



Training Update



Update from Regional Head of Education, Dr Sue Wald

Yet again, this year has raced to its conclusion! I hope everyone has had a productive and positive year.

This year we welcomed Dr Maya Eamus (with a specific ACRRM focus) and Dr John Padgett (Wagga) to our medical educator team.

The core registrar education program has continued, with the majority of sessions in both Canberra and Wagga. As you will be aware, the regional small group discussions have now been rolled out across the whole region, and it seems that you found these a positive experience. We trialled using 'zoom' teleconference for a few of you located some distance away, and despite some initial glitches, this has largely been effective. Many registrars provided constructive feedback on our workshops, and we do pay close attention to this with the aim of continually improving. One aspect of this was our Canberra procedural day, where we arranged sessions based on your preferences.

At times we have had some positive media attention, which is a great way to promote the excellent work you and your practices are doing, especially rurally. A big thank you to Evie Tonkin (farm day) and Trudi Beck (Peter St Medical Centre) for being prepared to be visible.

We have been working hard to simplify pathways for procedural registrars, so that you can work in a practice with appropriate support after your AST or ARST year. We now have two medical educators with specific ACRRM experience available for ACRRM registrars.

Exam preparation sessions have been run every six months, with face to face options for KFP feedback and OSCE preparation. We have also been able to offer a mock MCQ and mock StAMPS session for ACRRM registrars. Due to smaller numbers, this was run centrally.

The recent seasonal celebrations in the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion at the National Arboretum was a very positive occasion. Special congratulations to Dr Jonathan Ho (awarded Registrar of the Year), and Dr Bosco Wu (who received the Dr Charlotte Hespe Research Award). It was also a great opportunity to recognise those doctors who had followed this year.

The 2018.1 placement process is now well underway, and hopefully most are satisfied with the outcome. While there has been some pressure on places in Canberra, we are working to achieve as good an outcome as possible for all. Catherine Daly, your medical educator, or myself are happy to discuss the process with you if you have ongoing queries or concerns. Sue Hefren, our rural support officer is available to assist registrars and families who may be moving rurally. Our Registrar Liaison Officer (RLO), Dr Jessica Tidemann, is also available to support you.

Another highlight this year has been our move to the Deakin office in Canberra and an upgrade of our office in Wagga Wagga. We have now been able to hold most of our teaching except Fusion and the combined workshop at the beginning of term in our facilities.

Finally, warm good wishes to you all, and all the best for a happy and safe holiday season!

2018 Registrar calendar out now!

We are pleased to release the 2018 GP Synergy mandatory education program calendar for registrars entering their first or second GP term in 2018.1.

To access: Visit the GP Synergy website – www.gpsynergy.com.au/calendar/.

Dates of additional educational activities for registrars in hospital terms, or their third GP term and above (including pre-exam workshops) will be made available in due course. If you have any queries at any time, please contact your local event coordinator.

Medicare provider no. reminder

If you are entering a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), please ensure you check the letter from Medicare advising you of your provider number approval.

You should confirm 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.

Registrar re-enrolment feedback results

The results from the latest registrar feedback survey are in, and the results remain positive.

Completed as part of the 2018.1 re-enrolment process, 95% of GP Synergy registrars participated in the survey. Anonymous results of the survey are circulated across the organisation for teams to review and make improvements where required and appropriate.

Key findings

Registrars remain satisfied with GP Synergy's education program

Registrars remain satisfied with GP Synergy's formal education program (80%), with a low proportion not satisfied (3-4%). This is in line with the previous term's results.

Suggestions for improvement included requests for more educational activities for registrars in their third GP term and above, which is being incorporated into the 2018 education program.

Registrars highly rate their in-practice experiences

Similar to last term, the overwhelming majority of registrars are satisfied with their in-practice training experience (86%), with 2% dissatisfied.

Satisfaction with the amount and quality of feedback they received was slightly lower at 78%.

Registrars feel interactions with GP Synergy are positive

The majority of registrars feel supported by GP Synergy (76%) and that GP Synergy has their best interests at heart (81%). A small number disagreed (5% and 3%) respectively.

Additional results indicated registrars would like more training advice, more consistency, and clarity around policy changes at the different levels (i.e. college policies, AGPT policies and GP Synergy policies).

