



UQ General Practice Newsletter

Mayne Academy of General Practice & General Practice Clinical Unit

Spring November 2024

As we move towards the end of 2024, in our final newsletter for the year it is time to reflect and to celebrate where we can. For UQ General Practice, with the help of you, our partner practices, we celebrate the successful introduction of the new longitudinal placement in general practice for all UQ Year 2 medical students. With your support, we managed to place more than 400 Year 2 students into general practices, on top of the pre-existing Year 3 / Year 4 student placements. Feedback from the Year 2 students has been overwhelmingly positive – for many, their time in general practice has been the highlight of their training to date. A big thank you to all the practices, GPs, practice managers, practice nurses and others who have been involved in this initiative and supporting our students. Together, we can continue to train the next generation of GPs.

It is also time to celebrate research and to thank the 26 practices in southeast Queensland who are participating in the RELEASE trial (REdressing Long-tErM Antidepressant uSE). Recruitment for this trial is now complete. Data collection is ongoing and will be completed by the end of 2025. We look forward to being able to share findings from this trial thereafter.

I wish you all the very best for the upcoming festive season and I hope that you are able to find time to relax and enjoy time with your family and friends. I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2025.

Katharine Wallis

Mayne Professor and Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice
Head, General Practice Clinical Unit
The University of Queensland Medical School



Upcoming events

The **General Practice Clinical Unit** and **Mayne Academy of General Practice** invites you to the **Annual GP Dinner and Awards Evening 2024**

Date: Wednesday 27 November 2024

Time: 6 – 8:30pm

Venue: Mary Emelia Mayne Room, Mayne Medical Building, 288 Herston Rd, Herston

RSVP: Please [RSVP](#) by **20 November 2024**, and advise of any dietary requirements

For any enquiries please contact med.mdgp@uq.edu.au

The GoldNet and UQGP Research Networks are pleased to invite you to virtual journal club:

Topic: *Genetic Testing in Primary Care*

Date: Wednesday 20th November 2024

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 pm AEST

To register: https://bond.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcuc--urDkiHdZpx_xHjcSI-Udo9lYqm3eI

Article: *Population DNA screening for medically actionable disease risk in adults.*

Lacaze, P.A., Tiller, J., Winship, I. and (2022), Population DNA screening for medically actionable disease risk in adults. *Med J Aust*, 216: 278-280.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.5694/mja2.51454>

Guest Expert: Prof. Jon Emery - Herman Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research, Director of PC4, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) Primary Care Research and Education Lead, NHMRC Leadership Fellow, Centre for Cancer Research, University of Melbourne

Hosts: Prof. Nick Zwar - Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University and Chair of GoldNet Research Network's Steering Committee

& Asst. Prof. Loai Albarqouni - Institute for Evidence-based Healthcare, Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University

People

Staff Update

Dr Polyana Moura Ferreira

Hi, I'm Poly. I recently joined the GPCU, in the RELEASE team, bringing my Brazilian roots and experience to the table. I graduated as a dentist in 2014 and have spent the past decade in Australia, where I earned my PhD in Sydney. My PhD research focused on the correlation between muscle activity and orofacial pain with a particular emphasis on potential psychological factors. Currently, I'm focused on qualitative research with the RELEASE team as I'm passionate about advancing medical knowledge and love collaborating with others in the field. In my spare time, you'll find me at the beach or practicing yoga. Feel free to reach out if you're curious to learn about Brazil.



Congratulations

Dr Hayley Thomas (GP, Clinical Senior Lecturer and Senior Research Fellow) recently presented the poster 'Exploring Christian Spirituality in Eating Disorder Experience and Care' at the 2024 Australia and New Zealand Academy for Eating Disorders (ANZAED) Conference, in Auckland. If you would like more information or are interested in participating in this study please click on the following link

[Eating disorders and Christian Spirituality: A Qualitative and Co-design Approach to Prevention, Whole Person Care and Recovery - Medical School - University of Queensland](#)



Prof. Katharine Wallis and Assoc. Prof. Geoff Spurling and team received further funding from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission to continue work developing a screening toolkit for use in general practice to support older driver medical assessment. For more information please visit <https://medical-school.uq.edu.au/project/3-domains-screening-toolkit-older-driver-medical->

[assessment-general-practice](#)

Dr Johanna Lynch, has contributed multiple works as Writer in Residence at The ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research <https://alivenetwork.com.au/> and recently spoke at the AMA conference, Gold Coast, on *Trauma-informed care: a natural paradigm for quality medical care*, and at the World Organisation for Family Doctors Asia Pacific (WONCA) Conference, Singapore, on *The Art and Science of Whole Person Care; Generalist Mental Health*; and in a *Brainstorming process on core values and definition of family medicine in Asia Pacific region*. In November, Dr Lynch will also be speaking at Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, and Duke University in North Carolina, USA, and at the North American Primary Care Research Group Conference in Quebec, Canada, representing the GPCU.



Dr Cherri Ryan's poem, *'The Honour Is Mine'*, was shortlisted in the Hush Foundation Kindness in Healthcare Writing Prize and has been selected for inclusion in *Kindness Anthology 2: Stories of Kindness in Healthcare*. The Hush Foundation, 'established in 2000 by Prof. Catherine Crock AM, in response to her work with children undergoing painful medical procedures at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne' aims to 'celebrate and elevate kindness in health care', with a Vision 'to transform the culture of health care through the Arts'. For more information see www.hush.org.au

A/Prof Geoff Spurling was presented with the UQ Career Development Award for career development and to progress an opioid agonist therapy model in primary care.



