



Training Update



Supervisor Liaison Officer (SLO) update

I am writing this article as SLO for Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney subregion. My name is Aline Smith.

I am shared principal of a group practice in Summer Hill in inner west Sydney. I am new to the role of SLO, having come on board with GP Synergy in October 2017. Although I am new to this role, I have been connected with GP training as a GP supervisor since the 1990s.

In the last training update one of the most experienced of the SLOs, Dr Ken Hazelton, Western NSW SLO, wrote about the responsibilities of the SLO position and how we hope to assist with communication between GP Synergy management and supervisors at the coal-face. Having now met with the other SLOs several times during the year by teleconference and face-to-face events, I am positive of the enthusiasm that we all carry in this regard for our respective regions. We are all united in the vision to see excellent GP training of registrars provided and supported by GP Synergy. Supervisors are the heart of any GP training

organisation. The vocational training of registrars is not going to be sustainable or possible without the support of GP supervisors, and their practices, who maintain and deliver quality GP training across the board.

As a GP supervisor, how can the SLOs support you to do your mentoring role better? How can GP Synergy assist you to ensure that you are able to provide that quality supervision for your registrar to flourish as an independent GP, given all competing responsibilities and requirements that have to be met? Do you have feedback regarding these requirements? Are you finding some things in-practice easier to do with your registrar than others? Can you contribute to GP supervisor knowledge? In addition, don't forget, you can contact your SLO to help resolve issues between you and your registrar; we are happy to provide you with support in this area.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at the Supervisor Development Day on 16 June 2018 in Sydney. Personally I felt it was worth taking time out to go to something that has been especially put together by supervisors for supervisors. There were sessions I attended that were inspirational, educational, reflective and challenging me to do better in my role as supervisor. Of course, the best part of the program was getting the opportunity to meet up with other supervisors and to talk to them about their work, their registrars and practices. So, let's meet up again real soon at another GP Synergy event!

Dr Aline Smith | SLO Central Eastern South Western Region - aline.smith@gpsynergy.com.au

2018 supervisor and practice manager feedback survey now open!

Your feedback is important to us and helps us understand your needs as a supervisor and training facility.

Please check your email for the 2018 feedback survey link. The survey closes 22 July 2018.

Please don't hesitate to contact Marketing and Communications Manager, Kate Froggatt on kate_froggatt@gpsynergy.com.au or 1300 477 963 if you have any queries.

Invitation to participate: New quality framework working group

GP Synergy has recently developed a new quality framework for training facilities and supervisors.

We are seeking supervisors interested in providing feedback to help us operationalise the framework.

To express your interest in participating, please email Sonia Cattley on Sonia_cattley@gpsynergy.com.au by 20 July 2018.

Medical Educator with a Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) update: A juggling act - personal reflections on the recent Supervisor Development Day in Sydney

I am always talking to my registrars about time management and with a busy morning booked in at the practice prior to my afternoon flight to Sydney I was determined not to run late. Luckily, there was nothing too complex during the morning and I was able to leave the practice an hour after seeing my last patient. I made my flight in plenty of time.

The next day was the Supervisor Development Day at the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour and it was a glorious setting looking out on the crystal-clear water in the sparkling sunshine.

Dr Sam Heard was our plenary speaker from the Northern Territory. He entertained us with stories of his life journey as a GP supervisor and the inherent value of using clinical judgement.

Next up was Dr Tony Saltis's session on how to effectively assess your registrar. He presented the concept of a longitudinal programmatic assessment of the registrar with a big picture approach of how we are shaping our young GPs for the future. The interactive small group discussion was invaluable, with diverse opinions about the difficulties and challenges of assessment. I listened to many supervisors from different settings reflect on how they approach assessment with their own registrars and appreciated the wealth of varied supervisor experiences.

Lunchtime allowed me catch up time with some old friends and the chance to meet some newer and younger supervisors too. I was struck by stories of the extraordinary journeys supervisors share with their registrars and the pivotal role a supervisor can play in a registrar's life.

I reflected back on the theme of juggling competing needs when I was at the panel session on fostering a culture of teaching and learning in your practice. Dr Simon Wilcock facilitated the panel and I was comforted when he normalised this dilemma as something many GPs do on a daily basis - prioritising never ending patient demands which often seem so important and balancing this with education work with our registrars and personal and family commitments.

The final session I spent with Drs Marissa Magiros and Eszter Fenessy on simulation in GP training - involving simulating potentially stressful scenarios that can occur in practice and role-playing these with your registrar. Our small group developed a scenario of a registrar that had mistakenly given a live vaccine to a pregnant woman and how as a supervisor we might manage this difficult situation with the registrar and patient when suddenly we are confronted with it. We role played in front of the whole group, providing some comedy and laughs. I felt inspired to add this style of teaching to my repertoire.

Drinks and canapés at the end of the day allowed people to unwind after a big day and finally relax. I headed back to the hotel, continuing to reflect on how as supervisors we are such a diverse group, from city to country, of all ages and cultural backgrounds, with lots of things to juggle on a daily basis. I flew home the next day and after the leisurely drive back from the airport along the coastline and a brisk swim I knew that I had re-grounded myself and was ready for the week ahead.

Dr Rob Trigger

Medical Educator with Supervisor Portfolio (MESP) – North Coast



Change to GP Synergy flight subsidies

For events held from 1 July 2018 in instances where GP Synergy subsidises air travel, GP Synergy will only reimburse flights that meet the following requirements:

The cheapest, non-flexible flight fares must be booked at least 11 days prior to date of travel.

Any flight changes are at the supervisor's expense.

Special consideration for reimbursement due to extenuating circumstances outside of these requirements can be made using the *Special Request Form*.

