



Training Update



Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) update

I am writing this article as SLO for Western NSW, my name is Ken Hazelton. I am a GP and shared principal of a group practice in Orange. I've done this SLO role for a succession of regional training providers, and now GP Synergy in our region. As many of you have, I've lived through a lot of interesting GP training history. I hope to explain how we get satisfaction from our SLO roles, and share our wishes for what you could help us do better.

The SLO position exists with several responsibilities.

The 'liaison' in the title refers to helping communication up and down between GP Synergy management and on-the-job supervisors. Although we are included in these training updates, SLOs feel their most effective communication with supervisors happens when we see people face to face.

We try to get to as many supervisor events in our patches as we can to hear directly what issues are bothering people. We love being buttonholed and gently harangued. It gives us a sense that when we speak, we can both convey the extremes of supervisor opinion, as well as the consensus.

Our representation of supervisor opinion in NSW happens as representatives on the Regional Advisory Councils, and the Committee Overseeing Supervisor Education (COSE).

To varying extents from region to region, we get involved in resolving issues between supervisors and their registrars. There are times when a fellow supervisor is the preferred knowledgeable negotiator on behalf of a supervisor, and sometimes being told you are wrong comes easier from a peer!

There is a national network of SLOs that gets together for a full day meeting twice a year. General Practice Supervisor Australia (GPSA) now coordinates these meetings. These are both interesting and useful, with senior Department of Health officials attending to give updates and hear frank and fearless supervisor feedback. I am always impressed by the big differences across Australia in training issues, as well as the common worries we all share.

So what is on our SLO wish list to make the job better and more effective? Communication. Mostly, to have better and more frequent contact and feedback from a broader sweep of supervisors. The kilometres between SLOs do mean our own face to face get togethers are not as often as we'd like, and we have to rely on email and occasional video conferences to compare notes.

Remember the supervisor development day that is coming up on Saturday 16 June in Sydney. The program has been designed by supervisors for supervisors, and there will be opportunity for supervisors to meet their regional support staff and SLOs. It should be well worth giving up a precious Saturday.

And finally, although there are some advantages in having corporate knowledge and history under your belt, renewal and enthusiasm are important too. Next time there is a gap and an opportunity to step up to this representing role as a SLO, give it a thought.

Dr Ken Hazelton, SLO – Western NSW

Applications for the 2019 AGPT program are now open!

Do you know someone interested in becoming a GP? Applications are now open for the 2019 Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program and close at 10.00am AEST on 30 April 2018.

Applications can be made from the [RACGP](#) and/or [ACRRM](#) website.

2018.2 Term placement update

The deadline for practices to update registrar training vacancies for the 2018.2 term has now passed.

Next steps

- **18 April 2018:** GP Synergy is reviewing the available capacity in your subregion and may apply a cap on the number of registrars per practice or per supervisor to ensure equitable distribution across the subregion. On 18 April 2018, you will be advised of the outcomes of this review and any subsequent caps on capacity applied in your subregion. The application of these caps may affect the number of registrars your practice is able to employ.
- **23 April 2018:** Registrars can apply to practices within their assigned grouping.

Reminder

- Registrars who train up to 28 hours = 0.5 in cap
- Registrars who train between 28.1 hours and 38 hours = 1 in cap.
- Registrars who will be in an EAF term will be included in the cap.
- Registrars can spend longer than six months in a training facility if they can meet their subregion training location requirements and college requirements (i.e. RACGP requires registrars train across two practices during their training).
- The method used to select registrars is up to the practice.
- 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 Practices](#)'.

For assistance

Please don't hesitate to contact your local Practice Liaison and Support Coordinator if you require any assistance at any time.



The screenshot shows a detailed guide for practices, including:
- **Step 1: 13 March - 3 April 2017:** Practices to update training vacancies and confirm capacity on GPRime2.
- **Step 2: 17 April 2017:** GP Synergy confirms available capacity.
- **Step 3: 23 April 2017:** Practices start applying to practices.
- **Important:** Registrar applications will be sent via email. Practices should only accept applications from registrars through GPRime2 after 23 April 2017.
- **Further information and useful resources:** Links to GPRime2, RCTI forms, and training records.

