



# Training Update



## Update from Regional Head of Education – New England/Northwest

At this stage, many of you will be starting a new term in general practice. For those beginning in a new post, I hope you benefit from new people, processes and presentations. For those staying on in the same practice, maybe you will get to appreciate the longer term relationships and opportunities for chronic care that are integral to GP.

There are a few important things worth mentioning that may help you get the most out of your term. Firstly, make sure you are thoroughly oriented to a new practice. Ask if you're not sure.

It is very important that your teaching time is scheduled and protected from interruptions, running late or fit in appointments. You will get the most out of a session if you and your supervisor plan it a week ahead. Early in the term it is vital that your supervisor sees you in action. This means sitting in with you for one or two consultations and giving you feedback. This can be done as one of your scheduled teaching hours and can also include a discussion of what you need and want to learn.

While group teaching has its place, it is recommended that at least once a month you have one-to-one time with your supervisor so that your individual needs are met. You may need to be proactive about organising this.

The first half of the year has seen a busy registrar workshop program. Your feedback has been very positive in the main and we are working on making the improvements many of you have suggested.

In the second half of the year we will be running a workshop for all registrars in their third term and beyond as well as one for hospital based registrars. The dates are in the events calendar in GPRime2.

If you haven't already had a look, take some time to check out the modules in SupportGPT, available via the Quick Links and Subscriptions tab in GPRime2. At this stage only registrars in first and second GP terms have access. The ResourceGPT module is a comprehensive source of guidelines, articles, websites and cases. It is very useful for your day-to-day learning as well as for exam preparation.

Many of you have now successfully completed your exams. The pass rate in the most recent RACGP OSCE was 80% in this subregion. Congratulations! For those contemplating sitting the RACGP 2018.1 exam, your preparation should be starting now. If you are unsure how to approach it or whether to sit it at all this time around, please discuss with your medical educator as soon as possible.

Finally, it is worth reminding you to keep in regular contact with your medical educator and with Natasha, your education coordinator. Especially if you have any concerns or problems, we are keen to help.

All the best for the second half of the year. Look forward to seeing you soon.

**Dr Tony Saltis** | Regional Head of Education – Hunter New England Central Coast

## Important training reminders



- **Formative assessments:** Please ensure you have submitted a Formative Assessment on your GP supervisor from the 2017.1 term
- **Practice logs:** Please ensure you have submitted all your practice logs from the 2017.1 term if you were in GPT1/2/3/ES in GP or Mandatory Elective. You will not be able to re-enrol for the 2018.1 term unless all terms are submitted.
- **Research module:** The Research Module is due before completion of GPT2 (if you started GPT1 in 2017.1) and before completion (if you started GPT1 in 2016.1).



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# Are you starting in a new practice this term?

If you are entering a GP term in 2017/2, don't forget there are a number of important activities that need to take place in the first few weeks of the term starting.

## ✓ Day 1: Practice orientation

When you start in a new practice, it is important you are properly orientated. To help practices orientate registrars to a practice, we have developed some orientation resources which registrars can also access. Head to GPRime and look under 'Forms, Documents and Links' – just search 'orientation'.

## ✓ Week 1-2: Direct observation

To help supervisors assess your competence and level of support required, we strongly recommend supervisors spend some time observing your consultations in the first few weeks of term.

## ✓ From Week 2-6: Discuss your learning plan needs and the supervision plan with your supervisor

Within the first four to six weeks of term your supervisor will spend time reviewing your learning needs to help you build your learning plan.

### Supervision plan

As part of this process, your supervisor may complete a supervision plan and consider how to assess your current level of competence, especially with regard to high risk or red flag areas. The aim of the plan is to identify areas requiring closer supervision to optimise training and minimise the risk of adverse outcomes for patients and registrars.

The supervision plan covers a comprehensive range of presentations and procedures that are common to general practice.

There are two distinct sections:

1. A section which lists potentially high risk presentations. These require review by a supervisor, initially before the patient leaves the room, and then at the end of the day as the registrars competence and confidence in managing these important presentations increases.
2. A list of presentations and procedures which may be signed off without first being observed, depending on the level of previous experience and confidence of the registrar in dealing with these issues.

### Pre-GP Term Assessment Report (PTAR)

If you have already commenced in a GP term, your supervisor will have reviewed your Pre-Term Assessment Report (PTAR) prior to you starting.

The PTAR is a summary of your training. It includes your contact details, a history of your placements, and all the competency assessments completed on you during GP community based terms, such as Clinical Teaching Visits (CTVs) and competency assessments completed by your other supervisors.

You can access your PTAR at any time in GPRime – go to your 'Trainee Portfolio' and click on the 'Summary tab'.



## Ongoing in-practice requirements – at a glance

A summary of all the in-practice training requirements can be found in the '[In-practice training requirements at a glance](#)' document available in GPRime (and also attached to the rear of this document). Remember – to access the resource links you will need to be logged into GPRime.

### To access:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' in the top toolbar
3. Search 'requirements'

# Have you tried SupportGPT – the online in-practice teaching tool for supervisors and registrars?

SupportGPT is an online in-practice teaching resource for supervisors, and registrars in their first or second GP term.

