



Training Update



Update from Regional Head of Education, Dr Rashmi Sharma

This has been a year of consolidation and quality improvement for the North Coast. We have experienced our fair share of challenges with weather events making its mark on the region and we are grateful to our registrars, supervisors and practice staff as well as the staff of GP Synergy for helping us navigate through the natural disasters we have encountered.

GP registrar education has been delivered to a high standard across 19 days with face to face workshops in Yamba and Coffs Harbour as well as extra exam preparation workshops in Ballina. We happily boast a 100% pass rate in the mid-year RACGP OSCE fellowship exam for the North Coast, and thanks to all of you who have given up your time to assist us in our mock exam workshops.

The medical education team is continually refining its delivery of education and working on innovative methods to enhance the educational experience for registrars. We have separated the Aboriginal health education day to two separate venues to ensure localised delivery of this most important topic and we

have adopted tools to allow speakers to reflect on their sessions and so work within a continuous quality improvement framework.

We have also delivered supervisor education with two supervisor weekends in Ballina and Port Macquarie with a third one in Coffs Harbour later in 2017. These have been well attended and welcomed by supervisors as a chance to network, learn and also feedback to GP Synergy. We have also used these weekends to deliver training to our casual clinical teaching visitors who are an invaluable resource to our region. Our thanks goes out to all of you who assist us with our visits during the year.

The Ballina office continues to grow with new administrative staff coming on board as well as a strong medical education team, some of whom are based in Port Macquarie. Our local knowledge and influence has allowed us to progress the accreditation of hospital posts for specialised training in disciplines such as a palliative care, mental health and emergency medicine. We are looking to proactively start to engage with hospitals and practices across the region to allow development of posts and training sites that will accommodate our registrars who are pursuing the path of rural general practice training.

And so what does the next six to twelve months have in store? Well, to continue with our culture of ongoing improvement with everything that we do, while also aiming for efficiencies along the way. We wish to build on innovative ideas that have originated from the North Coast in areas of education delivery by evaluation of speaker feedback and also developing supports for those training in our Aboriginal community controlled health services. We want to support our practices and supervisors so the process of hosting a GP registrar is seamless and sustainable. And of course, we want to ensure that we continue to train our GP registrars to become and remain an invaluable asset for our community on the North Coast.

On behalf of the North Coast team, I would like to sincerely thank all supervisors and practice staff for your hard work and ongoing support of GP registrars. Your tireless efforts are recognised and highly appreciated. I wish you a safe and happy holiday, and a well-earned break.

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

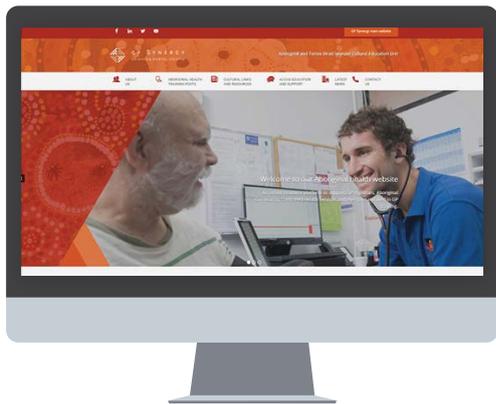
If you are training a GP registrar in a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), please ensure they check the letter from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval.

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 North Coast

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 John Vaughan**

As a GP supervisor for 30 years, Dr Vaughan has a long standing and passionate commitment to registrar education and training. A supervisor at the Ocean Drive Family Practice in North Haven and North Coast Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO), he is an advocate for high quality training and the role of supervisors in the North Coast subregion.



➔ Practice Manager of the Year Award – **Ms Leanne Ward**

Leanne started out with the Toormina Medical Centre in 1985, moving into a practice management role 12 years ago. Over that time many of registrars who've trained in the practice have stayed on with some even becoming associate owners. Leanne's leadership qualities, combined with her commitment to always being available to offer support, encouragement, and guidance to registrars make her a practice manager that others feel privileged to work with.



➔ Registrar of the Year Award – **Dr Sally Gillespie**

Dr Gillespie is in her Extended Skills term at the Queen Street Clinic in Grafton. Whether it is seeing patients or helping practice staff with their studies on her own time, her respect for others coupled with her abilities as a GP have seen her become a valued part of the practice as well as the local community.



➔ GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award – **Mr Grahame Skinner**

Grahame is the cultural educator for North Eastern NSW. He applies his knowledge of, and passion for, Aboriginal culture in the training of GP registrars and in working directly with key stakeholders in the Aboriginal health sector. Grahame's ongoing support of his North Coast colleagues is appreciated, and he plays a key role in cultural awareness education for staff and registrars.



Seasonal celebration and awards night North Coast

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.

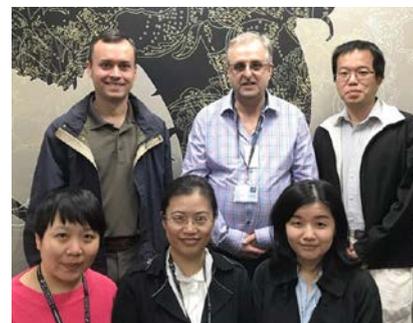
PM Diploma recipients



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.