



Training Update



Update from Regional Head of Education, Dr Geetha Kunjithapatham

It has been another busy but enjoyable year in the Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney subregion.

We are one of the largest training subregions with regards to number of trainees, supervisors and training facilities, and the team go to great lengths to provide a high quality education experience. We have been delighted to welcome some new medical educators this year, complementing our experienced education team.

A highlight was the successful delivery of 18 days of education for registrars in their first and second GP terms, co-delivered with the Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney subregion. We were pleased to be able to run a number of sessions specifically targeted to our footprint such as justice health. The centrally held Fusion Workshop remains very popular amongst the registrar cohort, who enjoy the opportunity to network with registrars across the state and hear from a broad range of speciality areas.

Across the Sydney basin we are increasing access to education for registrars in non-GP terms, to help them prepare for GP term training and feel more integrated with the program. We are also providing additional activities for registrars in their third GP term and above, as well as additional exam preparation support for registrars requiring additional assistance.

I am delighted to report a very strong success rate of the RACGP OSCE exam in 2017. Thank you to the exam working group for their efforts, and to all supervisors who have given up their precious weekends to help registrars prepare and refine their exam techniques at our exam preparation workshops.

Our supervisor professional development program continues to go from strength to strength, with strong attendance and positive feedback. Both our medical educators with a supervisor focus were involved in the professional development program in 2017. Amongst the topics covered was clinical reasoning which is extremely useful and will help supervisors teach registrars in this area. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at these events.

Going forward, we are working on increasing the sessions for the supervisor education development with the help of our medical educators with a supervisor focus.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all supervisors and practice staff who contribute so significantly to the teaching and development of our registrars. Thank you for time, patience and dedication to teaching.

On behalf of all the team, we wish you a very merry Christmas, and look forward to working with you further in 2018.

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

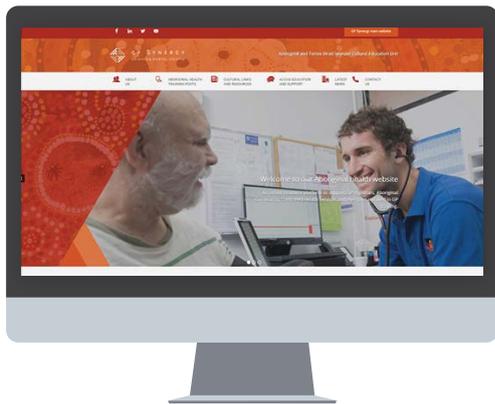
If you are training a GP registrar in a GP term in 2018.1 (Feb-Aug), please ensure they check the letter from Medicare advising them of their provider number approval.

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 Central, Eastern and South Western 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 Timothy Diep**

Based at Redfern Station Medical Centre and Hyde Park Medical Centre, Timothy is a long-standing supervisor, who has been training registrars for more than 10 years. Timothy's willingness to support those registrars who require extra assistance during their training and his dedication, were recurring themes in his Supervisor of the Year nominations.



➔ Practice Manager of the Year Award – **Ms Cheryl Walker**

With over 25 years of experience, Cheryl has spent the last nine years as practice manager at the University of NSW Health Service. She loves her work and the opportunity to work with registrars and provide them with insight into general practice. Registrars appreciate Cheryl for the team environment she fosters; the support they receive in their training and care for their patients, as well as their own wellbeing.



➔ Registrar of the Year Award – **Dr John-Alec Tynan**

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➔ GP Synergy Employee of the Year Award

Ms Jani Mal

Jani has been with GP Synergy since 2010, when she joined the organisation as the Prevocational General Practice Placements Program manager. In 2015 she moved into practice accreditation and is the and is now the accreditation team leader. Jani is described as friendly, helpful, extremely organised and an asset to GP Synergy.



Dr Hadi Mirisae

Hadi joined the GP Synergy team in July 2016 as a business systems analyst. Since this time he enabled significant changes to be made to the functioning of GPRime, and has been applauded for his attention to detail, analytical approach and collaborative style. According to Hadi's nominations he is a pleasure to work with, and always has a smile.



Seasonal celebration and awards night Central, Eastern and South Western 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.

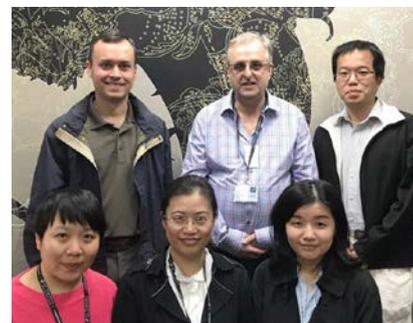
PM Diploma recipients



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.