



Training Update



Update from Regional Head of Education - North Coast

It has been a busy first six months of the year for our region and I am looking forward to the end of this year being kinder to us in terms of the weather.

A big thank you for your understanding and patience during the catastrophic floods in March/April. Many in our office were flooded in or stranded (myself included). Thank you for supporting your registrars during this time too.

Hearty congratulations for those of you sat the FRACGP exams with outstanding results across the board – a 100% pass rate for those of you who sat the recent OSCE. Well done and I am sure you will extend thanks to the medical education team for helping you with your preparation.

The workshops for the latter half of the year are planned, with choice of venue made with the needs of all registrars across the region in mind. We continually strive to improve the education program that we deliver and as a result I encourage you to participate in providing feedback after workshops. We do review and reflect and modify if required – it is your training and so we want to be tailored to your needs as much as possible within the curriculum of the colleges as well as our resources.

In-practice teaching is a powerful teaching tool – learning in context is a mechanism whereby life-long learning in medicine occurs. Please try to plan with your supervisor as much as possible the in-practice teaching you receive - reviewing learning plans is a great tool to use in this regard. Many of your supervisors have been able to attend the supervisor workshops we have held and many are Clinical Teacher (CT) visitors and RACGP examiners. They are skilled and pragmatic mentors for you. Also, do not forget the teaching that other practice staff can deliver – whether it be the practice nurse or manager or even further afield such as the community pharmacist.

I acknowledge that the maze of GP training requirements with an overlay of RACGP, AGPT and GP Synergy requirements can appear arduous. I encourage you to comply with requirements early such as logs and planning for your two practice requirement and training location obligations. Some 'issues' can be fixed if the medical education and education coordinator get enough notice to try and find a solution, so please do not leave things to the last minute. Get in touch with us early even if it is a heads up for something may be happening in a year's time. We are here to help.

Dr Rashmi Sharma

Regional Head of Education – North Coast

Important training reminders



- **Formative assessments:** Please ensure you have submitted a Formative Assessment on your GP supervisor from the 2017.1 term
- **Practice logs:** Please ensure you have submitted all your practice logs from the 2017.1 term if you were in GPT1/2/3/ES in GP or Mandatory Elective. You will not be able to re-enrol for the 2018.1 term unless all terms are submitted.
- **Research module:** The Research Module is due before completion of GPT2 (if you started GPT1 in 2017.1) and before completion (if you started GPT1 in 2016.1).



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Are you starting in a new practice this term?

If you are entering a GP term in 2017/2, don't forget there are a number of important activities that need to take place in the first few weeks of the term starting.

✔ Day 1: Practice orientation

When you start in a new practice, it is important you are properly orientated. To help practices orientate registrars to a practice, we have developed some orientation resources which registrars can also access. Head to GPRime and look under 'Forms, Documents and Links' – just search 'orientation'.

✔ Week 1-2: Direct observation

To help supervisors assess your competence and level of support required, we strongly recommend supervisors spend some time observing your consultations in the first few weeks of term.

✔ From Week 2-6: Discuss your learning plan needs and the supervision plan with your supervisor

Within the first four to six weeks of term your supervisor will spend time reviewing your learning needs to help you build your learning plan.

Supervision plan

As part of this process, your supervisor may complete a supervision plan and consider how to assess your current level of competence, especially with regard to high risk or red flag areas. The aim of the plan is to identify areas requiring closer supervision to optimise training and minimise the risk of adverse outcomes for patients and registrars.

The supervision plan covers a comprehensive range of presentations and procedures that are common to general practice.

There are two distinct sections:

1. A section which lists potentially high risk presentations. These require review by a supervisor, initially before the patient leaves the room, and then at the end of the day as the registrars competence and confidence in managing these important presentations increases.
2. A list of presentations and procedures which may be signed off without first being observed, depending on the level of previous experience and confidence of the registrar in dealing with these issues.

Pre-GP Term Assessment Report (PTAR)

If you have already commenced in a GP term, your supervisor will have reviewed your Pre-Term Assessment Report (PTAR) prior to you starting.

The PTAR is a summary of your training. It includes your contact details, a history of your placements, and all the competency assessments completed on you during GP community based terms, such as Clinical Teaching Visits (CTVs) and competency assessments completed by your other supervisors.

You can access your PTAR at any time in GPRime – go to your 'Trainee Portfolio' and click on the 'Summary tab'.



Ongoing in-practice requirements – at a glance

A summary of all the in-practice training requirements can be found in the '[In-practice training requirements at a glance](#)' document available in GPRime (and also attached to the rear of this document). Remember – to access the resource links you will need to be logged into GPRime.

To access:

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to 'Forms, Documents and Links' in the top toolbar
3. Search 'requirements'

Have you tried SupportGPT – the online in-practice teaching tool for supervisors and registrars?

