



# Stakeholder Update



## CEO update

2017 has commenced with a flying start, with a number of important initiatives well underway.

### Bi-college accreditation without conditions

I am pleased to report we have successfully obtained bi-college accreditation without conditions from ACRRM until 31 December 2020, and the RACGP until 30 June 2019.

Thank you to the many staff, supervisors, registrars and stakeholders who took part in this comprehensive process.

### GP Synergy's informatics system user testing complete

In 2015 GP Synergy commenced development on a geospatial informatics system to integrate general practice workforce data, demographics, population health, and general practice training to inform workforce planning and the formal education program.

Our vision is to make this system freely available to other health organisations in our sector who share the common goal of health workforce planning and distribution. We believe that data sharing amongst key health services across NSW and the ACT will better inform all our efforts to improve the current maldistribution of health workforce. It will drive more effective realisation of health strategy and medical education in support of our regional communities.

We have completed our first round of use-case and user acceptance testing and there are significant system developments to be released during March 2017. We are on track for the system to be made accessible to key health organisations in the coming months.

### GPRime2 improvements are progressing

To improve the user experience for all GPRime2 users, and in preparation for the next iteration of the system, a number of important GPRime2 improvements have been deployed and further releases are in development.

Our focus is on ensuring improved useability for all stakeholders. As part of this process we have established several focus groups to help with testing and provide ongoing feedback which informs system improvements.

### Implementation of cultural safety kits across NSW/ACT

As part of our strategic work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) across NSW and the ACT, we are committed to rolling out the Cultural Resource Kits which were developed between 2013-2015 by the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AHMRC) under commission by the former Regional Training Providers (RTPs). These kits are aimed at providing properly tailored and effective cultural orientation to health workers and staff at Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Under the direction of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Education Unit, a body of work is underway to prepare services and upskill cultural health mentors to tailor and implement the kits at the local Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS). The aim is to deliver tailored cultural orientation and training to GP registrars, supervisors, health workers and other staff within the service.

A technical committee has been formed and piloting is underway with a number of participating sites.

### Regional team growth

The GP Synergy team continues to grow with a number of new staff joining our expanding regional teams. Across our ten offices, we now have over 200 staff, including 94 medical education staff and 94 administrative staff, in addition to a team of casual research assistants.



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## Proud host of the 2017 GPTE Conference

Each year, the General Practice Training and Education (GPTE) Conference doesn't fail to deliver thought-provoking and new ideas for improving general practice education and training delivery.

This year's conference theme 'Building communities: Bricks | Mortar | Imagination' recognises the many individuals that play a role in building and developing our next generation of GPs.

Abstracts are now being accepted and close on 21 March 2017.

I hope you are able to join us as a presenter, participant or partner in this historic knowledge sharing event.

**John Oldfield** | Chief Executive Officer



2017 General Practice Training and Education Conference  
Abstracts open: **7 February 2017** | Abstracts close: **21 March 2017**  
Further information will be available from the 2017 GPTEC website in January 2017:  
[www.gptec2017.com.au](http://www.gptec2017.com.au)

## Workshops to welcome and support registrars entering a new term

The first week of February saw more than 850 registrars across NSW and ACT enter a GP community placement.

As part of their mandatory education program, registrars entering their first or second GP term attended a GP Synergy education workshop run by their regional education team in Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Newcastle, Sydney, Tamworth, and Wollongong.

Each workshop featured a 'foundation' training day to upskill registrars entering a GP term for the first term in the areas of emergencies in general practice, dermatology basics and managing general practice consultations.

Other topics included a combination of 'core' topics (topics delivered by all regions that align with national priority areas) and 'regional' topics (topics chosen at the discretion of the regional medical education team to reflect local population health needs).



## 2018 AGPT selection changes

Earlier this year it was announced the Department of Health was handing management of selection into the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program to the two colleges of general practice – the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

In 2017 applicants for the 2018 AGPT program will be required to nominate their preferred fellowship college/s and pay a college application fee.

Applicants will participate in an assessment with the relevant college/s. Applicants whose score falls below the college's cut-off score will not progress to the second stage of selection. For RACGP applicants, the final stage of assessment are interviews with a Regional Training Organisation (RTO). For ACRRM, the final stage of assessment are interviews with the ACRRM selection team and the RTO.

For further information about the selection process visit:

- [GP Synergy website](#)
- [ACRRM website](#)
- [RACGP website](#)
- [AGPT website – Changes to selection FAQs](#)



## ReCEnT program expands

The ReCEnT program is a flagship general practice (GP) education and training project. It 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 advice they provide
- how registrars' practice changes during their training.

Funded by the Department of Health, the project began as a pilot in 2009 by the former regional training provider General Practice Training – Valley to Coast, and has quickly grown to become a large collaborative venture with other Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) across Australia.

In 2017, the pool of ReCEnT participants will expand to include registrars in their first, second or third GP training terms in the following GP Synergy's subregions with the remaining GP Synergy subregions will be joining the program in 2018.

- 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)

For further information about ReCEnT please visit our [website](#)

## 2017 supervisor professional development well underway

The 2017 GP Synergy supervisor professional development program is well underway, with a number of webinars already held, with many more to come.

Registrations are in full-swing for regional supervisor face-to-face workshops across our subregions, with an exciting and robust program planned for the year.

Supervisors are being well-supported to participate in GP Synergy professional development activities, which includes a full-day event being hosted after the GPTE Conference in August.

## GP Synergy Medical student scholarships

2016 was an exciting year for the GP Synergy Medical Student Scholarship program, with all eight NSW and ACT medical schools coming on board.

Under the scholarship, students are provided with a \$2000 stipend in return for participating in a general practice research project under the supervision of their academic GP unit, and undertaking a two-day rural or Aboriginal Medical Service GP placement.

We congratulate the 2016 scholarship students who have now completed the scholarship program. Students worked on a diverse range of research projects. An example includes:

- Palliative care training
- Dosage and efficacy of acupuncture
- GP comfort level with suicidal patients
- Watchful waiting otitis media in Aboriginal patients
- GP registrars attitude toward mental health presentations
- GP views on the handbook of non-drug interventions

We are delighted to welcome the new 2017 scholarship recipients, many of whom attended the recent GP Synergy Introduction to Research & Networking Workshop providing a grounding to their exciting year in general practice research ahead.

## 2017 scholarship recipients

- WSU - Vinay Murthy
- WSU - Anusha Kannekanti
- USYD - Maria Yui Kwan Chow
- USYD - Reece Adler
- UND - Emily Hartman
- UND - Elysse McIlwain
- UNE - Cecilia Ostman
- UNE - Daniel Jewiss
- ANU - Sarah Forsyth
- ANU - Xavier Fitzgerald
- UNSW - Jean Littlewood
- UNSW - Abeer Khan
- UoN - Jasmine De Giovanni
- UoN - Wriwu Martin
- UoW - Anna Wilson

We look forward to following their scholarship journey and thank our university partners for their ongoing commitment to the program.