



# General Practice Clinical Unit GP Newsletter

May 2022

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your practice team for providing the excellent learning environments for UQ medical students. UQ medical students consistently rate their experience in general practice very highly. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, especially given the continued strain experienced as the COVID-19 pandemic rolls on and with influenza now also beginning to take its toll.

General practice is well placed to address the health care challenges facing us including an aging population with increasing chronic and complex conditions and polypharmacy, increasing health disparities, and increasing health care costs. It is our job as educators to inspire students to understand the challenges and to want to be part of the solution. Currently only about 13% of UQ graduates are choosing to go into general practice. We need to increase this proportion threefold. It remains to be seen whether the upcoming election will result in any structural reforms that support a well-functioning and sustainable primary health care system.

Here at UQ the new medical program MD 2023 is designed with increased general practice footprint and early exposure to general practice. We recently had the Australian Medical Council accreditation visit. The final assessment is pending but preliminary findings are encouraging. To meet the MD 2023 we are working to recruit general practices to provide longitudinal student placements for Year 2 students, and 8-week intensive placements for Year 4 students. Please promote clinical teaching opportunities to your colleagues.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Katharine Wallis**

Mayne Professor and Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice  
Head, General Practice Clinical Unit

## Announcements

- Katharine Wallis and Maria Donald are thrilled to announce a successful MRFF Clinician Researcher grant (\$1.92M) for the RELEASE (REdressing Long-tErM Antidepressant uSE in general practice) project. This three-year project is for a cluster randomised controlled effectiveness-implementation hybrid type-1 trial in general practice. We will be in touch in due course to recruit practices to take part in the project.
- We welcome A/Prof Tony Dicker as Convenor and Dr David King as Deputy Convenor of the MMed (Skin Cancer) program. This post-graduate program educates primary care doctors in the diagnosis and management of skin cancers. The focus is on what can be achieved in the primary care setting. Courses include a Master of Medicine [16 Units], a Graduate Certificate [8 units] and this semester has seen the first release of a Shorter Form Credential [1 Unit] called Fundamentals of Skin Cancer Diagnostics. This shorter for credential is also suitable for medical students of doctors interested in 'sticking their toe in the water'. For further information, please contact A/Prof Tony Dicker on [a.dicker@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.dicker@uq.edu.au) or on 0411 650 323.

## People

### Staff update

Dr Cherri Ryan has re-joined the Practice Liaison Team with Drs Rory Melville and Alison Green and will be contacting practices to arrange a visit.

The Year 3 GP Coordinators are Dr Hayley Thomas and Associate Professor Nancy Sturman.

## Teaching

### Feedback from your students\_

Here is some feedback from Year 3 GP Blocks 1 and 2 students about 'The things I liked most about my clinical attachment at this practice':

*Everyone I had contact with from admin to nurse and doctors was welcoming and friendly, the GP was accommodating and supportive, the nurse was inclusive when there were practical jobs, I also appreciated having a table/space to set up at during my sessions for when patients wanted to see the GP alone.*

*Staff-staff and student-staff dynamics were excellent and allowed this to be a safe and comfortable place to learn. I enjoyed being rotated between multiple GPs as this allowed me to increase the casemix which made learning very interesting.*

*I really enjoyed learning about both the medical and operational aspects of a General Practice. Everyone at the practice was super friendly and welcoming, so I felt comfortable in a new learning environment. I was able to see a variety of presentations, and Dr X always ensured to explain the background of each patient and highlight any relevant points. He was always open to answering any questions that I had. I really enjoyed seeing the way that he interacts with his patients, and I'm definitely taking a lot away from the rotation. Dr X was a great advocate for General Practice, who taught me both the positive and realistic ends of the profession which I really appreciated.*

### Practice Liaison update

As many of you may be aware, UQ is in the process of rewriting the curriculum, which will commence in 2023. This is extremely exciting, especially from the GP perspective as there will be a much bigger exposure to General Practice for our medical students.

The year will be divided into the two semesters, with all year 2 students undergoing a 1 day (2 session) longitudinal placement for 16 weeks in semester 2 (1<sup>st</sup> placement starting 2024). The year 4 students will undergo an 8-week full time placement in semester 1 (1<sup>st</sup> placement starting in 2027).

We are actively recruiting new practices to take students. Thank you to those who have signed up in recent months. If you are aware of any practices who may be interested, please feel free to pass on our contact details or ask them to contact [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au).