The majority of registrars are satisfied with the term placement process

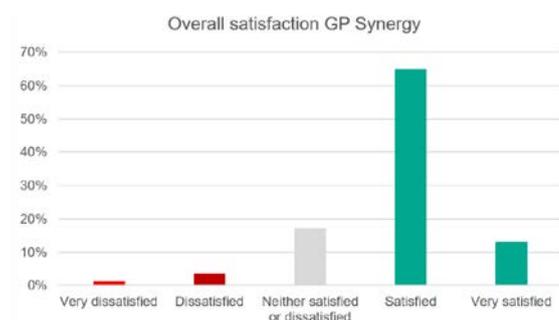
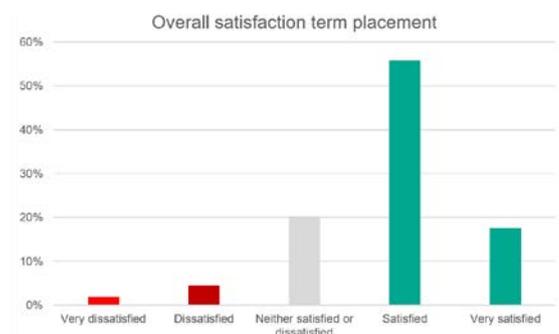
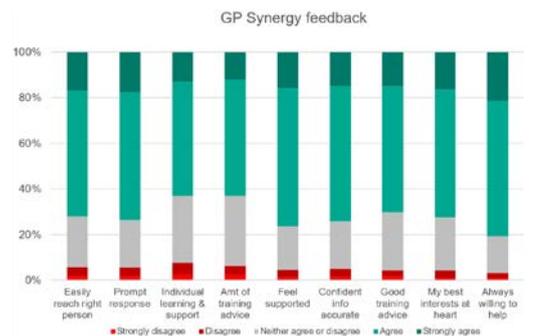
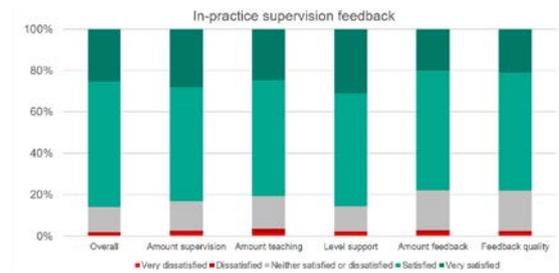
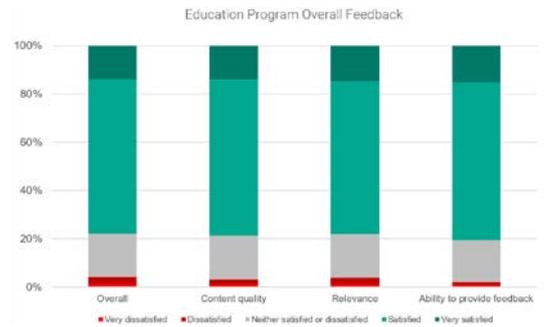
74% of registrars are satisfied with term placement process, with 7% dissatisfied.

Registrars listed a range of benefits of the process, as well as some challenges, such as changes in practice caps (2% of respondents), the interview process (1% respondents) and knowing when to accept placement offers (less than 1% of respondents).

Overall, most registrars are satisfied with GP Synergy

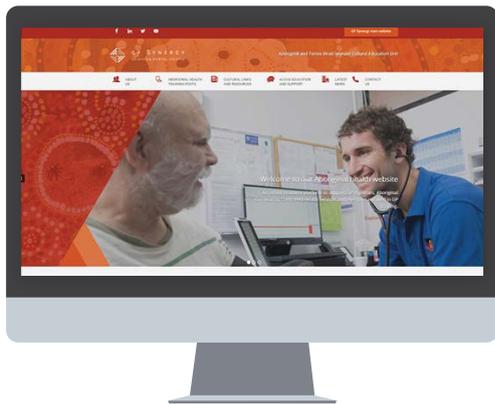
78% of registrars are satisfied with GP Synergy – an improvement from 74% in the previous term. 5% of registrars are dissatisfied (unchanged from the previous term's results).

77% of registrar are likely to recommend GP Synergy. A further 17% might recommend GP Synergy and 6% would not.



New Aboriginal health resources

<https://aboriginalhealth.gpsynergy.com.au/>



Aboriginal health subsite

At our recent Aboriginal Health Training Committee meeting, we were excited to launch our new Aboriginal health website.

The website is designed to help build awareness of Aboriginal health, culture and history for registrars, supervisors, practice staff, Aboriginal community controlled health services, regional training organisation staff, and anyone involved in GP training.

