



Training Update



Director of Registrar Education update

Firstly...welcome to all new registrars soon to join GP Synergy! Congratulations for making it into the competitive general practice training program. I am sure you are looking forward to this next step in your medical career in becoming a vocationally registered GP.

During the GP training program, registrars can train in a variety of settings including hospital, community GP and community non-GP settings. During your first or second GP community based terms, you will attend GP Synergy's formal 'out of practice' registrar education program - a compulsory part of your training pathway.

The registrar education program is run in all eight subregions within GP Synergy's geographical footprint. Within each subregion, the registrar education program will be tailored to address regional community health needs, as well as registrar learning needs. The programs in all subregions share common topics (such as chronic diseases management, contraception and dermatology, etc), as well as topics that are specific to a region (such as farm health, envenomation and retrieval medicine, etc).

To work out registrar learning needs we need your feedback, in addition to knowing what type of presentations GP registrars are seeing in clinical practice. This data is collected in several ways:

- 1. Registrar evaluations:** One of the most important sources of feedback is from post education event feedback. It is imperative these evaluations are completed by all registrars, and feedback provided is well considered. This is your opportunity to help shape the future education of GP registrars. These evaluations are closely reviewed to ensure GP Synergy has a dynamic, responsive and current registrar education program.
- 2. Registrar Clinical Experiences in Training (ReCEnT) project:** Consultation data is collected from registrars at specific times during their first three GP terms. This data is used to identify what GP registrars are seeing, what they are seeking extra supervision on, which consultations they seek extra learning and resources, and their perceptions about the level of difficulty of different presentations.

Registrar evaluations and data from ReCEnT help the review of the registrar education program by the Committee Overseeing Registrar Education (CORE). Every year CORE meet to review, analyse and recommend changes to the registrar education program. The committee consists of all regional heads of education or a senior medical educator delegate, the evaluation manager, registrar representatives as well as the director of registrar education (NSW and ACT).

Any changes to the program are made by reviewing the registrar evaluations, ReCEnT data as well as the RACGP and ACRRM colleges' curricula, national health identified priority areas and those topics not easily learnt from text books and journals (such as billings, rational test ordering, communication skills, mental health, clinical reasoning, medical ethics and professional boundaries).

The college's curricula are large and inclusive for all of general practice. It is important to be mindful that not all of it can be covered in the registrar out of practice education program.

If you find you are needing assistance in having more direction in knowing where to go to for study and resources, accessing your medical educator and supervisor will help you in your training journey.

Dr Anna Sallos

Director of Registrar Education – NSW and ACT

2018.1 Registrar re-enrolment and GP term placement

2018.1 Re-enrolment

Re-enrolment for the 2018.1 term will be open online via GPRime2 from 3 - 10 October 2017:

- All registrars are required to re-enrol, regardless of the term type they are entering in 2018.1. 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 2017.1 and prior must be completed, in addition to at least one week of logs for the current GP term (2017.2).
- 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.

2018.1 GP term placement

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

- If you are seeking a GP term in 2018.1, 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 October 2017**.
- You will be able to apply to practices advertising training vacancies in your allocated grouping from **midday 23 October 2017**.

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.

Useful term placement resources

GPRime2 – Forms, Document and Links

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

Webinars

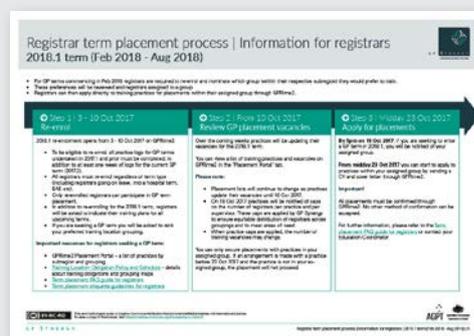
To assist registrars navigate the term placement process, GP Synergy will be hosting subregion webinars.

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:

- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney: Tuesday 19 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast: Monday 18 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Murrumbidgee & ACT: Tuesday 19 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Nepean, Western & Northern Sydney: Monday 18 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- New England/Northwest: Thursday 21 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- North Coast: Wednesday 20 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- South Eastern NSW: Thursday 21 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)
- Western NSW: Wednesday 20 September | 6.30pm-7.30pm | [Link to join](#)



ReCEnT (Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training)

The Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT) project is a flagship general practice (GP) education and training project.

The ReCEnT project is the first of its kind to document Australian GP registrars' educational and clinical experience over time by measuring:

- what registrars do, the types of patients and conditions they see and the management they provide
- how registrars' practice changes during their training.

ReCEnT is an important tool to aid reflection on practice. Reflection can be facilitated by a registrar comparing their data with that of other registrars, with that of established GPs, as well as with the registrar's results in previous terms. Critical evaluation is encouraged – was this a typical week? Are the results unexpected? Am I different from other registrars? If so, why might that be? Am I getting an adequate range of clinical presentations for optimal learning (and exam preparation)? Do I need to reconsider any aspect of my practice?

