



Training Update



Update from Regional Head of Education, Dr Tony Saltis (NENW)

In these last weeks of 2017 I would like to reflect on the year and express thanks to everyone involved in registrar training.

After the changes we all had to adjust to in 2016, this year has seen us consolidate our familiarity with the processes involved with training. While there have been a number of staff movements this year, the medical education and administrative staff have done a sterling job supporting practices.

Professional development for supervisors took a big leap forward this year. We ran a number of very well attended workshops in the region that were appreciated for their relevance and usefulness. From my own point of view, it was great to establish connections with supervisors. Dr Simon Morgan and I very much enjoyed the interactions.

Practice managers were well served with a very informative workshop in Sydney in July as well as webinars explaining key processes like practice placement.

Now approaching the end of the term, it might be worth reminding you of the importance of giving your registrar some helpful feedback. In your formative assessment, try to take a few moments to consider what the registrar needs to work on. Try to give constructive, specific suggestions. Both registrars and medical educators find these comments the most helpful of all

Some of you will have registrars about to sit the written exams in February. The most useful help you can give them is to discuss cases – yours, theirs or even made up. The important thing to do is get the registrar to come up with some differential diagnoses, explain the reasons for and against and commit to a plan of management. Try to do this at every opportunity.

Don't forget a number of excellent resources for your teaching. Look under 'Quick Links and Subscriptions' to find guidelines and SupportGPT. The latter can be accessed by all supervisors. Ask for help if you can't find it. Also remember the GPSA teaching plans available online.

An enormous thanks to Lucinda Coble for her enthusiastic and helpful support for practice managers and supervisors. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent work Helen Wiggins and Sue Sladden have done assisting practices with accreditation.

Most importantly. Thanks to all of you supervisors and practice managers. I really appreciate the skill and care you exercise looking after our registrars.

I hope you get some well-deserved time off in the next month or so and can start the new year refreshed and motivated.

Best wishes.

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

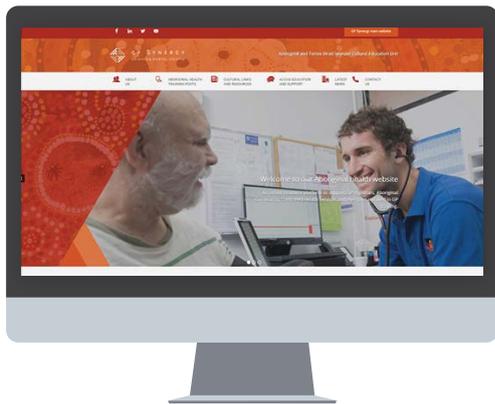
If you are training a GP registrar in a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), please ensure they check the letter from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval.

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 New England/Northwest

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 Lisa Bron**

Currently based at Oxley Health Care in Tamworth, Lisa has been involved in GP supervision for many years. She is well known for assisting registrars who require extra support whether it be international medical graduates or the registrars who participate in her fortnightly practice OSCE sessions at her home for exam practice, support and tuition.



➔ Practice Manager of the Year Award – **Ms Bek Hooley**

As practice manager at Peel Health Care since 2014, Bek has displayed an ability to address and balance the needs of both registrar and supervisors in GP training. She loves getting to know registrars, supporting them through their training and seeing them flourish after all their years of study and exams.



➔ Registrar of the Year Award – **Dr Phyto Kyaw**

Phyto has been training in Moree and now Quirindi, and has made an impact in the practices he has trained with his enthusiastic and comprehensive approach to care of his patients, his training and learning. His diligent approach saw him receive the highest AKT score amongst GP Synergy registrars this term.



➔ GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award – **Dr David Lockart**

Based in Tamworth, David is a medical educator recognised for his significant contribution to GP training in the New England/Northwest training subregion. His colleagues acknowledge his passion for teaching, his calm confidence in exam workshops and the 'on-point' advice he gives to registrars.



Seasonal celebration and awards night New England/Northwest

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.

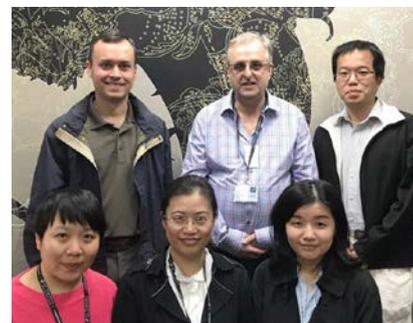
PM Diploma recipients



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.