



Training Update



Update from Regional Head of Education, Dr Catherine Casey

This year has been challenging and exciting for GP Synergy. The Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney (NWNS) medical education team has built on the foundations laid in 2016. Our subregion has one of the largest cohorts of registrars in GP Synergy.

So much of GP training relies on the supervisors and practices in which our registrars work and learn. I would like to extend my appreciation to all our supervisors, practice managers and practice staff. As an apprenticeship-style training program, registrars undertake the majority of their learning within the practice environment, and gain valuable experience and inspiration from their supervisors.

The medical education team within our region is a real strength. We have a good mix of senior and junior educators, as well as former WentWest educators, new medical educators, recently fellowed GPs and experienced GP supervisors. In addition, it has been exciting to welcome our first Aboriginal medical educator to the team. The team are motivated to provide educational excellence and good support for our supervisors and registrars, and it has been a real pleasure working with them since I moved into the role of regional head of education in November last year.

It has been wonderful to welcome Dr Sarah Gani to our medical education team this year, as director of supervisor education. Many of you would know Dr Sarah Gani, an experienced supervisor, clinical teaching visitor and RACGP examiner. We hope this role will further enhance the support GP Synergy offers our new supervisors and any supervisors wanting to improve their teaching and supervision skills.

Throughout the year we have held supervisor professional development workshops at multiple locations over the NWNS subregion. These workshops are a wonderful opportunity to connect with supervisors, and for supervisors to connect with one another and gain new skills in supervision. I have really appreciated you taking the time out from your busy practices to attend these workshops in ever increasing numbers. Please let us know if there are any topics you would suggest for further supervisor professional development events.

I look forward to continuing to build on the strengths of our region and working with each of you, in training highly skilled medical practitioners, contributing to healthier communities.

On behalf of all the team, we wish you a very merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays.

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

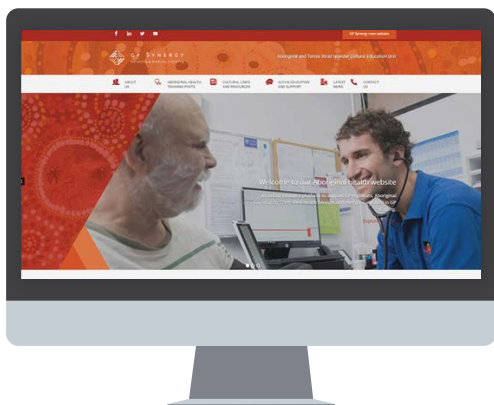
If you are training a GP registrar in a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), please ensure they check the letter from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval.

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 Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney

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 Simone Heiler**

Simone started at Hazelbrook General Practice as a registrar, eventually becoming a partner in the practice two years ago. She finds supervising a win-win as she is constantly learning from the interaction with registrars. Registrars in turn, find themselves with a structured education program delivered with enthusiasm, patience and a high regard for their learning and wellbeing.



➔ Practice Manager of the Year Award – **Ms Julie Dominish**

Julie's extensive experience as a practice manager and in general practice training, makes the experience of any registrar training at Hornsby GP Unit a very positive one. She is a key contributor to registrars learning about the non-medical side of general practice and supports them throughout the GP training process. One registrar observed, "Julie is the type of practice manager who you would like to take with you everywhere you go."



➔ Registrar of the Year Award – **Dr Eliza Davis**

Eliza demonstrates all the attributes of an excellent GP. She has trained in several different areas of Sydney with very different demographics and in each she has worked hard to understand the local communities in which she practices. Eliza has been described by her peers as "dedicated", "a role model for other clinicians" and "a team player who is willing to go the extra mile for her patients and to support her colleagues"



➔ GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award – **Ms Shirleen Chand**

As an events coordinator, Shirleen's skills in organising events from GP registrar workshops to exam preparation workshops, are appreciated. She has provided excellent support to her local medical education team, always communicating effectively and going the extra yard to assist.



Seasonal celebration and awards night Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney

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.

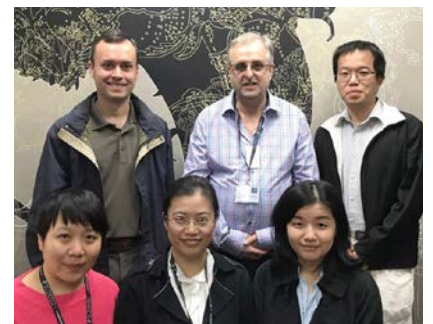
PM Diploma recipients



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.