



Training Update



Director of Registrar Education update

Many of you are several weeks into the first semester for 2018. You will slowly be improving your knowledge and consultative skills as you continue to progress towards independent clinical practice.

Just as we do every year, GP Synergy will be delivering an 18 day out-of-practice education program to all registrars in their first and second GP term placements.

Across GP Synergy's geographical footprint, eight separate regional education programs are delivered. Each region is coordinated by the regional medical education team to ensure regional focus and context is covered within their program. This allows regional specific community health needs to be addressed.

As well as regional topics being delivered in these programs, there are also a large number of topics delivered in all regions across the NSW and ACT. Linked to national health priority areas, examples of these topics include chronic diseases and multi-morbidity, paediatric rashes, clinical reasoning and mental health skills training to name a few.

Registrars should be mindful no education program can deliver the entire colleges' curricula. The majority of learning is in-practice and/or self-directed. To help all registrars meet their identified learning needs GP Synergy provides access to several online resources. It is very important all registrars engage with these modules as they are only available to you for a limited period of time!

An example of these online resources include:

1. SupportGPT
2. RRMEO
3. UNSW Research Module.

GP Synergy also delivers a three day intensive lecture series called FUSION, that like the regional program is compulsory for all GP Synergy registrars in their first and second term to attend. Topics presented here include drug and alcohol medicine, blood borne infections and STIs, ear nose and throat medicine as well as ophthalmology and aged care.

One of the changes made to the regional program in 2018 was the separation of first term and second term registrars on their first day of education in semester 1. Foundations Day was the education day for registrars going into their first term and they received education sessions on consultative processes such as introductions on billing, an introduction to dermatology and appropriate S8 prescribing. For those starting their second GP term placement, they attended Frameworks Day. This featured a more advanced session on dermatology and other sessions such as rational test ordering and screening.

One of the questions I am often asked as the Director of Registrar Education is "How are decisions made as to what topics are included in the registrar education program?" Decisions are made in the Committee Overseeing Education (CORE) meetings, where there is registrar representation by the Registrar Liaison Officers (RLOs). CORE members review education evaluations from previous years, any new changes to the colleges' curricula, the current nationally identified priority areas, ReCenT data collected from GP Synergy registrars, and education feedback from our senior medical education staff.

Dr Anna Sallos | Director of Registrar Education – NSW and ACT

Stay up to date – join us on Facebook

Check out the latest news, find out what your peers are up to, and see photos from training across GP Synergy by liking our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gpsynergy/>



2018.2 Registrar re-enrolment and GP term placement

2018.2 Re-enrolment

Re-enrolment for the 2018.2 term will be open online via GPRime2 from 3 - 10 April 2018:

- All registrars are required to re-enrol, regardless of the term type they are entering in 2018.2. This includes registrars going on leave, into hospital based terms and Extension Awaiting Fellowship (EAF).
- To be eligible to re-enrol, all practice logs for GP terms undertaken in 2017.2 and prior must be completed, in addition to at least one week of logs for the current GP term (2018.1).
- Failure to re-enrol during the re-enrolment period may result in delays to your training.
- During the re-enrolment process you will be asked to indicate your training plans for all upcoming terms. This is used as a guide only, and registrars will be able to change/confirm their plans in each re-enrolment period.

Please contact your education coordinator if you require any assistance at any time with the re-enrolment process.

2018.2 GP term placement

The following information is important for registrars seeking to enter a GP term in the second half of 2018:

- If you are seeking a GP term in 2018.2, during the re-enrolment process you will be asked to rank your grouping preferences.
- After preferences have been reviewed, you will be notified of your allocated grouping **by 5pm on 19 April 2018**.
- You will be able to apply to practices advertising training vacancies in your allocated grouping from **23 April 2018**.

Important points to note about term placement:

- Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) can accept applications from registrars in their subregion, regardless of their allocated grouping. Training in an AMS facility can act as a proxy to another grouping and go towards meeting training obligations. A list of AMS facilities in your subregion can be found in the Placement Portal on GPRime2 under group 'X'.
- Registrars can spend longer than six months in a training facility. In doing so, registrars must ensure they are able to meet their training location requirements for their subregion and any college requirements which may apply to them (i.e. RACGP requires registrars train across two practices during their training).
- Applications for placements must be made through GPRime2. No other method of confirmation will be accepted.
- Australian Defence Force (ADF) registrars must re-enrol, however they will follow a different term placement process to that described above. ADF registrars should contact their medical educator for further information.

Useful term placement resources

Resources on GPRime2

There are a number of useful resources available on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called '[Term Placement Information for Registrars](#)'.

