



# Newsletter

Issue 90: May 2018

Cross Cultural Interest Group

## LAUNCH OF THE NEW CROSS CULTURAL INTEREST ADVISORY GROUP

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Dear members



*Caption: a photo of one of the regular cross-cultural interest group meetings*

**T**he Cross Cultural Interest Group was set up in 2002 by Dr Sai Wong. Until recently, the Group has been governed and coordinated by Dr Sai Wong and Patrick Au, with administration support provided by Auckland DHB. With the recent changes in personal circumstances and limitation of resources, Dr Sai Wong and Patrick Au have decided to review the setup and governance of the Group.

After a period of planning, we are pleased **to announce the launch of the new Cross-Cultural Interest Advisory Group (CCIG)** which will support the growth of the CCIG programme into the future.

The CCIG Advisory Group was officially formed on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 as an academic and professional advisory group. The purpose of the Group is to guide the professional development programme offered to the mental health workforce in Auckland and out of Auckland (by webcast over the internet) through regular cross-cultural presentations.



*Caption: From left to right seating: Patrick Au, Dr Sai Wong, Sue Wong. From left to right standing: Jim Xu, Sheila Chan, Dr Aram Kim, Dr Gary Cheung. The advisory group member not in the photo is Dr Rajendra Pavagada).*

### **The New Cross Cultural Interest Group Advisory Group members include:**

- Dr Sai Wong (Psychiatrist, private practice)
- Patrick Au (Team Leader Asian Mental Health Team ADHB)
- Dr Gary Cheung (Old Age Psychiatrist, ADHB; Senior Lecturer University of Auckland)
- Dr Aram Kim (Psychiatrist, Waitemata DHB)
- Dr Sheila Chan (Psychiatrist, Waitemata DHB)
- Dr Rajendra Pavagada (Psychiatrist, Counties-Manukau DHB)
- Jim Xu (Charge Nurse Manager, Fraser McDonald Unit, ADHB acute mental health unit for older people)

### **With administrative support provided by:**

- Sue Lim (eCALD® National Programme Director, eCALD® Services WDHB)
- Sue Wong
- eCALD® Services

### **Future activities will be sponsored by:**

- eCALD® Services (80%)
- Dr Sai Wong's private practice (20%)

## **Past Achievements and Acknowledgements**

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**W**e take this opportunity to acknowledge the exemplary work of Dr Sai Wong and Patrick Au in undertaking this workforce development initiative as we move into a new phase.

Dr Wong and Patrick have been the driving force behind promoting cultural knowledge and interest amongst health professionals across the Auckland region and in wider New Zealand. Over the last 16 years the Cross Cultural Interest Group membership has grown to over 1000 members. The current membership of the group includes psychiatrists, social workers,

psychologists, occupational therapists, nurses, interpreters, and other NGO workers working with mental health clients.

Dr Wong and Patrick Au of Auckland District Health Board have shown leadership in the field of working cross-culturally with clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through their roles in clinical practice, as Asian mental health experts, in research, teaching and as facilitators of community-based support services. Interest in this field is strong and growing with the rapidly changing demography in the Auckland and growing Asian, Middle Eastern and African population in the region.

The CCI Group meets regularly between 6 and 10 times a year. Specialists including psychiatrists, mental health nurses, academics, doctors, clinical psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, and academic researchers are invited to present topics of practical interest and value to the members.

The aim of the group is to promote interest and knowledge in the field of cross-cultural mental health and to ensure that the workforce continues to improve the management of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients and families.

In the past 8 years, the CCIG presentations have also been broadcast via internet webcast to allow access for those who are physically unable to attend. The web live broadcasts have been a valuable teaching resource for health professionals outside Auckland where there are few cultural services available for CALD clients and families. The contents of the presentations are summarised in the regular newsletters and also recorded on DVDs which are made available to members. Over the years, we have accumulated over 60 topics.

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*Caption: another photo of one of the cross cultural interest group meetings*

We wish to thank all members for the support in the past and we also look forward to your continued participation at future meetings.

***Yours sincerely***

***Cross Cultural Interest Advisory Group***

*For more information about the advisory group, newsletters, membership, upcoming topics please go to <http://www.ecald.com/cross-cultural-interest-group/>.*