SupportGPT is an online in-practice teaching resource for supervisors, and registrars in their first or second GP term.

When undertaking your learning and supervision planning with your supervisor, registrars in their first or second GP term are encouraged to review the modules and consider which ones might be useful.

What's included in SupportGPT?

SupportGPT has many features:

- 1. Registrar modules:** There are 16 modules that can be completed by registrars prior to an in-practice teaching session, and activities that can be completed during in-practice face-to-face teaching time with their supervisor.
- 2. Weekly in-practice teaching planner:** This planner can be used in a flexible manner and may be used by a supervisor to guide in-practice weekly teaching sessions.
- 3. ResourceGPT:** An index of over 1,300 clinical resources which are searchable and can be used in any order as problems present.

Who can access SupportGPT?

SupportGPT is only accessible by registrars in their first or second GP term.

How can you access SupportGPT?

1. Login to GPRime2
2. Go to the 'Quick Links' tab in the top toolbar
3. Select 'SupportGPT'

How can you find out more about using SupportGPT?

1. View the [SupportGPT flyer](#)
2. View the [5-minute instructional video](#)

Both resources are also available in GPRime2 under 'Forms, Documents and Links'. Just search 'SupportGPT'.

Examples of how to use SupportGPT



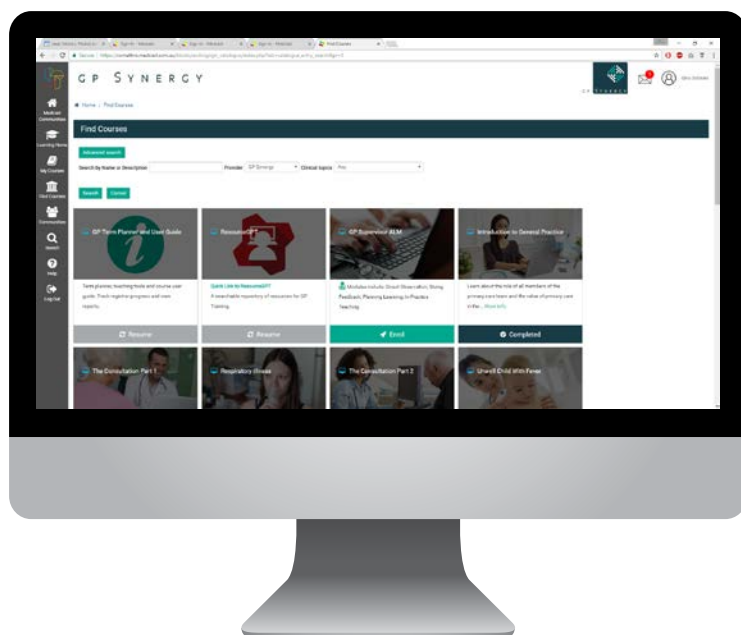
Registrar Michael

Michael's supervisor is really great at helping out with all those little problems as they arise during the day. He is a fountain of knowledge and teaches a lot on the run. Michael is finding that his protected teaching time is not as useful as he would like. He asks the supervisor if they can use the SupportGPT modules and follow the weekly activities outlined in the term planner. Michael now has a structure to follow which suits his kind of learning. He now has a great learning plan which keeps him on track.



Registrar Tiffany

Tiffany is feeling overwhelmed by all that there is to learn as a registrar. She has heard that the fellowship exams are tough and that some of the exam components have a low pass rate. She is in a large group practice, and the in-practice teaching is often shared with other registrars. She finds a lot of the teaching useful, but sometimes feels that she needs to address her own learning needs a bit better. She works her way through all of the support GPT modules on her own and finds the activities and references very useful.



Medicare provider number reminder



If you are a GP registrar going into a GP term in 2017.2 (Aug- Feb), make sure you check the letter you have received from Medicare advising of your provider number approval.

Please ensure 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.

Key dates



- 15 Sept:** 2017.2 RACGP OSCE exam enrolment closes
- 18 Sept:** 2018.1 RACGP AKT/KFP/OSCE enrolment opens
- 25 Sept*:** Week 8 competency assessment due for registrars in first or second GP terms
- 3 Oct:** 2018.1 re-enrolment opens
- 10 Oct:** 2018.1 re-enrolment closes
- 23 Oct:** Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping for 2018.1 GP placements
- 22 Jan:** ACRRM 2018.1 assessment/s enrolment closes
- 4 Feb:** End date term 2 2018

*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.

GP Synergy medical student scholarship recipient gets published

Congratulations to Belinda Watson on being lead author on a paper published in [Australian Family Physician](#)!

The paper is based on the study she undertook as a UNSW recipient of a GP Synergy Medical Student Scholarship in 2016.

Scholarship recipients are supported by GP Synergy to participate in research projects and undertake a community GP placement. Belinda's study investigated older patients and general practice follow-up after an emergency department admission.