How does ReCEnT work?

The project requires GP registrars to:

- complete encounter forms, recording details of 60 consecutive consultations, in each of their GP training terms. These take around 1-2 minutes to complete per form (i.e. up to 2 hours in total each term)
- repeat the process in each of their three GP training terms.

GP registrars are provided with a feedback report that compares their consultations to the larger group of registrars and, in some cases, national GP data. Registrars are strongly advised to share this information with their supervisors. If registrars provide consent, a copy of their report will be sent directly to supervisors.

When a training practice has had at least five registrars participate in ReCEnT, the supervisor will receive an Annual Practice Report.

The practice report enables supervisors to see the practices registrars' clinical exposure as well as aspects of their clinical and education practice. The report also provides a comparison with other training practices. Up to five registrar reports per practice are used so that individual registrars are unidentifiable in the report.

Which subregions are participating in ReCEnT in 2017.2?

ReCEnT is being rolled out in stages across GP Synergy's training regions.

In 2017.2, registrars in GP terms in the following subregions will be participating:

- Hunter, Manning and Central Coast (HMCC)
- New England/North West (NE/NW)
- Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney (NWNS)
- Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney (CESWS)

2017.2 ReCEnT timetable

	HMCC	NE/NW	NWNS*	CESWS*
Term 1: ReCEnT Orientation	1st Sept (workshop)	11th Sept (workshop)	20th Sept (workshop)	13th Sept (workshop)
GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2: Distribution of encounter forms	19th Oct (workshop)	11th Sept (workshop)	20th Sept (workshop)	13th Sept (workshop)
GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2: Collection of encounter forms	16th Nov (workshop)	9th Oct (by mail)	17th Oct (workshop)	17th Oct (workshop)
GPT3 and PRRT3: Distribution of encounter forms	15th Sept (by mail)	12th Sept (by mail)	n/a	n/a
GPT3 and PRRT3: Collection of encounter forms	13th Oct (by mail)	10th Oct (by mail)	n/a	n/a

*only GPT1 and GPT2's are participating

Remaining GP Synergy subregions will be joining the program in 2018.

If you have any questions about receiving or handing back your ReCEnT packs, please contact Katie Mulquiney on 02 8321 4242 or by email, Katie_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au.

If you have any questions about the overall project, please contact Parker Magin on 02 8321 4540 or by email, Parker_Magin@gpsynergy.com.au.

2017 Terms and conditions benchmarking survey

Have your say on your employment terms and conditions, training experience and other issues that matter for GP registrars

Complete the survey and be in the draw for a \$500 pre-paid VISA card or one of five \$100 vouchers.

Click on this link to take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZ69TJ5>

Is your supervisor going on leave?



If your supervisor is going on leave and no other supervisors will be available during that time, your supervisor needs to complete a supervisor leave form. This ensures you are safe and supported while your supervisor is away.

The form requires supervisors to outline the alternative supervision arrangements that will be in place if no other supervisor will be available to supervise you during their absence.

Alternative supervision requirements can include another GP in the practice agreeing to meet the supervision requirements or remote supervision from a GP supervisor in another practice.

If you have any concerns about your supervision in the lead up to, or during your supervisor's absence, please contact your education coordinator and/or medical educator as soon as possible.

Collaborative partnership with PHNs creates new training opportunities - HealthPathways

HealthPathways is a regionally specific online resource that helps GPs determine the optimal pathway of care specific to their patient's needs.

Through a collaborative agreement with the Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across our training regions, GP Synergy GP registrars now have the opportunity to undertake an accredited extended skills training post in the HealthPathways program as clinical editors.

Employed by GP Synergy as Registrar Medical Educators (RegMEs), registrars are seconded to the PHN for a 0.2FTE role and work with the PHN and health professionals behind the scenes to identify and develop pathways.

Registrars interested in being involved should contact their local education coordinator.

GP Synergy awards: Nominations now open!



Do you know someone that deserves to be recognised for their contribution to GP training?

