Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) update

This month, in Sydney in August there are two important events attracting participants from across NSW and ACT. Can you guess what these events are?

- The first event is the City to Surf running marathon. It is traditional and is the culminating achievement for many people who are keen on fitness and like taking up a challenge.
- The second event is the 2017 General Practice Training and Education Conference (GPTEC). It claims two ‘first’ time meanings. It is the first time that GP Synergy is hosting the conference on behalf of the Regional Training Organisation (RTO) network. It is also the first time since the changed training boundaries, that a combined professional development day for all supervisors of GP Synergy is taking place, the day after the conference.

The GPTEC Management Committee first met in November 2016, featuring a Registrar Liaison Officer (RLO) and a Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) as well as the Director of Training, Dr Vanessa Moran, amongst others. The choice of the key speakers, and the theme for the gala dinner were among the multiple subjects of our debates.


Following the conference, on Friday 18 August 2017, will be the GP Synergy combined professional development day. The topics of workshops have been finalised and can be viewed here. I feel that the topics will be relevant to our needs as supervisors such as a presentation on the National Terms and Conditions for Employment of Registrars (NTCER).

I am hoping to be able to report to you the outcomes and reflective thoughts on the professional development day in upcoming training updates.

Cheers from the SLO team and take care.

Dr Cecile Dinh | Supervisor Liaison Officer – Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney

**Dates for the diary: 2018.1 Registrar term placement**

- **11 Sept - 3 Oct:** Practices to update their training placement capacity for the first term of 2018 (2018.1).
- **18 Oct:** Practices notified of training placement caps.
- **23 Oct:** Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping.

Further information about term placement for the 2018.1 term will be available shortly.

Welcome to new Director of Supervisor Education

GP Synergy welcomes the appointment of Dr Sarah Gani in the role of Director of Supervisor Education (DoSE) from 1 August 2017.

Dr Gani is currently the medical educator with a supervisor portfolio for the Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney subregion. With over 20 years experience as a GP across NSW and ACT, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role from her many ‘hats’ including as a clinical senior lecturer, hearing member of the Medical Counsel, RACGP examiner and of course, GP supervisor.
Reconciliation Action Plan launch

On Wednesday 12 July we launched our 2017-2019 Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The plan represents our desire and commitment to embrace the healing process of past inflicted pain, suffering, and hurt on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It is a ‘bridge’ towards understanding and accepting what reconciliation means to us, individually and collectively; and what reconciliation means to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

GP Synergy’s vision is to work in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community towards reconciliation. Our intention is to enculturate values and practices that tackle the continuing state of inequity in the health and social opportunity of Indigenous Australia. We will ensure that our actions towards reconciliation are meaningful and result in demonstrably positive outcomes for the benefit of the community.

Development of the plan was led by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Education Unit with input from GP Synergy staff, supervisors, registrars, practice staff and stakeholders. GP Synergy staff contributed to the RAP artwork under the direction of renowned Aboriginal artist Danny Eastwood. The artwork aims to be reflective of traditional styles of art across NSW and ACT Aboriginal communities and incorporates the earthy tones of ochre applied in traditional art works. Through symbolism we aimed to express a link between Indigenous Australian and western medicine.

The RAP launch coincided with the July Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee meeting, with proceedings streamed to eight of our regional offices.

We hope our RAP serves as an invitation to all people and organisations to join us in achieving a deeper understanding of our cultural heritage, and a deeper level of care for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

To download a copy of our RAP click here.
National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week celebrations

Earlier this month it was NAIDOC Week, which celebrated the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities but by Australians from all walks of life, and many of our staff joined in NAIDOC activities within their local community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrar dinner

The recent Fusion Registrar Workshop in Sydney provided the perfect opportunity for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars to catch up with each other and staff over dinner.

It was a great night and the start of more networking opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars to come.

Congratulations to our Aboriginal Liaison Officer Val Dahlstrom!

Val (pictured centre) has been honoured for her contribution to Moree through inclusion on Moree Plains Shire Council’s Community Elders Honour Roll. The roll recognises local elders’ contributions to reconciliation and making Moree a better and more harmonious place.

Val is a proud Kamilaroi woman who has made Moree her home for over fifty years. She has been a tireless worker in the area of Aboriginal health including being instrumental in the establishment of Pius X Aboriginal Corporation, and as a member of the Review of Aboriginal Health Services that changed funding agreements and enabled more Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and the AH&MRC to be formed.


Supervisor feedback survey coming soon!