Important changes to contract and term placement/Medicare Provider number process

There is an important change in the GP Synergy contract and term placement/Medicare Provider number process:

- Once the practice has made an offer to a registrar and they have accepted, GP Synergy will review and approve the term (no change).
- **Important change:** At this stage, the contract for training between GP Synergy and the practice will be raised. The contract must be accepted by the practice for the relevant term placement paperwork required for provider numbers to be issued.
- Following the contract being accepted, the registrar will be sent the provider number paperwork to complete with a copy of this email sent to the practice (as per the usual process).
- The Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) for teaching allowances and practice subsidies, will be generated closer to the commencement of the term once the placement is secured and agreed.

Any changes to registrar training placement across the term (such as a change from full-time to part-time training, etc), will no longer require a new contract to be signed and once confirmed by both parties; the training records will be updated and if necessary a new RCTI will be raised.

If you have any queries about this process at any time, please contact your Practice Liaison and Support Officer (PLSO).

Meet the MESP

This edition, Dr Richard Griffiths, a Medical Educator with Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) shares his tips on identifying registrar learning needs.

“You can’t eat an elephant all at once – you have to eat it in little bits,” were the words of my old trainer and mentor. He had a point – when registrars start in practice the primary care curriculum can be quite daunting so where to start – how can one plan one’s learning?

Not all registrars are the same and not all registrars will have the same learning needs. There are often generic learning needs that registrars need to cover when starting in practice such as the computer system, local referral pathways and Medicare billings. However, a registrar who has spent 10 years in an obstetrics and gynaecology post will not necessarily need to concentrate on this area once in practice.

Registrars are encouraged to formulate a learning plan for the term and are informed of how to put together a learning plan at GP Synergy induction. In my practice I ask the registrar to complete the self-assessment grid (found in forms, documents and links in GPRme2) to work out their areas of strength and weakness. I then ask the registrar to identify two to three topics they wish to cover and use as a basis for in-practice teaching. The registrar can update their learning plan as new learning needs develop.

It is important for a registrar in their first GP term to be able to handle certain high-risk areas such as the primary care presentation of chest pain, a febrile child, child with a rash or a new presentation of a chronic disease. The Supervision Plan Template (with high risk areas) can be used to assess the registrar’s level of competence in these areas. This is found in the Supervisors Toolkit, which again can be found by searching ‘toolkit’ in GPRime under ‘Forms, Documents and Links’.

In addition, for registrars in their first or second GP term in practice, there are a series of 16 modules in SupportGPT available in GPRime2 (under “Quick links and subscriptions”) that the registrar can work through at a pace of one per week. The one hour in practice teaching each week can be used to go over what the registrar has gained from each module. If you currently don’t have access to SupportGPT, please contact IS_Support@gpsynergy.com.au to arrange access.

So hopefully as you can appreciate, by dividing the curriculum into “bite size chunks” we can make it more palatable!



By Dr Richard Griffiths
Medical Educator with a Supervisor Portfolio

Research project request:

How GP registrars and supervisors use delayed antibiotic prescribing for the treatment of acute respiratory tract infections



Participants: All GP supervisors and registrars

You are invited to take part in an interview as part of a research study into how GP supervisors and registrars use delayed antibiotic prescribing for the treatment of acute respiratory tract infections.

What is the research about?

The aim of this research is to investigate the use of delayed prescribing (when the doctor gives the patient a prescription with advice to not use it unless symptoms worsen or improvement does not occur by a certain time) of antibiotics for respiratory tract infections.

Why am I being asked?

We are inviting all registrars and supervisors from GP Synergy to participate.

We will need participants from a diverse range of practices and experience, so as to get the most variety in our sample.

This study will contribute to our understanding of this topic, and to creating better educational approaches for GP registrars.

What do I have to do?

Participants will be asked to complete a telephone interview regarding their experience and perceptions of delayed prescribing of antibiotics. This will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

More information?