Nominations for GP Synergy's annual awards **are now open and close 5pm Sunday 1 October 2017.**

Subregion awards

The following awards will be presented for each subregion:

- **Supervisor of the Year Award:**
 - Presented to the supervisor within each subregion for their ongoing dedication and commitment to high quality general practice training
- **Practice Manager of the Year Award:**
 - Presented to the practice manager within each subregion for their ongoing dedication and commitment to high quality general practice training
- **Registrar of the Year Award:**
 - Presented to the registrar within each subregion for their outstanding contribution to general practice training
- **GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award:**
 - Presented to the GP Synergy employee within each subregion for their ongoing dedication and commitment to high quality general practice training

NSW/ACT awards

The following awards will be presented on a NSW/ACT basis:

- **Dr Jeremy Bunker Outstanding Achievement Award:**
 - In honour of GP Synergy's late Director of Training, Dr Jeremy Bunker, this award recognises outstanding achievement in the contribution of general practice education and training.
- **Dr Charlotte Hesse Research Award:**
 - In honour of former Chair, Dr Charlotte Hesse, this award recognises outstanding contributions to general practice research by a GP Synergy registrar.
- **RACGP Registrar of the Year Award:**
 - Presented to the registrar that obtained the highest RACGP score within the 2016-2017 financial year.
- **ACRRM Registrar of the Year Award:**
 - Presented to the registrar for their demonstrated commitment to rural and remote general practice.

How to nominate

For eligibility criteria and to nominate, please login to GPRime2 and select the 'Awards' tab on the left-hand toolbar by **1 October 2017.**

Wagga registrar farm day

GP registrars in our Murrumbidgee & ACT training subregion got a taste of farm life in Wagga Wagga earlier this month to help understand potential hazards on farms.

It was a great day, and we were joined by Riverina MP, Michael McCormack. Prime 7 and WIN TV also came along to learn more about rural GP training.

We extend our sincere thanks to our hosts, the Dennis family, for sharing their farm and experiences with us, as well as to the registrars who took part.

Head to our facebook page for more videos and photos - <https://www.facebook.com/gpsynergy/>



Meet the reg: Dr James Connell



After growing up on a farm at Tocumwal, two and a half hours from Wagga Wagga, Dr James Connell moved away for medical school and hospital training.

He has returned to the Murrumbidgee region to complete his GP training.

Why did you decide to become a GP?

I went through medical school on a Rural Australia Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS), so I had a rural GP as a mentor; he made general practice and rural general practice very enticing.

In a nut shell, I wanted to become a GP because of the variability, flexibility and patient-centred focus that general practice offers.

What do you enjoy about training and living in Wagga Wagga?

We really enjoy it here. There are lots of activities and sports with good facilities. It's good to get out there, be active and have fun that way.

GP training in Wagga Wagga has been really good, I'm in a practice with very experienced GPs who all have different interests. They're a great bunch of doctors all-round, in general knowledge and procedural medicine.

Would you recommend training in a rural area?

Definitely, I think it's a very rewarding experience.

I like the fact that in rural general practice there is the flow-on effects of treating someone and their family members; you're treating the whole family.

Although there are some specialists available, as a rural GP you still do minor procedures yourself; it's more interesting being more hands-on and not just referring people on.

And you really do get that chance to develop relationships with the community. You're not a random face, you constantly run into people that are your patients. It feels quite special to be part of the community like that.

Upcoming GP Synergy events

Registrars in their first or second GP term events:

- Western NSW Node 1 – Western NSW: 6-8 Nov, Dubbo
 - Western NSW Node 2 – Murrumbidgee and ACT: 21 Sept (Half Day), Various | 25-26 Oct Wagga
 - Western NSW Node 3 – Sth Eastern NSW and ACT: 21 or 22 Sept (Half Day), Various | 12-13 Oct, Canberra
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- Lower Eastern NSW Node 1 – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney: 13 & 19 Sept, Liverpool
 - Lower Eastern NSW Node 2 – Sth Eastern NSW and Wollongong: 15-17 Nov, Wollongong
 - Lower Eastern NSW Node 3: Sth Eastern NSW and ACT: 21 or 22 Sept (Half Day), Various | 12-13 Oct, Canberra
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- North Eastern NSW Node 1 – North Coast: 9 – 11 Oct, Yamba
 - North Eastern NSW Node 2 – New England/Northwest: 20-22 Nov, Tamworth
 - North Eastern NSW Node 3 – Hunter, Manning and Central Coast: 22 Sept, Newcastle
 - North Eastern NSW Node 4 – Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney: 19-20 Sept, Liverpool

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:
claire_doyle@gpsynergy.com.au

Upcoming activities of interest

- NSW Health - Back pain workshop | 16 September | Orange | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Advanced Life Support (ALS) | 24 September | Pokolbin | [More information](#)
- MDA National - The How What Where and Why of Medical Documentation | 7 October 2017 | Ultimo | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST) | 7-8 October | Canberra | [More information](#)
- Black Dog - Advanced Training in Suicide Prevention | 21 October | Moree | [More information](#)
- RACGP - CEMP Course Intermediate ALS | 24 October | Sydney | [More information](#)
- RACGP - CEMP Course Advanced ALS | 29-30 October | Sydney | [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](#)

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:**
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- **New England/Northwest:**
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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
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:**
Jessica Swann - RLO_SouthEastern@gpsynergy.com.au
- **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