

Primary Care Clinical Unit

GP Newsletter
December 2018

As the year is drawing to a close I would like to thank all our GP teachers for another year of 'sharing and caring'. For many students the GP rotation remains one of the highlights of third year. They fondly talk about 'their GP' and 'their practice'. Thank you for providing them with such a welcome and stimulating learning environment. These memories will stick for the rest of their careers, like we still remember our own role models.

The past year has been a busy one, preparing for the changes in the delivery of the courses in years 3 and 4. In 2019 the GP placement will be part of the 'Comprehensive Clinical Care' semester, a partnership with the Rural Medicine / Medicine in Society and Mental Health courses. We will be offering them an exciting collaborative teaching program that features reflective practice and attention to vulnerability in medicine. Over the past year a number of our practices have assisted us with the development of a workplace-based assessment model for 2019. We welcome your feedback and input about this new approach.

We are ending 2018 on a high, as our flagship Urban LInCC program, the extracurricular longitudinal GP experience in year 2, will continue in 2019. In fact, it will now also be offered as a formal 'Selective' course in semester 2 of year 2. Thank you to all Urban LInCC GPs and practice staff, who have made this such a successful program. We invite all practices to consider hosting a second year student. They are carefully selected and extremely keen!

At our recent GP engagement evening, we enjoyed meeting with some of our GP teachers and their practice staff and hearing about their experiences. Several of their teaching tips are included on the next page.

The PCCU team is looking forward to working with you again in 2019, preparing another group of young colleagues for the wonders and challenges of caring for patients in the community. We wish you a restful break and an inspiring start to the new year.

Professor Mieke van Driel, Head Primary Care Clinical Unit (PCCU) and Discipline of General Practice

We would like to thank you and your staff for your support. Best wishes for the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

GP supervisor teaching tips

- Asking students about themselves is very important. Who are they, how do they see the world. Modelling this with the student, and then the student seeing the doctor do this with patients. Particularly poignant in a culturally and linguistically diverse practice.
- One approach is that early session at the practice can be usefully spent on orientating the student to the practice software and understanding item numbers. Often we can learn from the IT expertise of our students. Students are also often very efficient researchers.
- Helpful to use a presenting complaint to inform broader reading eg why was that cough asthma? How might the patient have presented differently if they in fact had CCF?
- Excisions – the student can top up the local anaesthetic or the student starts by doing 1-2 sutures after the GP teacher has put in the first suture. Helpful to ask students away from the patient about their skills and comfort level. Note there is variability between students with exposure prior to GP rotation.

Research news

Do antibiotics cure sinus infection faster than no antibiotics in adults?

This review of 15 trials with over 3000 adult patients shows that the potential benefit of antibiotics to treat acute rhinosinusitis diagnosed either clinically or confirmed by imaging, is marginal. The authors conclude that considering the risk of adverse effects and antibiotic resistance, and the very low incidence of serious complications, there is no place for antibiotics in the treatment of acute rhinosinusitis in immune-competent patients with an uncomplicated course.

Lemienre MB, van Driel ML, Merenstein D, Liira H, Mäkelä M, De Sutter AIM. Antibiotics for acute rhinosinusitis in adults. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2018, Issue 9. DOI:10.1002/14651858.CD006089.pub5.

2019 general practice placement dates

3rd year GP Block

Block 1: 14th January – 22nd February
Block 2: 25th February – 5th April
Block 3: 15th April – 24th May
Block 4: 24th June – 2nd August
Block 5: 5th August – 13th September
Block 6: 23rd September – 1st November

Urban LInCC

Semester 1: 18th February - 24th May
Semester 2: 8th July - 18th October

For further details, please contact:

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<https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/academic-disciplines/general-practice>

Featured profiles



GPs **Jo O'Reilly** and **Rory Melville** have joined PCCU to visit and provide support to our practices. They will be contacting you to arrange a time to come and chat about your teaching and assessment experiences.

Jo has been a GP for over ten years, working in a large group practice in Albany Creek. She has been facilitating the weekly GP rotation tutorials for 3rd year students since 2009. She is also an accredited GP Registrar supervisor and enjoys working with junior colleagues, helping them prepare for their Fellowship examinations.

Rory spends most of his time in clinical practice at Holland Park General Practice where he also supervises year 3 medical students. He is extremely interested in medical education across all levels and has been involved in the teaching of both GP registrars and GPs wishing to become trainers in Scotland.

Recent PCCU research articles

- **Changes in Australian Early-Career General Practitioners' Benzodiazepine Prescribing: a Longitudinal Analysis.** Magin P et al. *J Gen Intern Med* 2018. DOI:10.1007/s11606-018-4577-5
- **Silence is Golden.** Cooke, G, Mitchell, B. *Medical Education* 2018;52:780-8. DOI: 10.1111/medu.13610
- **Rationale and design of a trial to personalize risk assessment in familial coronary artery disease.** Marwick T, Mitchell G et al. *Am Heart J* 2018;199:22-30. DOI: 10.1016/j.ahj.2017.09.011
- **What treatments are effective for common cold in adults and children?** van Driel M, et al. *BMJ* 2018. DOI: 10.1136/bmj.k3786

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