For further information please see the [Supervisor Professional Development Requirements Guide](#) for more information.

Reminder to check registrar Medicare provider numbers before the new term starts



Once your registrar/s has received their Medicare provider number, please check their letter to confirm they have 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, until a provider number with full billing rights is received.

Please contact your local Practice Liaison and Support Officer (PLSO) if you have any queries.

2018 GP Supervisor Development Day

You've read about it in words, now see it in pictures! With more than 280 attendees and 12 sessions, it was a roaring success!



And congratulations goes to...

➔ RACGP award winners

GP Synergy extends our sincere congratulations to the NSW and ACT RACGP award winners:

- General Practitioner of the Year 2018 – Associate Professor Katrina Anderson (ACT)
- General Practice Supervisor of the Year 2018 – Dr Penny Browne (NSW)
- General Practice of the Year 2018 – Glebe Family Medical Practice (NSW)
- General Practice Registrar of the Year 2018 – Dr Shashenka Withanage (NSW)

➔ Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation CEO, Darryl Wright

Congratulations to Darryl Wright chief executive of [Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation Airds](#) on being awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his dedication and work for his community.

Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation Airds is one of the Aboriginal community controlled health services accredited for GP training. [Read more](#)

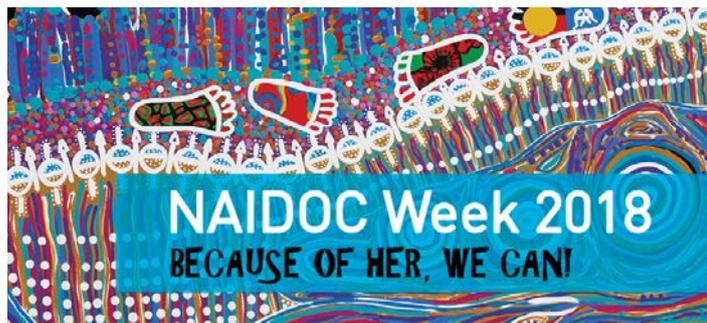
➔ Retiring GP Supervisor, Dr Colin Rose

Best of luck to retiring GP supervisor Dr Colin Rose - 47 years after moving from the city to Taree, Dr Rose reflects on life as a rural GP - he has some wonderful stories of being a GP and part of the community. [Read more.](#)

➔ Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Val Dahlstrom

Congratulations to our Aboriginal Liaison Officer Val Dahlstrom who has been awarded Aboriginal Female Elder of the Year in the Moree Reconciliation Gala Awards for her unmatched service to the community. What a well deserved honour! [Read more.](#)

NAIDOC Week: 8-15 July 2018



It's NAIDOC Week during 8-15 July and there are a number of events being hosted across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To find a local event near you visit: <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>

Meet procedural GP Registrar – Dr Lauren-Marie Vernon



Dr Lauren-Marie Vernon has moved to New England/ Northwest for her first term of GP training and to use her anaesthesia skills.

Why did you decide to become a GP?

I decided to become a GP because I want to be a good all-round doctor. I want to know how to manage a wide variety of problems, and you lose that if you only specialise in one thing.

I chose to become a rural generalist, because I think you get the best of both worlds; a great and flexible lifestyle and a career that is challenging, stimulating and rewarding.

What are you enjoying about GP community-based training?

I'm excited about providing continuity of care; getting to know patients and seeing them through from the first presentation of a problem, to diagnosis, treatment and follow up. You don't get to do that in most other areas of medicine.

I'm also enjoying expanding my knowledge of managing common, everyday problems that people face.

What do you like about training in Moree?

I'm looking forward to getting the most out of training that I can, so far, it's both a lot more challenging but also more rewarding than I expected!

The opportunity I have in Moree is unique, in that I can provide anaesthetics, cover the ED, manage inpatients in the hospital, see nursing home patients as well as spend time in GP land.

It seems like the perfect training ground for becoming the good all-round doctor that I want to be.

Also, the artesian hot water is pretty cool!

Key dates

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

5 Aug: End date term 1 2018.

For a list of important training dates, see the [key dates calendar](#) on our website.



External activities of interest

- ACRRM Advanced Life Support Training | 14 July | Newcastle | [More information](#)
- Western NSW PHN - Embedding Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety in Western NSW General Practice and Primary Health | 15 August 2018 | Bathurst | [More information](#)
- Western NSW PHN - Embedding Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety in Western NSW General Practice and Primary Health | 16 August 2018 | Orange | [More information](#)
- ACRRM - Ultrasound Workshop | 18 August | Mascot | [More information](#)
- ACRRM Rural Emergency Skills Training | 23-25 August | Wagga Wagga | [More information](#)
- Advanced Paediatric Life Support - APLS Course | 1-2 September | Canberra | [More information](#)
- ACRRM Rural Emergency Skills Training | 15-16 September | Mascot | [More information](#)

2018.2 GPT1/2 and PRRT1/2 registrar calendar out now!

The 2018.2 GP Synergy mandatory education program calendar for registrars entering their first or second GP term in 2018.2 is now available.

To access, visit [GP Synergy website](#)

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:**
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
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- **South Eastern NSW:**
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Supervisor Liaison Officers (SLO)

- **Western NSW:**
Dr Ken Hazelton -
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- **South Eastern NSW:**
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- **North Coast:**
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- **Nepean, Western and Northern Sydney:**
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- **Murrumbidgee and ACT:**
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- **Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney:**
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- **Hunter New England Central Coast**
Dr Ian Charlton - ian_charlton@gpsynergy.com.au

Rural Support Officers (RSO)

- **New England/Northwest | North Coast | Hunter Manning & Central Coast:**
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