## GPCU Teaching Resources

The [UQ General Practice website](#) has lots of resources for teaching. Under Teaching Resources, you will find:

- The current handbooks for Year 3 GP, Year 3 Medicine in Society and Year 2 Urban LInCC,
- Information about Year 1 Observerships and Year 4 electives,
- The GP2U videos where some of our teaching GPs provide tips and insights into how they teach,
- Teaching webinar recordings,
- Multiple articles about teaching

Please contact us [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au) if you need help finding a useful teaching reference.

## 2022 general practice placement dates

3 <sup>rd</sup> Year GP Block	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Urban LInCC
<b>Block 1:</b> 17 January – 25 February	<b>Semester 1:</b> 14 February – 27 May
<b>Block 2:</b> 28 February – 8 April	<b>Semester 2:</b> 11 July – 21 October
<b>Block 3:</b> 18 April – 27 May	
<b>Block 4:</b> 27 June – 5 August	
<b>Block 5:</b> 8 August – 16 September	
<b>Block 6:</b> 26 September – 4 November	

## Research

### UQGP Research

This practice-based research network enables GPs, practices and university researchers to work together to develop practice-based solutions to practice-based problems. While most health care is delivered in primary care, most research happens elsewhere. Together we can work to build the evidence-base for a high-quality primary health care system.

### Research article focus

The socioemotional challenges and consequences for caregivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with otitis media: a qualitative study.

Living with ear disease can have extensive impacts on physical, emotional and social wellbeing. This study explored otitis media (OM) and its management from the perspective of caregivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Caregivers described OM as having profound impacts on their child's physical, developmental, and emotional well-being, with long waits for specialist treatment contributing to extra strain on families. Children's well-being suffered when OM was mistaken for poor behaviour and children were punished, with caregivers subsequently experiencing strong feelings of guilt. Concerns were conveyed about the social implications of having a sick child and caregivers spoke of fearing judgement from health professionals, or intervention by child safety.

Success in navigating the diagnosis and treatment of OM can be enhanced through respectful, collaborative and informative healthcare. A holistic understanding of the way in which OM impacts multiple facets of health and well-being, as well as recognition of challenges in accessing proper care and treatment, will aid families managing OM and its sequelae.

Campbell, L, Reath, J, Hu, W, et al. The socioemotional challenges and consequences for caregivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with otitis media: A qualitative study. *Health Expect.* 2022; 1- 10. [doi:10.1111/hex.13476](https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13476)

## Recent articles

Jackson, C.L. **Living with COVID-19 in 2022: the impact of the pandemic on Australian general practice.** *Med J Aust* 2022. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51512>

Sturman N, Williams R, Wyder M, Lynch J. **Heard, known, and safe in general practice? An interview study with patients with severe and persistent mental illness.** *BJGP Open* 22 March 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/BJGPO.2021.0201>

If you would like to receive a copy of any of these articles, please contact us at [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au).

## Events

### GPCU Research seminars

GPCU research seminars are held fortnightly on Wednesdays from 12 midday to 1pm. They cover a range of topics relating to research and can be accessed by Zoom. If you are interested in being on the mailing list for these seminars, please contact [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au).

Currently planned seminars:

25 May - Katharine Wallis & Maria Donald - *REdressing Long-tErm Antidepressant uSE (RELEASE): A cluster RCT in general practice*

22 June - Jenny Doust - *Disease definitions in women's health: why there is an ongoing problem*

6 July - Nancy Sturman - *Reflections on the PhD journey and education research*

20 July - Claire Jackson - *TBC*

3 August - Michelle Sheldrake & Erin Waters - *Mind the Gaps: preparedness of new general practitioner fellows for independent practice*

### GP teacher peer learning

- **The GP Teacher Discussion Group**, for registrars, recently fellowed GPs and GPs new to teaching, meets monthly via zoom to discuss all aspects of teaching in General Practice. For further information please contact Dr Margaret Henderson [m.henderson5@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.henderson5@uq.edu.au).
- **Vulnerability in Medicine (ViM) for GP Teachers**



## VIM for GP Teachers

As part of the program, you will consider thought provoking questions, challenging teaching scenarios and explore the medical humanities. You will also be invited to spend time during the six weeks engaging in an activity of your choice for your own health and wellbeing.

The program is based on the award-winning *Vulnerability in Medicine* program offered to medical students. It will be interesting and fun, is an accredited RACGP activity (40 points) and is free.

**When:** Wednesday nights from 10 August – 14 September.

**Time:** 7-8.30pm via zoom

If you would like to join us, please express your interest [here](#)

If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact:

Dr Michaela Kelly  
GP Lead, Medicine in Society  
email – [m.kelly4@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.kelly4@uq.edu.au)



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and resources

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