If you would like to be involved or would like further information, please contact Research Assistant Katie Mulquiney from the GP Synergy Research and Evaluation Unit at Katie_Mulquiney@gpsynergy.com.au or on 8321 4242 for a copy of the Participant Information Sheet or ask any questions.

Key dates

18 Apr: Practices notified of training placement caps.

23 Apr: Registrars can start applying to practices in their allocated grouping

21 May: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP*

22 Jun: Deadline for Medicare provider number paperwork for 2018.2 term

16 July: Competency Assessment due for registrars in first, second and third GP terms and Extended Skills in GP *

5 Aug: End date 2018.1

6 Aug: Start date 2018.2

3 Feb: End date term 2018.2

*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.

 Don't forget! A list of key dates can be found on the [GP Synergy website](#).



Changes to webinar supervisor attendance payments

The 2018 GP Synergy supervisor professional development program is in full swing with a number of regional workshops as well as webinars coming up. Please see a list of events on the supervisor calendar – available on our [website](#) as well as attached.

There has been a change in payments for supervisors attending webinars. Webinars are generally one hour in duration and supervisors are paid \$140.34/hour to attend. Supervisors who attend less than 30mins of the webinar will now not be paid for their attendance.

Please don't hesitate to contact Director of Supervisor Education, [Dr Sarah Gani](#), if you have any queries regarding this change or the supervisor professional development program more generally.

New Professionalism Policy

There is a new GP Synergy '[Professionalism Policy](#)'.

This policy applies to all GP Synergy registrars, supervisors, practice staff of GP Synergy accredited training facilities, clinical teaching visitors, educators and facilitators

To access the policy:

1. login to [GPRime2](#)
2. go to 'Forms, Documents and Links'
3. search 'Professionalism'

Stay up to date – join us on Facebook

Stay abreast of the latest GP Synergy happenings by liking our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gpsynergy/>



Enjoying the sun and the surf: Meet GP Registrar, Dr Paul Barnett and his GP Supervisor, Dr Gudrun (Gundi) Muller-Grotjan



Dr Paul Barnett is training on the Far South Coast of NSW and relishes being able to go for a surf before and after work, his supervisor Dr Gudrun (Gundi) Muller-Grotjan has lived all over the world but has fallen in love with the small town of Narooma.

Training in general practices in Narooma and Bermagui, Dr Paul Barnett is enjoying the beach and surf, as well as his work as a GP.

Now in his third term of training his long-term aim is to be a country GP.

"I had thought about working in a hospital setting but general practice provides continuity of care to patients, a wide range of presentations as well as flexibility.

"Working as a GP registrar enables me to live in a beautiful place like Narooma.

"Narooma is not too isolated but is far enough away to be out of the rat-race, I can walk to work, and I never have to wait at traffic lights.

"I'm thoroughly enjoying my training, the community is friendly and welcoming, it's a beautiful part of NSW and there are also plenty of fun things to do," he said.

Lifestyle was also a factor in Dr Muller-Grotjan choosing to be a rural GP, and as a GP supervisor she appreciates the importance to small communities of training registrars.

"Registrars bring new life and up-to-date knowledge – all our registrars are funny, intelligent, interesting people and have become valued members of our community.

"Supervising forces me to stay on top of evidence-based medicine and I constantly learn new perspectives from my registrars.

"In addition to factual knowledge I try to teach my registrars the essence of rural general practice which is making a difference in people's lives.

"When one of my complex patients recently asked which surgery to go to when he moved away from the area I suggested he look for a surgery that teaches registrars and students – I think that is the best guarantee of getting best quality care!" she said.

External activities of interest

- GPSA - Teaching dementia care - a structured approach for your registrar | 17 April | Webinar | [More information](#)
- Creative Careers in Medicine Symposium| 5 May | Sydney | [More information](#)
- STEMI ACLS Program | 19 May | Sydney | [More information](#)
- Medcast and NB Medical | 19 May | Sydney | [More information](#)
- The University of Newcastle (UON) - Advanced Training In Suicide Prevention | 19 May | Scone | [More information](#)

For further information please see the [External Education Activity Noticeboard](#).

