



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. With the addition of Dr Maya Eamus (Gundagai) and Dr John Padgett (Wagga Wagga), we are excited to now have a full complement of medical educators.

This year we have consolidated the core registrar education program, with the majority of sessions run in both Canberra and Wagga Wagga. In addition, the half day regional small group discussions which were piloted in Murrumbidgee last year have been rolled out across the whole region and very positively received. Thanks to Dr Allison Miller (Goulburn) and Dr Christina Wong (Bega) who assisted us with South Eastern NSW groups. We have trialled using 'zoom' teleconference for a few registrars located some distance away from teaching sites and despite some initial glitches, this has largely been effective.

Exam preparation sessions have been run each six month cycle, with enthusiastic support from external teachers assisting us with trial RACGP OSCE exams. We have also offered mock MCQ and mock StAMPS sessions for ACRRM registrars, run centrally due to smaller numbers.

Dr Marjorie Cross joins our team as medical educator with a supervisor portfolio in addition to her role of supervisor support. Our core supervisor teaching program has been delivered across both ACT and Murrumbidgee regions, with good attendance, and a core clinical teaching workshop was held in Canberra. As most will be aware, supervisors can now receive payment for time spent at these sessions. We have also started running clinical teacher visitor networking breakfasts in the ACT, which were very well received by participants.

The supervisor training day following the General Practice Training and Education Conference was definitely a highlight, and it was great to meet with a number of local supervisors at the conference as well as more recently at the seasonal celebration in the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion at the Canberra Arboretum. Special congratulations to Dr Chris Harrison (awarded Supervisor of the Year), Lisa Harvey (awarded Practice Manager of the Year), Dr Jonathan Ho (awarded Registrar of the Year), and Dr Bosco Wu (who received the Dr Charlotte Hespe Research Award).

The 2018.1 placement process is now well underway, and hopefully most are satisfied with the outcomes. Practice Liaison Support Officer, Jodie Hay, or myself are available to discuss this with you if you have ongoing queries or concerns. Dr Ken Mackay continues as our Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) if you have specific supervisor concerns.

Another highlight this year has been our move to the Deakin office in Canberra and an upgrade of our office in Wagga Wagga, with boardrooms and teaching space fitted out with teleconference capacity. An upgrade to the GP Synergy phone system now means that it should be easier to contact local staff directly. If you are having difficulty, please let us know.

Finally, warm good wishes to you all, and all the best for a happy and safe holiday season. We continue to be most grateful for all the hard work you put in to assist our registrars!

2018 Supervisor PD calendar now available!

We are pleased to release the 2018 GP Synergy Professional Development (PD) calendar for supervisors.

In response to your feedback, the calendar is bigger than ever with more regional workshops, more webinars, as well as a weekend event.

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

Medicare provider no. reminder

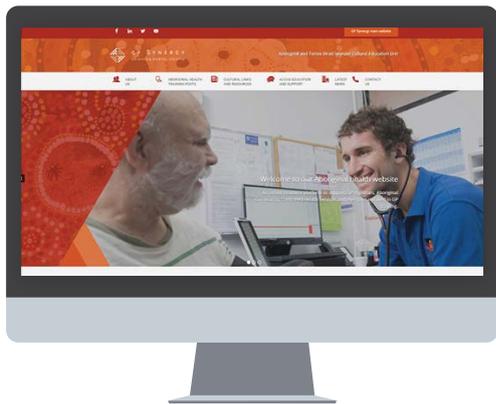
If you are training a GP registrar in a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), please ensure they check the letter from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval.

Registrars should confirm that they 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.

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/>

Key dates

15 Dec: Medicare provider number paperwork deadline

15 Jan: competency assessments of registrars in all GP terms due*

22 Dec – 2 Jan: GP Synergy office closure

4 Feb: end date 2017.2 term

5 Feb: start date 2018.1 term

5 Aug: end date 2018.1 term

*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.



Practice census

You have recently been sent an email by GP Synergy requesting some information about your practice.

The Commonwealth Department of Health have commissioned us to conduct a state-wide census of general practice facilities to better understand capacities for medical training in your region to assist the Department of Health and its agents in medical training and health workforce planning.

This census takes less than five minutes to complete.

In recognition of your support, on completion of the survey you are invited to download a summary of your responses to the survey and a Population Health Summary Report for your region. This valuable report details more than 50 population health and workforce measures covering your local community.

If you haven't received an email, or if you have any queries, please contact Chief Operations Officer, Georgina Van de Water in georgina.vandewater@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963.

Registrar calendar now available

The mandatory education calendar for registrars entering their first or second GP term in 2018.1 is now available.

To access:

- Visit www.gpsynergy.com.au/calendar/

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?

Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
- Lexi Kyle - 02 8321 4084
lexi_kyle@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 Hazelton -
ken_hazelton@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
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Dr Aline Smith - aline_smith@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter New England Central Coast**
Dr Ian Charlton - ian_charlton@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:

- ACT

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.

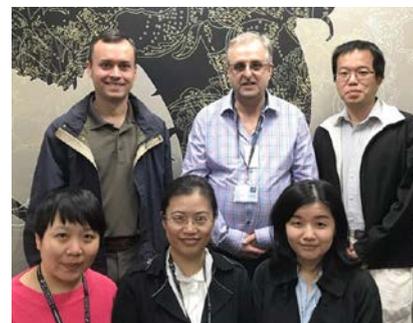
PM Diploma recipients



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.