Teaching

Practice Liaison Update

In 2024, over 450 Year 2 MD students undertook the new longitudinal placements in General Practices across the regions of the Greater Brisbane Clinical School and the Rural Clinical School, as part of the new MD curriculum. In addition, students in Years 3 and 4 also undertook block or immersion placements in General Practice. Overwhelmingly, the vast majority of students are citing their GP placements as one of the most positive experiences of their training so far, with many expressing a new-found appreciation for the complexity of primary care, the dedication of GPs to their patients, and the resourceful and compassionate ways in which GPs meet the needs of so many people with our communities, whilst also giving their time to teach the new generations. We deeply thank all the GPs who have put their hands up to take on students this year – from our experienced GP Clinical Teachers who have been with us for many years and seen many changes, all the way through to our new GP Clinical Teachers who have joined this network of GPs passing on their knowledge and skills to future doctors. Thank you.

GP Clinical Teachers Handbook and Resources

On the [UQ General Practice website](#), click on the 'Teaching and Learning' tab to find the latest version of the **Handbook for GP Clinical Teachers** which we are constantly updating. You can find other resources to support your teaching there too, including a one-page overview outlining the differences between the Year 2 student longitudinal placement and the Year 3 or 4 student immersive placement in general practice.

Becoming an Academic Title Holder

GP Clinical Teachers are eligible for Academic Title Holder status, which provides an academic title, such as Senior Lecturer, UQ email address and access to the vast UQ Library resources! If you have not yet applied, please see the video guide on the [UQ General Practice website](#), click on the 'Teaching and Learning' tab, then click on 'Applying for a UQ Academic Title'.

Dates for General Practice Placements 2025

Block Placements: Year 3 or 4 students (30 half-day sessions over 6 weeks)		Longitudinal Placements: Year 2 students (1 full-day per week for 14-15 weeks)	
Block 1	13 th January – 22 nd February	First Half	Weeks of 3 rd February – 30 th May
Block 2	24 th February – 5 th April		
Block 3	14 th April – 24 th May		
Block 4	23 rd June – 2 nd August	Second Half	Weeks of 23 rd June – 31 st October
Block 5	4 th August – 13 th September		
Block 6	22 nd September – 31 st October		

Rural and Regional Perspectives

The Rural Clinical School is having a busy and exciting time as we bring the 2024 academic year to a close. On Wednesday 2 October, the rural student club [TROHPIQ - Towards Rural and Outback Health Professionals in Queensland](#) hosted over 100 students across the Regional Clinical Units for a Rural Generalist Breakfast. A big thank you to our student leaders and the Queensland Rural Generalist Pathway advisors, RACGP, ACRRM, Health Workforce Queensland and the local rural generalists who shared their love of rural generalism with the RCS students.

Across the RCS our teams are hosting GP information evenings including information sessions and Medical Pathway updates and visiting local GP practices to talk about the 2025 opportunities.



Research

UQGP Research Network

Please send any research ideas or research questions through to us at uqgpresearch@uq.edu.au. The UQGP Research 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.

Recent articles

Jackson, C.L. (2024), Redrawing Australia's next National Health Reform Agreement: confronting the wickedest of wicked problems. *Med J Aust*, 221: 460-463. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.52476>

Hattingh L, Baysari MT, Foot H, Sim TF, Keijzers G, Morgan M, Scott I, Norman R, Yong F, Mullan B, **Jackson C**, Oldfield LE,

Manias E. OPTimising MEDicine information handover after Discharge (OPTMED-D): protocol for development of a multifaceted intervention and stepped wedge cluster randomised controlled trial. *Trials*. 2024 Sep 27;25(1):632.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-024-08496-w>

Lynch, Johanna M. (2024). The Art and Science of Whole Person Care WONCA APR Singapore 2024. World Organisation of Family Doctors Asia Pacific (WONCA), Singapore, 21-24 August 2024.

Lynch, Johanna M. (2024). Generalist Mental Health. World Organisation of Family Doctors Asia Pacific (WONCA), Singapore, 21-24 August 2024.

Noknoy, Sairat, Nicodemus, Leilanie, Wang, Harry H. X. and **Lynch, Johanna M.** (2024). Brainstorming process on core values and definition of family medicine in Asia Pacific region. World Organisation of Family Doctors Asia Pacific (WONCA), Singapore, 21-24 August 2024.

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

Upcoming education

GPCU Research seminars

GPCU research seminars for 2025 are currently in planning and will be announced in the new year. These are held fortnightly on Wednesdays from 12pm to 1pm, and can be accessed by Zoom. If you would like to be on the mailing list for these seminars, please contact med.mdgp@uq.edu.au

Culture, Community and Inclusivity

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to share your experiences of culture, community and inclusivity, and how this enhances your life or your work in general practice please email a brief paragraph, poem, or image (up to 200 words +/- photo) to med.mdgp@uq.edu.au, for inclusion in a future newsletter.

GPs subscribing to this newsletter

Many GPs have told us they would like to receive this newsletter directly into their own inboxes, to stay up to date with the latest GPCU news on teaching, research and upcoming events.

If you, or other GPs in your practice, would like to directly subscribe to this newsletter: Click [subscribe](#) or send the preferred email address/es to med.mdgp@uq.edu.au with 'Please subscribe me to GPCU newsletter' in the subject line.

Contact us

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(Academic Title Holder)

Teaching tips
and resources

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