Webinars

To assist registrars navigate the term placement process, GP Synergy will be hosting subregion webinars.

To join a webinar for your subregion, simply click on the link below on the given date and time.

A recording of each session will be available the week after the webinars on GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links' called '[Term Placement Information for Registrars](#)'.

GP term placement webinars:

- Western NSW: Monday 19 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Nepean, Western & Northern Sydney: Monday 19 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- South Eastern NSW: Tuesday 20 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Murrumbidgee & ACT: Tuesday 20 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast: Wednesday 21 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- North Coast: Wednesday 21 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- New England/Northwest: Thursday 22 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney: Thursday 22 March | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)

Registrar term placement process | Information for registrars 2018.2 term (6 Aug 2018 - 3 Feb 2019)

1. For GP terms commencing in August 2018 registrars are required to re-enrol and nominate which group (within their respective subregion) they would prefer to train.
2. Training obligations can be reviewed and updated as required to ensure registrars can then apply directly to training practices for placement within their assigned group through GPRime2.

Step 1 | 3 - 10 April 2018
Re-enrol

2018.2 re-enrolment opens from 3 - 10 April 2018 on GPRime2.

- To be eligible to re-enrol, all practice logs for GP terms undertaken in 2017.2 and prior must be completed in addition to at least one week of logs for the current GP term (2018.1).
- All registrars must re-enrol regardless of term type (including hospital based terms and Extension Awaiting Fellowship).
- Only re-enrolled registrars can participate in GP term placements.
- In addition to re-enrolling for the 2018.2 term, registrars will be asked to indicate their training plans for all upcoming terms.
- If you are seeking a GP term you will be asked to rank your preferred training location grouping.

Important resources for registrars seeking a GP term:

- GPRime2 Placement Portal - a list of practices for consideration
- Training obligations and practice logs - details about training obligations and practice logs
- Term placement FAQs for registrars
- Term placement practice guidelines for registrars

Step 2 | From 3 April 2018
Review GP placement vacancies

Find out how many placement vacancies are available for the 2018.2 term.

You can view a list of training conditions and restrictions (GPRime2) in the Placement Portal.

Please note:

- Placement lists will continue to change until placements opened from 23 April 2018.
- On 19 April 2018, practices will be notified of gaps in the number of registrars per practice and you will be asked to rank your preferences for GP placement. These gaps are related to GP placement obligations (including GP term placement across two practices) and the number of training locations available.

You can only secure placements with practices in your preferred group if an arrangement is made with your education coordinator by 19 April 2018 and the practice has not changed its plan. The placement will not occur if:

- You are not ranked in the practice's preferred group.
- The practice is not in your preferred group.

Step 3 | Monday 23 April 2018
Apply for placements

By 5pm on 19 April 2018 if you are seeking to enter a GP term in 2018.2, you will be notified of your assigned group.

From Monday 23 April 2018 you can start to apply to practices within your assigned group by sending a CV and cover letter through GPRime2.

Important:

- All placements must be confirmed through GPRime2. No other method of confirmation can be accepted.

For further information, please refer to the [2018.2 Placement FAQs](#) for registrars or contact your Education Coordinator.

The benefits of undertaking an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training post

Have you ever wondered what it's like to train and work in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS)? We asked six GPs currently training and working in an ACCHS in New England/Northwest about their experience.



Dr James White – GPT2

My introduction to training in Aboriginal health has been very interesting. There are challenges in the different cultural approach to health, but the most enjoyable aspect of working here is the larger team than you would normally have in a practice. The Aboriginal health workers make up a very supportive team in tracking down patients and getting involved in looking after people they know well, we're more tools for them instead of us organising everything.



Dr Camilla King – GPT3

I wanted to get exposure to all facets of medicine so I deliberately sought out training at an ACCHS. There were deficits in my learning in respect to dermatology and my supervisor, Dr Julia Fomiatti, is an expert and that's her passion, so I thought if I can couple learning from her plus learning and getting exposure to Aboriginal health that is going to be a big win.



Dr Xuchu (James) Tong – GPT3

The thing I enjoy about training here is the longer appointments, so you really do get to explore the various medical issues; there is less of a focus on costs so there is a very different expectation. I also appreciate the extensive support available- there is access to Aboriginal health workers, dental care, psychologists and nurses that are all here to help.



Dr Yun Lam (Kenneth) Cheung – Extension Awaiting Fellowship

Although I think Aboriginal health has its challenges, in general working here is great because of the concept of being a community-owned health service. The Aboriginal health workers and receptionists are from the community, and it makes a difference. One of the challenges is getting clients to return and having those community connections helps.