There are currently 18 students from universities across NSW and ACT participating in the program. For more information visit [our website](#).

RACGP Foundation Grant success

Congratulations to Prof Parker Magin and Dr Anthea Dallas, both recipients of RACGP Foundation Grants!

Dr Dallas will examine GP registrars' and their supervisors' attitudes to, and experience of, the use of delayed antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory tract infections through a qualitative study.

Prof Magin's grant is for the AusTAPER (Team Approach to Polypharmacy Evaluation and Reduction) pilot study for older general practice patients.

Looking for a laugh? GP the Musical is coming to Sydney in September

Created by GPs, Drs Gerard Ingham and Genevieve Yates, and directed by A/Prof Katrina Anderson, GP the Musical made its debut at the General Practice Education and Training Conference in 2012, before featuring at the sold-out Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2013.

The highly popular musical will be hitting the stage again, this time in Sydney at the NIDA studios in September.

Ten GPs from around Australia are involved in the production which includes NSW GP supervisors Drs Linda Mann and Hester Wilson, as well as Regional Head of Education – South Eastern NSW, Dr Allison Miller, and GP Synergy Director of Registrar Education, Dr Anna Sallos.

"Being a part of this has been a great experience!" says Dr Sallos.

"Anyone who has sat in a doctor's waiting room can relate to the play.

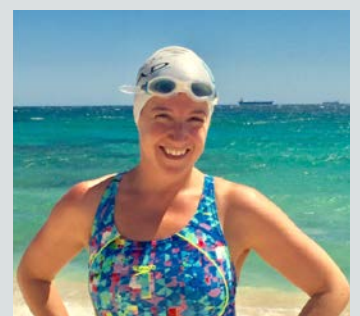
"If you want a good laugh and a night out with the family, come along!"

GP the Musical is showing at NIDA in Sydney from 14-17 September 2017. Bookings can be made from [Ticketek](#).

GP registrar swimming the English Channel

Dr Rachele Silver will be swimming solo from Dover, UK to Calais, France in August. She is using her swim across the English Channel to raise funds for an organisation close to her heart – Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA). PANDA offers the only specialist national perinatal mental health telephone counselling service, as well as reducing stigma around perinatal anxiety and depression, and providing education services to health professionals and the wider community.

You can read more about her amazing feat here: <https://www.mycause.com.au/page/150414/rachele-swims-the-english-channel-for-perinatal-mental-health>



Need some help?

Education Coordinators

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Sesil Almendrala - 02 8321 4056
sesil_almendrala@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Hunter, Manning and Central Coast:**
Heidi Heinz - 02 8321 4238
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- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
Kym Cashen - 02 8321 4112
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- **New England/Northwest:**
Natasha Junge - 02 8321 4015
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- **North Coast:**
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- **Western NSW:**
Rachel Harris - 02 8321 4214
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Catherine Daly - 02 8321 4149
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- **South Eastern NSW:**
Amanda Piatek - 02 8321 4164
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Registrar Liaison Officers (RLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Hugh Le Lievre - RLO_western@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Nepean, Western and North Western Sydney:**
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- **Hunter New England Central Coast:**
Bob Vickers - RLO_HNECC@gpsynergy.com.au
- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
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- **South Eastern NSW:**
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- **North Coast:**
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
Jessica Tidemann -
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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

Upcoming GP Synergy events

Registrars in their first or second GP term events:

- Western NSW Node 1: 11-13 Sept, Dubbo
 - Western NSW Node 2: 24 Aug (Half Day), Various | 31 Aug-1 Sept, Dubbo
 - Western NSW Node 3: 24 or 25 Aug (Half Day), Various | 21-22 Sept, Canberra
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- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1: 13 & 19 Sept, Liverpool
 - Lower Eastern NSW Node 2: 13-15 Sept, Wollongong
 - Lower Eastern NSW Node 3: 24 or 25 Aug (Half Day), Various | 21-22 Sept, Canberra
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- North Eastern NSW Node 1: 9 – 11 Oct, Yamba
 - North Eastern NSW Node 2: 11-13 Sept, Armidale
 - North Eastern NSW Node 3: 1 & 22 Sept, Newcastle
 - North Eastern NSW Node 4: 19-20 Sept, Liverpool

Don't forget 2017.2 education dates for registrars going into their first or second GP term are now available – just search 'calendar' under 'Forms, Documents and Links' or head to our [website](#).

Exam preparation

- GP Synergy RACGP exam preparation workshops are now underway for registrars sitting the exams in 2017.2 only. Please email Shirleen Chand for further information: shirleen_chand@gpsynergy.com.au
- GP Synergy ACRRM assessment preparation workshops are currently underway. Please email [Claire Doyle](#) for further information:

Upcoming activities of interest

- NSW Health - Back pain workshop | 16 September | Orange | [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](#)