When undertaking your learning and supervision planning with your supervisor, registrars in their first or second GP term are encouraged to review the modules and consider which ones might be useful.

## What's included in SupportGPT?

SupportGPT has many features:

- 1. Registrar modules:** There are 16 modules that can be completed by registrars prior to an in-practice teaching session, and activities that can be completed during in-practice face-to-face teaching time with their supervisor.
- 2. Weekly in-practice teaching planner:** This planner can be used in a flexible manner and may be used by a supervisor to guide in-practice weekly teaching sessions.
- 3. ResourceGPT:** An index of over 1,300 clinical resources which are searchable and can be used in any order as problems present.

## Who can access SupportGPT?

SupportGPT is only accessible by registrars in their first or second GP term.

## How can you access SupportGPT?

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to the 'Quick Links' tab in the top toolbar
3. Select 'SupportGPT'

## How can you find out more about using SupportGPT?

1. View the [SupportGPT flyer](#)
2. View the [5-minute instructional video](#)

Both resources are also available in GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links'. Just search 'SupportGPT'.

## Examples of how to use SupportGPT



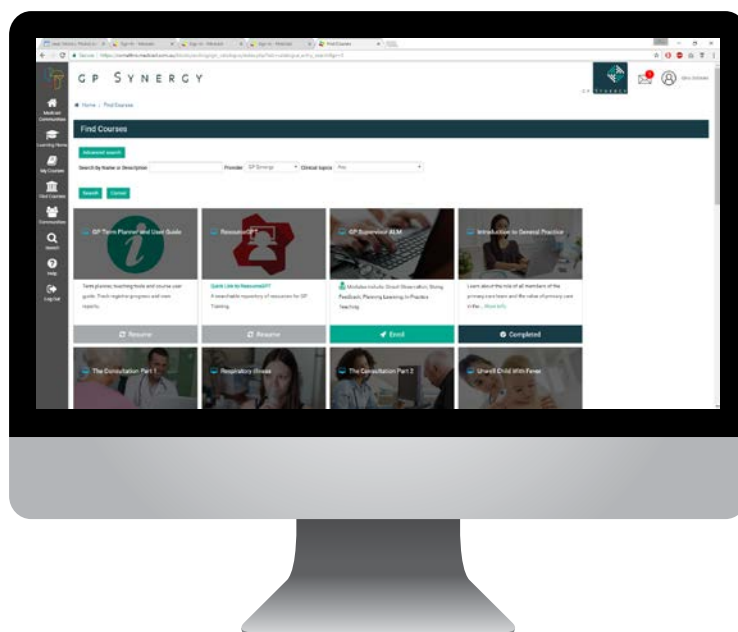
### Registrar Michael

Michael's supervisor is really great at helping out with all those little problems as they arise during the day. He is a fountain of knowledge and teaches a lot on the run. Michael is finding that his protected teaching time is not as useful as he would like. He asks the supervisor if they can use the SupportGPT modules and follow the weekly activities outlined in the term planner. Michael now has a structure to follow which suits his kind of learning. He now has a great learning plan which keeps him on track.



### Registrar Tiffany

Tiffany is feeling overwhelmed by all that there is to learn as a registrar. She has heard that the fellowship exams are tough and that some of the exam components have a low pass rate. She is in a large group practice, and the in-practice teaching is often shared with other registrars. She finds a lot of the teaching useful, but sometimes feels that she needs to address her own learning needs a bit better. She works her way through all of the support GPT modules on her own and finds the activities and references very useful.



## Medicare provider number reminder



If you are a GP registrar going into a GP term in 2017.2 (Aug- Feb), make sure you check the letter you have received from Medicare advising of your provider number approval.

Please ensure you have been issued with a provider number with full billing rights before you commence billing patients. Registrars with refer and request rights will only be able to refer patients and request investigations for them, until a provider number with full billing rights is received.

## Key dates



- 15 Sept:** 2017.2 RACGP OSCE exam enrolment closes
- 18 Sept:** 2018.1 RACGP AKT/KFP/OSCE enrolment opens
- 25 Sept\*:** Week 8 competency assessment due for registrars in first or second GP terms
- 3 Oct:** 2018.1 re-enrolment opens
- 10 Oct:** 2018.1 re-enrolment closes
- 23 Oct:** Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping for 2018.1 GP placements
- 22 Jan:** ACRRM 2018.1 assessment/s enrolment closes
- 4 Feb:** End date term 2 2018

\*These dates are indicative only and may vary if a registrar is part-time or commenced a GP term after the first week of term.

## GP Synergy medical student scholarship recipient gets published

Congratulations to Belinda Watson on being lead author on a paper published in [Australian Family Physician](#)!

The paper is based on the study she undertook as a UNSW recipient of a GP Synergy Medical Student Scholarship in 2016.

Scholarship recipients are supported by GP Synergy to participate in research projects and undertake a community GP placement. Belinda's study investigated older patients and general practice follow-up after an emergency department admission.

There are currently 18 students from universities across NSW and ACT participating in the program. For more information visit [our website](#).