Dr Julia Fomiatti – GP supervisor

I enjoy helping my registrars become competent, confident professionals who love what they do and who will develop the passion I have about early detection of disease and keeping people alive for longer. The complexity of cases seen is just amazing. From a medical perspective it's both challenging and exciting to work at improving the health of our Indigenous population.



Dr Suha Tazami – GP

I trained here for a year, I'm now a fully qualified GP and I was offered an extension to stay on. I've already started some outreach community programs – we are working on school screening for kids, screening at PCYC programs like boxing, and other community sporting events. We take the opportunity to be there and offer health screening and other health promotions. It's all very exciting!

How can you find out more?

- Check out a short video on training in an ACCHS by clicking [here](#).
- Find out what ACCHSs are in your subregion by heading to:
 - the 'Placement Portal' in GPrime and select group 'X'
 - visiting the [GP Synergy Aboriginal Health website](#) for a list of ACCHS facilities and other useful resources.



Clinical pearl: Delayed antibiotic prescribing



Antibiotics are prescribed for acute self-limiting respiratory tract infections (ARTIs – such as the common cold, sinusitis, otitis media and bronchitis) far more often by Australian GPs than is consistent with international benchmarks, both by GP registrars and their more established colleagues. Antibiotics have relatively little or no efficacy in these conditions, and evidence-based guidelines recommend strongly against their routine use. Such unnecessary use drives antibiotic resistance.

“Delayed prescribing” (when a prescription is given to the patient with advice about if and when to use it) has been shown to reduce antibiotic use for ARTI (compared to “immediate” prescribing, but not as much as “no” prescribing), and with similar patient satisfaction.

Data from ReCEnT demonstrates that GP registrars employ delayed prescribing quite frequently compared to established GPs (in overseas studies).

While the optimal decision in acute self-limiting ARTIs will usually be ‘no prescribing’, ‘delayed prescribing’ may be a reasonable option in some circumstances. To practice ‘delayed prescribing’ you can write a script with specific instructions to commence the antibiotic after a specified period (often 48 hours) if the patient’s symptoms have not improved. Another strategy is for the patient to contact you (e.g. after 48 hours) if their symptoms have not improved and you will provide a script to be picked up at reception.

For discussion of delayed prescribing see:

- McCullough, A. and Glasziou, P., Delayed Antibiotic Prescribing Strategies—Time to Implement? *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2016. 176(1)
- Spurling, G.K., Del Mar, C., Dooley, L., Foxlee, R., and Farley, R., Delayed antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory infections. (Review). *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017(9): p. Art. No.: CD004417.

National Close the Gap Day – 15 March 2018

It is over ten years ago that the Closing the Gap government campaign commenced. The program aims to reduce disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, and access to early childhood education, educational achievement, and employment outcomes.

Close the Gap Day aims to bring together government, individuals and organisations to share information and take meaningful action to close the health and life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, within a generation.

For more information visit: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/projects/close-gap-indigenous-health>



New website showcases research from thousands of GP registrar consultations

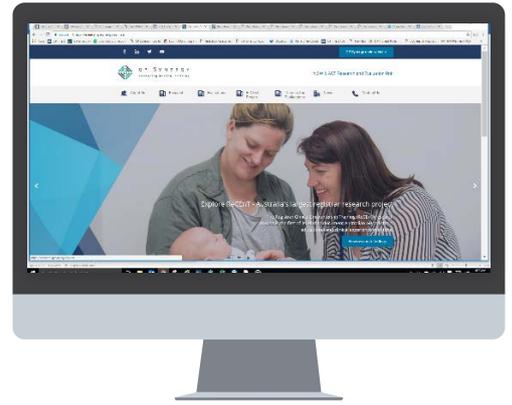
We are excited to launch a new website showcasing research from over 247,000 GP registrar clinical encounters across NSW and ACT collected as part of the Commonwealth funded ReCEnT (Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training) research study.

As the ReCEnT project documents Australian GP registrars' educational and clinical experience over time, the flagship ReCEnT project is a valuable contributor to the state, national and global general practice education and training research pool.

Located on the website are more than 50 published papers and 80 conference presentations covering topics from antibiotic prescribing to emergency department referral patterns to clinical encounters with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and more.

The website ensures these research outcomes are easily accessible and contribute even further to evidence-based practice and also includes additional GP training research projects being undertaken by GP Synergy's Research and Evaluation Unit.

As active contributors to this research, we encourage all supervisors and registrars to take a look at the website: <https://research.gpsynergy.com.au/>



Workshops to welcome registrars starting GP terms

More than 505 registrars entering their first or second GP term attended seven events held across our eight subregions during the first week of term in February.

