

Desmond Francis Gorman

Current Post

October 2005	Head of School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland
2003	Member of the Liggins Institute
2003	Director of Admissions for Medical Programmes
2000	Professorial Chair in Medicine at the University of Auckland
1995	Head of Occupational Medicine department
1989 to 1995	Director of Medical Services for the Royal New Zealand Navy

Education

	PhD	University of Sydney
1978	BSc and MBChB	University of Auckland

Through his academic career Professor Gorman has had more than 200 papers published internationally and has made 36 keynote presentations to international conferences, most in his specialist field of diving and hyperbaric medicine. During his service in the Royal Australian Navy, he trained as both a master diver and as a submarine officer. He retains a consequent interest in the health problems of divers and submariners.

Recent presentations

1. Health Workforce Planning Towards 2010

The nature of the ideal health service for New Zealand, and elsewhere in the developed world, for 2020 is uncertain. Despite this, and with few exceptions, medical schools continue with the traditional model of doctor education. This is expensive and both poorly and slowly responsive to community need. Government initiatives are limited to what are effectively subtle alterations in funding arrangements and in regular practitioner roles. There is a need for a society-need driven reform of health services and for a consequent revision of supportive health education programs.

2. Doctors as Skeptical Fallacists

Under- and post-graduate medical education is probably responsible for a short-fall of necessary sceptical fallacism amongst doctors. The part-one RACP examination is a good example of a poorly designed educational process that encourages the transformation of what are ephemeral hypotheses into life-long "factual" beliefs. At the least, this inhibits doctors from learning from their experiences. There is also evidence of an associated loss of professionalism, in part driven by the gradual withdrawal of Government funding from Universities, and in part by the burgeoning health-disease industry. A reform of medical education delivery and funding is overdue.

Recent Publications

1. McGrath P, Anastasi J, Fox-Young S, Gorman D, Moxham L, Tollefson J. **Collaborative voices: Ongoing reflections on nursing competencies.** Contemp Nurse 2006; 22(1):46-58.

2. Culley MR, Conkling M, Emshoff J, Blakely C, Gorman D. **Environmental and contextual influences on school violence and its prevention.** J Prim Prev 2006; 27(3):217-227.
3. Culley MR, Conkling M, Emshoff J, Blakely C, Gorman D. **Environmental and Contextual Influences on School Violence and its Prevention.** J Prim Prev 2006.
4. Gorman D, Sames C, Drewry A, Bodicoat S. **A case of type 3 DCS with a radiologically normal spinal cord.** Intern Med J 2006; 36(3):193-196.
5. Gorman D, Lin HY, Williams C. **Early evidence of a regulated response to hypoxaemia in sheep that preserves the brain cortex.** Neurosci Lett 2006; 394(3):174-178.