## RACGP Foundation Grant success

Congratulations to Prof Parker Magin and Dr Anthea Dallas, both recipients of RACGP Foundation Grants!

Dr Dallas will examine GP registrars' and their supervisors' attitudes to, and experience of, the use of delayed antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory tract infections through a qualitative study.

Prof Magin's grant is for the AusTAPER (Team Approach to Polypharmacy Evaluation and Reduction) pilot study for older general practice patients.

## Looking for a laugh? GP the Musical is coming to Sydney in September

Created by GPs, Drs Gerard Ingham and Genevieve Yates, and directed by A/Prof Katrina Anderson, GP the Musical made its debut at the General Practice Education and Training Conference in 2012, before featuring at the sold-out Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2013.

The highly popular musical will be hitting the stage again, this time in Sydney at the NIDA studios in September.

Ten GPs from around Australia are involved in the production which includes NSW GP supervisors Drs Linda Mann and Hester Wilson, as well as Regional Head of Education – South Eastern NSW, Dr Allison Miller, and GP Synergy Director of Registrar Education, Dr Anna Sallos.

"Being a part of this has been a great experience!" says Dr Sallos.

"Anyone who has sat in a doctor's waiting room can relate to the play.

"If you want a good laugh and a night out with the family, come along!"

GP the Musical is showing at NIDA in Sydney from 14-17 September 2017. Bookings can be made from [Ticketek](#).

## GP registrar swimming the English Channel

Dr Rachele Silver will be swimming solo from Dover, UK to Calais, France in August. She is using her swim across the English Channel to raise funds for an organisation close to her heart – Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA). PANDA offers the only specialist national perinatal mental health telephone counselling service, as well as reducing stigma around perinatal anxiety and depression, and providing education services to health professionals and the wider community.

You can read more about her amazing feat here: <https://www.mycause.com.au/page/150414/rachele-swims-the-english-channel-for-perinatal-mental-health>



## Need some help?

### Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**  
Sesil Almendrala - 02 8321 4056  
[sesil\\_almendrala@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:sesil_almendrala@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**  
Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238  
[heidi\\_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:heidi_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**  
Kym Cashen - 02 8321 4112  
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- **New England/Northwest:**  
Natasha Junge - 02 8321 4015  
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- **North Coast:**  
Joanne Sayer - 02 8321 4128  
[joanne\\_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:joanne_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Western NSW:**  
Rachel Harris - 02 8321 4214  
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**  
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149  
[catherine\\_daly@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:catherine_daly@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**  
Amanda Piatek - 02 8321 4164  
[amanda\\_piatek@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:amanda_piatek@gpsynergy.com.au)

### Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**  
Hugh Le Lievre - [RLO\\_western@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_western@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**  
Sama Balasubramanian –  
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- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**  
Bob Vickers - [RLO\\_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**  
Rebekah Hoffman - [RLO\\_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**  
Jessica Swann - [RLO\\_SouthEastern@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_SouthEastern@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **North Coast:**  
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[RLO\\_Northcoast@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_Northcoast@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**  
Jessica Tidemann -  
[RLO\\_MurrumACT@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:RLO_MurrumACT@gpsynergy.com.au)

### Rural Support Officers (RSO)

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**  
Kerry Robins - [kerry\\_robins@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:kerry_robins@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Western NSW:**  
Maria Logan - [maria\\_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:maria_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **Murrumbidgee:**  
Sue Hefren - [sue\\_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:sue_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au)
- **South Eastern NSW:**  
April McFadden - [april\\_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au)

## Upcoming GP Synergy events

### Registrars in their first or second GP term events:

- Western NSW Node 1: 11-13 Sept, Dubbo
  - Western NSW Node 2: 24 Aug (Half Day), Various | 31 Aug-1 Sept, Dubbo
  - Western NSW Node 3: 24 or 25 Aug (Half Day), Various | 21-22 Sept, Canberra
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- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1: 13 & 19 Sept, Liverpool
  - Lower Eastern NSW Node 2: 13-15 Sept, Wollongong
  - Lower Eastern NSW Node 3: 24 or 25 Aug (Half Day), Various | 21-22 Sept, Canberra
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- North Eastern NSW Node 1: 9 – 11 Oct, Yamba
  - North Eastern NSW Node 2: 11-13 Sept, Armidale
  - North Eastern NSW Node 3: 1 & 22 Sept, Newcastle
  - North Eastern NSW Node 4: 19-20 Sept, Liverpool

Don't forget 2017.2 education dates for registrars going into their first or second GP term are now available – just search 'calendar' under 'Forms, Documents and Links' or head to our [website](#).

### Exam preparation

- GP Synergy RACGP exam preparation workshops are now underway for registrars sitting the exams in 2017.2 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: [shirleen\\_chand@gpsynergy.com.au](mailto:shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au)
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently underway. Please email [Claire Doyle](#) for further information:

## Upcoming activities of interest

- NSW Health - Back pain workshop | 16 September | Orange | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Advanced Life Support (ALS) | 24 September | Pokolbin | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 7-8 October | Canberra | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 25-26 November | Coffs Harbour | [More information](#)

For further information please see the [External Education Activity Noticeboard](#)