Run by local medical education teams, the workshops featured a number of core topics such as dermatology, emergencies in general practice, professionalism and rational test ordering. They also featured regionalised elements specific to the local population healthcare needs for the subregion such as paediatric asthma, gastrointestinal disease, internal medicine cases and refugee health.

Below are some photos from some of these workshops held in Dubbo, Canberra and GP Synergy's new training space in Armidale. For more photos, head to our [image gallery](#).



College fellowship assessment enrolment*

ACRRM fellowship assessments:

- 2018.1: Enrolments closed
- 2018.2: Assessment enrolment closes 4 June 2018.

For more information visit the [ACRRM website](#)

RACGP fellowship assessments:

- 2018.1 AKT/KFP: Enrolments closed
- 2018.1 OSCE: Enrolments close 29 March 2018
- 2018.2 AKT/KFP: Enrolments open 19 March – 18 May 2018
- 2018.2 OSCE: Enrolments open 19 March – 7 September 2018.

For further information visit the [RACGP website](#)

*Dates are subject to change. Always check the RACGP and ACRRM websites for the most up-to-date information.

Can you ssssssqueeze me in?



One rural practice demonstrated how you really never know what's going to come through the door next in general practice, with the first patient of the day being a brown snake.

Homespace at Calala in Tamworth swiftly contacted the local fire brigade to remove the unwelcome patient.

Thanks to Dr Ian Kamerman for sharing this story and image with us.

Got a story to share? Contact us at news@gpsynergy.com.au

New medical student scholarship recipients welcomed

Last month we were delighted to welcome the new cohort of GP Synergy medical student scholarship recipients at a fundamentals in research workshop.

As part of their scholarship, the students will be undertaking a research project and community GP placement in a rural or Aboriginal health setting. At the workshop they got some great tips and skills to use for the year ahead. We're looking forward to hearing from them later in the year!

Key dates



3 Apr: Re-enrolment opens for term 2 2018

10 Apr: Re-enrolment closes for term 2 2018

19 April: Registrars notified of grouping allocation

23 Apr: Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

22 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork

5 Aug: End date term 1 2018

 For a list of important training dates, see the new key dates calendar on our [website](#).

Upcoming GP Synergy events

Registrars in their first or second GP term workshops

- Western NSW Node 1 – Western NSW | 3-5 Apr | Dubbo
- Western NSW Node 2 – Murrumbidgee and Riverina | 22 Mar | Half day - Various sites
- Western NSW Node 3 – Sth Eastern NSW & ACT | 15 or 16 Mar | Half day - Various sites
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1 – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney | 14 Mar | Liverpool
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 2 – Sth Eastern NSW and Wollongong | 21 or 23 Mar and 22 Mar | Wollongong
- Lower Eastern NSW Node 3 – Sth Eastern NSW and ACT | 15 or 16 Mar | Half day - Various sites
- North Eastern NSW Node 1 – North Coast | 16 Mar (only some registrars) | Ballina
- North Eastern NSW Node 2 – New England/ Northwest | 9-11 Apr | Armidale
- North Eastern NSW Node 3 – Hunter, Manning and Central Coast | 6 Apr | Newcastle
- North Eastern NSW Node 4 – Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney | 21 Mar | Liverpool

Exam preparation workshops

- GP Synergy RACGP exam preparation workshops are now being planned for registrars sitting the exams in 2018.1 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently being planned for registrars sitting ACRRM assessments. Please email Claire Doyle for further information: claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) reminder

If you are seeking RPL, this is a reminder that your RPL must be completed by 30 June 2018.

For more information see the [RPL guidelines and application form](#) on GPRime2 (under 'Forms, Documents and Links') or contact your local education coordinator.

External activities of interest

- University Centre for Rural Health, North Coast PHN and University of Wollongong - Health Innovations Conference | 10-11 March | Kingscliff | [More information](#)
- The Ballina Byron Clinical Society, Byron Central Hospital and North Coast Primary Health Network - Byron Bay Speed Networking | 22 March | Byron Bay | [More information](#)

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

Need some help?

Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Sonia Cattley is moving into a new role in GP Synergy. A replacement, Kate Reynolds, will commence in mid-March. In the interim, please call 1300 477 963 or email ec@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
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Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

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- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**
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- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Rebekah Hoffman - RLO_LESydney@gpsynergy.com.au
- **South Eastern NSW:**
Please contact another RLO if you require assistance.
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RLO_Northcoast@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jessica Tidemann -
RLO_MurrumACT@gpsynergy.com.au

Rural Support Officers (RSO)

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- **Murrumbidgee:**
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