Creative Careers in Medicine Symposium

GP Synergy Deputy Regional Head of Education – Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney, Dr Marisa Magiros, will be speaking about a career in medical education at the inaugural Creative Careers in Medicine Symposium in Sydney on 5 May 2018.

The aim of the conference is to highlight the many fields of medicine that doctors can work in, complementing direct patient care, to create longevity in medicine.

If you are interested in finding out more head to: <https://www.creativecareersinmedicine.com/>

Supervisor discount for new Medcast workshop series

Medcast is launching a new Australian workshop series in conjunction with NB Medical from the UK.

[Hot Topics GP Update](#) is a one day, evidence-based, lecture series that includes an update on the latest evidence in general practice, delivered by GPs for GPs and GP registrars. Participants receive a 150-page workbook of clinical topic summaries.

To get a significant discount on the ticket price use promo code: 'GPSSup' - \$275.

Find out more at: <https://medcast.com.au/education/gp-update-hot-topics>

Need some help?

Practice Liaison and Support Officers (PLSO)

- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
Alyce Piggott - 02 8321 4060
alyce_piggott@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

2018 GP Synergy Supervisor Professional Development Program

Regional workshops*

Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact
Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney				
Liverpool	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Fri 9 Mar	9.00am-12.00pm	Nicole Tooma
Cronulla	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Thurs 10 May	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
Chippendale	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Wed 23 May	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
Chippendale	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Wed 17 Oct	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
Liverpool	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Fri 2 Nov	9.00am-12.00pm	
Campbelltown	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Wed 12 Dec	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
Hunter, New England and Central Coast				
Newcastle	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Wed 4 Apr	9.00am-1.00pm	Jacky Porter
Tamworth	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Sat 7 Apr	9.00am-1.00pm	Brianna Petit
Newcastle	Topic 1: It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback Topic 2: TBA	Wed 26 Sept	9.00am-5.00pm	Jacky Porter
Armidale	Topic 1: It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback Topic 2: TBA	Sat 3 Nov	9.00am-5.00pm	Brianna Petit
Murrumbidgee and ACT				
Canberra	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Wed 14 Mar	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	Liline Hewett
Wagga Wagga	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Thurs 3 May	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	Claire Doyle
Griffith	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Wed 31 Oct	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	Claire Doyle
Canberra	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Thurs 29 Nov	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	Liline Hewett
Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney				
Penrith	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Fri 23 Mar	9.00am-12.00pm	Nicole Tooma
North Sydney	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Wed 9 May	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
Bella Vista	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Tues 3 Jul	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
Hazelbrook	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Wed 26 Sept	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
North Sydney	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Wed 31 Oct	9.00am-12.00pm	
Parramatta	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Tues 6 Nov	6.00pm for 7.00pm-9.00pm	
North Coast				
Port Macquarie	Day 1: Making the most of opportunistic teaching / It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback Day 2: Clinical Teacher Visitor (CTV) training	Sat-Sun 24-25 Mar	Day 1: 10.00am-5.00pm Day 2: 9.00am-1.00pm	Fiona Anderson
Coffs Harbour	Day 1: Clinical Teacher Training Workshop (by invitation only) Day 2: Making the most of opportunistic teaching / It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Sat-Sun 22-23 Sept	Day 1: 9.00am-5.00pm Day 2: 10.00am-5.00pm	
Ballina	Day 1: Making the most of opportunistic teaching / It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback Day 2: Clinical Teacher Visitor (CTV) training	Sat-Sun 27-28 Oct	Day 1: 10.00am-5.00pm Day 2: 9.00am-1.00pm	
South Eastern NSW				
Wollongong	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Wed 4 Apr	9.30am-1.00pm	Robyn Fanning
Bega	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Sat 7 Apr	9.30am-1.00pm	
Goulburn	Making the most of opportunistic teaching	Wed 23 May	6.00pm for 6.30pm-8.30pm	
Wollongong	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Wed 31 Oct	9.30am-1.00pm	
Bega	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Sat 3 Nov	9.30am-1.00pm	



Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact
Western NSW				
Dubbo	Topic 1: Making the most of opportunistic teaching/CTV Topic 2: Preparing your registrar for the KFP exam	Sat 24 Mar	9.00am-4.00pm	Angie Honeyman
Bathurst	Topic 1: Making the most of opportunistic teaching Topic 2: It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Sat 7 Apr	9.00am-4.00pm	
Orange	Topic 1: Making the most of opportunistic teaching Topic 2: It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Sat 1 Sept	9.00am-4.00pm	
Broken Hill	It ain't easy! Assessment and feedback	Mon 22 Oct	6.30pm-9.00pm	

Webinars – all supervisors welcome*

Date	Time	Topic	Contact
Mon 29 Jan	7.30pm-8.30pm	Ready, set, go - What's new for 2018	Angie Honeyman
Thurs 8 Feb	1.00pm-2.00pm	Ready, set, go - What's new for 2018	
Tues 13 Feb	7.30pm-8.30pm	ACRRM training - How to support your registrar to prepare for exams	
Thurs 1 Mar	7.30pm-8.30pm	Using the ReCenT project for registrars as a teaching tool	
Tues 13 Mar	7.30pm-8.30pm	RACGP training - How to support your registrar to prepare for exams	
Wed 11 Apr	7.30pm-8.30pm	In case you missed it - Planning for learning	
Tues 1 May	7.30pm-8.30pm	Equipping your registrar to Close the Gap	
Wed 30 May	7.30pm-8.30pm	SupportGPT - In-practice teaching support	
Wed 27 June	7.30pm-8.30pm	Polypharmacy and safe deprescribing in the elderly	
Tues 24 July	7.30pm-8.30pm	Anxiety and insomnia – tips on teaching management strategies without prescribing benzodiazepines	
Wed 1 Aug	7.30pm-8.30pm	Ready, set, go - Welcome to the new term	
Thurs 16 Aug	7.30pm-8.30pm	ACRRM training - How to support your registrar to prepare for exams	
Tues 28 Aug	7.30pm-8.30pm	ReCenT and the supervisor - registrar relationship	
Wed 19 Sept	7.30pm-8.30pm	RACGP training - How to support your registrar to prepare for exams	
Thurs 18 Oct	7.30pm-8.30pm	Medico-legal issues in supervision	
Tues 30 Oct	7.30pm-8.30pm	In case you missed it - Facilitating clinical reasoning	
Tues 20 Nov	7.30pm-8.30pm	TBA	
Tues 4 Dec	7.30pm-8.30pm	Teaching occupational health	

NSW/ACT wide activities

Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact
Sydney International Conference Centre, Darling Harbour	Supervisor Professional Development Day* Attendees: Supervisors from all subregions welcome to attend. Note – limited places are available.	Sat 16 June	All day	Jacky Porter
Adelaide Convention Centre	General Practice Training and Education Conference Attendees: Supervisors from all subregions welcome to attend. Note – limited places are available. Stipends do not apply to this activity.	Tues-Thurs 11-13 Sept	8.30am-5.00pm daily	Jacky Porter

Clinical Teacher Training Workshop – applicable to new supervisors by invitation only*

Location	Topic	Date	Time	Contact
Sydney	Clinical teacher training	Fri 13 Apr	8.30am-4.30pm	Ronja Bangel
Newcastle	Clinical teacher training	Fri 25 May	8.30am-4.30pm	
Sydney	Clinical teacher training	Sat 21 July	8.30am-4.30pm	
Coffs Harbour	Clinical teacher training	Sat 22 Sept	9.00am-5.00pm	
Sydney	Clinical teacher training	Fri 9 Nov	8.30am-4.30pm	

* Important note:

- Activities marked with an * attract a stipend.
- Stipends for attendance at nominated GP Synergy workshops and webinars, and reimbursement for travel and accommodation (as per GP Synergy guidelines) will only be paid upon confirmation of attendance and completion of a post-workshop evaluation within the specified timeframe.
- Please always check the invitation sent closer to the activity for further information.