The Australasian Podiatry Conference 2015 was themed on Regeneration- Incorporating Orthotics Technology Forum. Attendance for this event consisted on 1014 delegates, speakers and exhibitors, of which only 17 came from New Zealand.

The conference was designed to promote and elaborate upon the latest research findings and also highlight the link between scientific advance and contemporary and emerging podiatry practice.

Presenters were from all fields, from Paediatric focused Podiatrists through to Sports Physicians with lower leg and foot interests. Even our own NZ based presenters (the majority being from AUT University: Health Sciences-Podiatry) had centre stage discussing the how orthotic therapy and offloading could contribute to redistribution of foot pressures and wound healing. This then lead easily into various additions imbedded within the orthoses that may contribute to proprioception and sensory awareness- and overall- how effective these methods are in the non-clinical environment.
The conference has been beneficial to me in many ways. My current treatment philosophy was shown as occurring within the recommended guidelines and has been a confidence boost for myself and my team and a benefit to all clients that we interact with. The workshops refined many of the processes for me, and are already in use within the clinic environment. With a stream of four differing sessions in the Australasian Podiatry conference, there was a multitude of topics to choose from.

I can only encourage other members of the profession to attend these great events, and utilising the scholarship offered by NZWCS is an opportunity to help you on the way. Again, thanks to NZWCS for their assistance in achieving this goal for me.