GP Synergy will soon be launching its 2017.1 supervisor and practice manager feedback surveys. These anonymous surveys will be conducted by an independent consultant on behalf of GP Synergy. This year, we will be taking a slightly different approach and we will be distributing the survey in two stages. The first stage will involve inviting supervisors and practice managers to participate as part of a random sample. In the second stage, all supervisors and practice managers will be invited to participate.

We strongly encourage your participation. Your feedback via this survey and other feedback channels (such as via your Supervisor Liaison Officer, Practice Liaison Officer, at workshops, or our complaints and compliments register) play an important role in understanding your needs and improving our systems and processes.

Supervisor survey dates

- **24 July – 7 Aug**: Supervisors and practice managers selected at random to participate as part of random sample.
- **14 Aug – 28 Aug**: All other supervisors and practice managers invited to participate.

We have recently been advised that the national General Practice Supervisor Australia (GPSA) survey has been distributed. This is an unfortunate clash and we moved the dates of our survey as much as we can to reduce survey overload. We encourage you to complete both surveys, and we emphasise the importance of completing the GP Synergy survey to enable us to monitor and improve our on the ground general practice training delivery.

Please keep an eye out for an email from the independent consultant, Balfour Consulting, with your survey link.

Further information

If you require any further information about the survey, please don’t hesitate to contact Marketing and Communications Manager, Kate Froggatt on kate_froggatt@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.

2018 AGPT selection update

This month will see 2018 applicants undertake the first part of the two-stage assessment process under the new college-led selection into the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program.

For RACGP applicants, this involves sitting the new CAAKT assessment – an online computer based exam.

For ACRRM applicants, they will submit an essay, and will undergo a CV and referee review.

Based on performance in these assessments, the colleges will determine which applicants progress to stage 2, which will consist of interviews with Regional Training Organisations (RTOs), such as GP Synergy.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the supervisors that expressed an interest in participating. We had an overwhelming response and we are pleased to have a spread of supervisors interviewing from across our subregions in August.

New paediatric advanced specialised training (AST) post in Orange

GP Synergy is excited to announce Orange Health Service as the first in NSW to be accredited to offer advanced specialised training in child and adolescent health to registrars training as general practitioners.

The long-term shortage of specialist paediatricians in many rural areas, makes the 12-month procedural training post as a unique opportunity for GP registrars to upskill in paediatrics.

Training GPs with additional procedural skills in child and adolescent health, will reduce some of the burden that rural families with unwell children often face in having to travel to seek treatment.

The first GP registrar to undertake the paediatrics post is Dr Erica Watson (pictured) who says the post has provided her with experience that she can apply in general practice, particularly in more rural areas.

“Smaller district hospitals have opportunities for upskilled GPs and that’s the sort of general practice I want to be involved in,” Dr Watson said.

For more information contact Felicity Gemmell-Smith on felicity_gemmell-smith@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.
Supervisor professional development activities

There is an exciting range of supervisor professional development activities lined up for the second half of the year. A list of all events can be found on the calendar on our website with invitations sent by email closer to each activity.

All nodes - events:
- General Practice Education and Training Conference | 15-17 Aug | Sydney – registrations now closed
- Combined Supervisor Professional Development Day | 18 Aug | Sydney – registrations now closed
- Clinical Teacher Training Workshop | 3 Nov | Sydney – new supervisors only | RSVP – Nicole Tooma

Webinars:
- Using the ReCEnT project for registrars as a teaching tool | 20 Jul | RSVP – Claire Doyle
- Ready, set, go – welcome to the new GP term | 2 Aug | RSVP – Claire Doyle
- SupportGPT tricks of the trade – review of the module and how it works for supervisors | 14 Sept | RSVP – Claire Doyle
- The science of our art – using reason and probability | 12 Oct | RSVP – Claire Doyle
- How to support your registrar to prepare for the RACGP exams | 9 Nov | RSVP – Claire Doyle

Regional activities:
Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 10 Oct | Chippendale | RSVP – Nicole Tooma
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 26 Oct | Liverpool | RSVP – Nicole Tooma

Hunter, Manning and Central Coast
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 6 Sept | Newcastle (Note new time: 9.00am-1.00pm) | RSVP – Jacky Porter
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 13 Sep | Central Coast | RSVP – Jacky Porter
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 1 Nov | Singleton/Muswellbrook | RSVP – Jacky Porter

Murrumbidgee and ACT
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 20 Sept | Canberra | RSVP – Liline Hewett
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 4 Nov | Wagga Wagga | RSVP – Claire Doyle

Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 6 Sept | Hazelbrook | RSVP – Nicole Tooma
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 11 Oct | North Sydney | RSVP – Nicole Tooma
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 14 Nov | Parramatta | RSVP – Nicole Tooma

New England/Northwest
- Facilitating clinical reasoning & Topic 2 TBA | 28 Oct | Tamworth | RSVP – Jacky Porter
- Facilitating clinical reasoning & Topic 2 TBA | 2 Dec | Inverell | RSVP – Jacky Porter

North Coast
- Day 1: Planning for Learning and facilitating clinical reasoning | Day 2: Clinical Teacher Visitor (CTV) training | 16-17 Sept | Coffs Harbour | RSVP - Claire Doyle

South Eastern NSW
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 1 Nov | Wollongong | RSVP – Robyn Fanning
- Facilitating clinical reasoning | 4 Nov | Bega | RSVP – Robyn Fanning

Western NSW
- Facilitating clinical reasoning & Topic 2 TBA | 23 Sept | Bathurst | RSVP – Claire Doyle

Key dates
- **17 July**: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*
- **6 Aug**: End date term 1 2017
- **7 Aug**: Start date term 2 2017
- **4 Feb**: End date term 2 2018

2017.2 registrar calendar:
Don’t forget the 2017.2 calendar for registrars in their first or second GP term is now available. See our website or GPRime ‘Forms, Documents and Links’ for details.

*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.

Medicare provider number reminder

If you are training a GP registrar in a GP term in 2017.2 (Aug-Feb), please ensure they check the letter from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval.

Registrars should confirm that they have been issued with a provider number with full billing rights before they 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.
PCHRIS Conference (7-9 Aug)

If you’re heading to the 2017 Primary Health Care Research Conference (PCHRIS) in Brisbane 7 - 9 August, be sure to catch up with research from the Registrars’ Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCeNT) research project.

One of our ReCeNT project investigators Prof. Mieke van Driel from University of Queensland will present ‘Changing Antibiotic Prescribing in GP registrars (ChAP) study: a pragmatic controlled trial’.

There will also be two poster presentations: ‘Tolerance of uncertainty amongst Australian General Practice registrars’ and ‘Results of an educational intervention on test-ordering behaviour of GP registrars’.

Queen’s Birthday honours

Congratulations to two of our GP Supervisors who have been recognised in the Queen’s Birthday 2017 Honours List!

Dr John Moran received a Member (AM) in the General Division for significant service to medicine in northern NSW, to medical administration and education, and to the community. Dr Moran has been a GP for 33 years in Murwillumbah.

Dr John Kramer of the Beach Street Medical Practice in Woolgoolga received a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia for service to medicine as a general practitioner in regional areas. Dr Kramer has been a GP in Woolgoolga since 1981.

If we have missed anyone, please let us know!

Upcoming activities of interest

- Centre for Genetics Education, NSW Health - First Trimester Screening (including NIPT) Online Learning Resource | More information
- STEMI – ACLS | 29 July | Sydney | More information
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 5-6 August | Sydney | More information
- New England Division of General Practice - Aged care challenges - Assessment and referral - getting it right in the new system | 10 August | Armidale | 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.

Need some help?

Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
  - Lexi Kyle - 02 8321 4084
    - lexkiyle@gpsynergy.com.au
  - Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:
  - Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
    - lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
  - Emie Roy - 02 8321 4068
    - emie_roy@gpsynergy.com.au
- **New England/Northwest:**
  - Lucinda Coble - 02 8321 4237
    - lucinda_coble@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
  - Rhonda O’Dell - 02 8321 4126
    - rhonda_odell@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
  - Kim VanBruchem - 02 8321 4211
    - kim_vanbruchem@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
  - Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
    - jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
  - Jodie Hay - 02 8321 4145
    - jodie_hay@gpsynergy.com.au

Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO)

- **Western NSW:**
  - Dr Ken Hazleton - ken_hazleton@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
  - Dr James Boyd - james_boyd@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
  - Dr John Vaughan - john_vaughan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
  - Dr Cecile Dinh - cecile_dinh@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
  - Dr Ken Mackey - ken_mackey@gpsynergy.com.au

Whilst we continue to recruit to regions, please contact one of the SLO team listed above who will be able to assist in the interim.

Positions vacant:

Are you interested in becoming an SLO? Find out more by visiting our website under employment opportunities or contact Nicky Doneva on nicky_doneva@gpsynergy.com.au

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for the following SLO positions:

- Hunter New England Central Coast
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney
- ACT