

Medicus June

Medicine in the time of Cholera

The latest novel in my clutches at the moment is the epic story of love by Gabriel García Márquez . Usually when I read it is a pretty good sign that I'm not reading what I should be; perhaps the latest electronic resource on double blinded study meta-analyses regarding joint pain remedies. In this latest throw of procrastination I managed to spoil my escapism and wind up back at medical school.

The story, for those who have not encountered it, is one which revolves around all sorts of romantic junk like unrequited love and such. Perhaps it was the concurrence of mid-year exams that led me to notice the background story of Population and Preventative health; probably what the book is actually about. In *Love in the Time of Cholera* one of the axial characters, Dr Juvenal Urbino is shown to fight for modernisation and excellence in his determination to eliminate Cholera – through a series of public works in a '*fin de siecle*' Latin American setting.

The segue to medicine lies herein the fact that the Notre Dame School of Medicine has only recently appointed a new Dean of Medicine; one who will not only inherit a blossoming legacy but also promises to bolster an evidence based approach to teaching medicine with foundations firmly rooted in Population and Preventative Health. **Professor Gavin Frost** will assume the post from July. With a reputation that precedes him by months (through Google) – the Professor is the President of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators and was its Censor-in-Chief for the six years leading to 2005. The immediate prior Associate Professor in Population and Public Health in the new Sydney School of Medicine, he is well respected in the field, has worked throughout the nation and indeed internationally from Uzbekistan across to the Cocos Islands. If that was not enough he was also once a hospital administrator. An important and exciting aspect of the new appointment is the implications of a gain in political clout for The School. In an environment of a health system that is constantly scrutinised, undermined and challenged - a voice that carries with it both wisdom and temperance is valued.

As the first graduates of Notre Dame prepare to launch, further divisions of infantry and cavalry will be continually armed with a firm knowledge based in Population and Preventative Health – with aspirations to fight our modern cholera, to 'close the gap'.



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