The website includes:

- information about GP Synergy, our Aboriginal Cultural Education Unit and our strategic vision to help Close the Gap
- lists of accredited NSW and ACT Aboriginal health training posts
- testimonials from registrars who have trained in an Aboriginal health training facility
- access to a range of cultural resources including key dates of significance, cultural awareness resources, clinical resources, as well as links to key health and population data
- ACCHS educational programs and ACCHS support resources
- information about how to become an accredited GP training facility
- the latest news on our activities and initiatives we are undertaking to improve opportunities for registrars to train in ACCHS facilities and improve access to primary healthcare provision for Aboriginal communities.

To access:

- Visit our website or go to <https://aboriginalhealth.gpsynergy.com.au/>

GP Synergy mentorship program

GP Synergy will be running the Mentorship Program again for 2018.1. This is a voluntary program for peer support, where registrars in their first GP term are linked with a more senior registrar for one term.

Invitations will be emailed shortly.

Scholarship recipients congratulated

Scholarship applications for the 2018 GP Synergy Medical Student Scholarship Program have now concluded and we are delighted to congratulate the successful recipients:

- Lucinda Roper - UNSW
- Shaddy Hanna - UNSW
- Ben Bravery - UND
- Isabelle Carr - UND
- Darshan Sitharthan - UoN
- Matthew Brown - UoN
- Charu Ahluwalia - WSU
- Joshua Lambert - WSU
- Bridie Peters - UNE
- Natasha Hardika - UNE
- Stefanie Pidcock - ANU
- Ahmad Samir Gul - ANU
- Maraed Rosa - USYD
- Joseph Hockey - USYD

We look forward to sharing progress of their academic and GP journeys throughout the year.

Policy update: Registrars Requiring Additional Assistance Policy

There has been an amendment to the [Registrars Requiring Additional Assistance Policy](#).

A new section has been added to this policy which requires registrars to advise GP Synergy of any conditions on their medical registration or any other restrictions that impact their ability to work as a general practitioner.

An amendment has also been made to the section on registrars experiencing professional competency difficulties requiring educational assistance or intervention, advising that these registrars may be directly placed into a GP placement.

To access the full policy, please login to GPrime, go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' and search any word in the policy name.

Holiday office closure

Our offices **will be closed from 5pm Fri 22 December and will reopen at 9am Tues 2 January**. Thank you for your ongoing support of GP training and we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



NSW/ACT GP Synergy awards 2017

Each year GP Synergy presents awards which recognise outstanding achievement and commitment to quality general practice education and training. This year's recipients were awarded at the recent seasonal celebration and award nights held across our subregions. We warmly congratulate all recipients on their achievements.



➔ Dr Jeremy Bunker Outstanding Achievement Award **Professor Parker Magin**

Excellence in GP training can only be achieved if supported by a strong evidence-base, and this award recognises the instrumental role Parker has played in establishing the GP Synergy Research and Evaluation Unit. Parker has led the unit and its collaborators in activities including the ReCEnT project, GP Synergy research projects, professional development for staff and supporting academic registrar posts.



➔ NSW/ACT Dr Charlotte Hespe Research Award **Dr Bosco Wu**

Bosco has been completing his academic post with the Australian National University – Academic Unit of General Practice, his complex qualitative research is exploring and understanding how empathy develops through medical training and how the practice of empathy in the clinical environment may be protective or a risk factor for emotional fatigue and burnout in GP registrars.



➔ NSW/ACT RACGP Registrar of the Year Award **Dr John-Alec Tynan**

John-Alec obtained the highest Royal Australian College of General Practice exam scores in NSW and ACT in 2016/2017. As a registrar his approach was pro-active and hardworking, maintaining a high standard of medicine and being an advocate for general practice. John-Alec was also always ready to support registrars less experienced than himself through their training.



➔ NSW/ACT ACRRM Registrar of the Year Award **Dr Edward (Ed) Lee**

Based in Mudgee, Ed is committed to rural general practice. Originally from Sydney, a recommendation from his supervisor in Mudgee set him on the path to becoming a GP obstetrician. As the youngest GP obstetrician in Mudgee he recognises his stake in the future of obstetric services, and is involved in a number of hospital-based committees dedicated to continuous improvement.



Regional awards 2017 Murrumbidgee and ACT

Congratulations to the winners of the annual GP Synergy subregional awards, recognised for their dedication and commitment to excellence in GP training.

i For further details visit <https://gpsynergy.com.au/about-us/gp-synergy-awards/regional-awards/>



➔ Supervisor of the Year Award – **Dr Chris Harrison**

Despite being a relatively new GP supervisor, Chris has received great feedback. Practising at Ochre Health in Bruce, his approach to supervising has been to consider it as a learning experience for himself as well as registrars. In the words of one registrar: "Dr Harrison is always sharing interesting articles and advances in research, he has enhanced my learning and been a mentor for how I would like to practice in the future."



➔ Practice Manager of the Year Award – **Ms Lisa Harvey**

Lisa has been practice manager at the Peter Street Medical Centre in Wagga Wagga for the last seven years. She is very enthusiastic about GP training, and ensuring the practice offers the best possible training outcomes for registrars. Of the 12 GPs working at the practice, six are registrars who have stayed on as a permanent part of the team.



➔ Registrar of the Year Award – **Dr Jonathan Ho**

Jonathan has recently fellowed, and is working at the Riverina Aboriginal Medical and Dental Corporation, as a visiting medical officer in forensics, and drug and alcohol treatment, as well as working for headspace in youth mental health. As a registrar he displayed a passion for understanding the health needs of Aboriginal people, and says serving this community is one of the best things about training in Wagga Wagga.



➔ GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award – **Ms Claire Doyle**

Claire has worked tirelessly over the last 12 months in her role as events coordinator based in GP Synergy's Wagga Wagga office. In addition to her day-to-day role that includes delivering workshops for registrars, supervisors and practice managers, she contributed to the organisation of the General Practice Training and Education Conference held in Sydney this year.



Seasonal celebration and awards night Murrumbidgee and ACT

For more images of the seasonal celebrations visit <https://gpsynergy.com.au/image-gallery/>



Need some help?

Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Sonia Cattley - 02 8321 4028
sonia_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238
heidi_heinz@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Kym Cashen - 02 8321 4112
kym_cashen@gpsynergy.com.au
- **New England/Northwest:**
Sally Lucas - 02 8321 4015
sally_lucas@gpsynergy.com.au
- **North Coast:**
Joanne Sayer - 02 8321 4128
joanne_sayer@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Western NSW:**
Rachel Harris - 02 8321 4212
rachel_harris@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149
catherine_daly@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Amanda Piatek - 02 8321 4164
amanda_piatek@gpsynergy.com.au

Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Hugh Le Lievre - RLO_western@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**
Sama Balasubramanian –
RLO_NESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**
Bob Vickers - RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Rebekah Hoffman - RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Please contact another RLO if you require assistance.
- **North Coast:**
Jessica McEwan -
RLO_Northcoast@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jessica Tidemann -
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
- **Western NSW:**
Maria Logan - maria_Logan@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee:**
Sue Hefren - sue_hefren@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
April McFadden - april_mcfadden@gpsynergy.com.au

Will you complete your AGPT training and be eligible for RACGP fellowship in December?

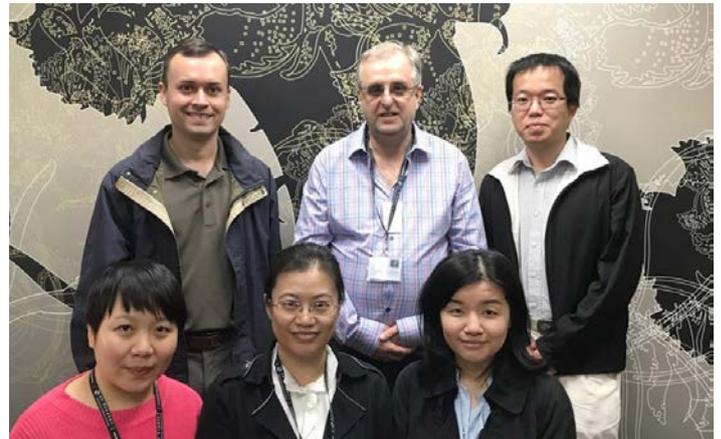
The RACGP advise that due to staffing changes and seasonal shut down, any applications for fellowship will be processed at the end of January 2018.

PM Diploma recipients



Now in its third year, the GP Synergy and TAFE OTEN collaborative Practice Management Diploma for Aboriginal Medical Services continues to go from strength to strength with all 17 participants completing the diploma in 2017. Congratulations to all participants.

Chinese delegation welcomed



In November we were pleased to host a delegation of medical educators from the Hainan GP Association in China.

The delegation visited Australia for ten days to explore the general practice system and gain insights into potential ways to make improvements to the training of GPs in Hainan.

The team had the opportunity to attend a GP Synergy supervisor workshop to see training in action, and to see the value and important role GP supervisors play in training the next generation of GPs.