

Primary Care Clinical Unit

GP Newsletter
May 2019

Well into the first semester of the 'integrated semester program', I am pleased to say that students are very much enjoying their placements in GP. We thank you for transitioning so smoothly to the new 'workplace-based assessment' system. Once we have some formal evaluations, I'll let you know how we go. Unfortunately, the new digital platform for student allocations has faced some teething problems, which means that some practices have not been allocated a student in semester 2. We are working hard to correct this for 2020 and apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Semester 2 will see the roll out of Urban LInCC as a formal part of the year 2 curriculum. There was an overwhelming interest and after careful selection 22 students have been given the opportunity to participate in GP during a 14 week period. Please let us know if you are interested in hosting a 2nd year student for 1 session per week. It's a great experience for both student and practice staff.

Earlier this year we welcomed a new Director of the UQ Office of Medical Education, Professor Kirsty Foster. Kirsty is a GP by training with an impressive track record in medical education and global health. Joining us from a

medical education leadership role at the University of Sydney, she is keen to engage with us in PCCU and has already agreed to speak at our annual end of the year GP teachers event. We are hoping she will share some insights into the plans for a 'refresh' of the UQ MD curriculum in the next few years.

I would like to extend a thank you to all practices that have welcomed our GP practice engagement academics in their clinics. Through Dr Jo O'Reilly and Dr Rory Melville we learn more about the wonderful teaching environment you create for our students and also how we can better support you. We welcome your continued input and feedback.

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

Save these 2019 dates:

GP Teachers workshop
GP Teachers dinner
Urban LInCC update

Sat 14th September 1 – 5pm
Wed 6th November 6 - 9 pm
Wed 3rd July 6 – 9 pm

“I feel infinitely more accomplished and confident after the (GP) rotation.”

UQ Year 3 MD student 2019

Student feedback Blocks 1 and 2

What I liked:

- My supervisors were great and gave me many opportunities to practise clinical skills. Their feedback and insights were informative and constructive.
- It was a wonderful blend of learning/reviewing previous knowledge and applying that in practice.
- There was a relaxed environment which made me feel comfortable to make mistakes, ask questions and learn.
- Being given the chance to see patients on my own, first. This was a really valuable learning tool.

Research news

Predicting Those Who Are at Risk of Dying within Six to Twelve Months in Primary Care

In our aging population, caring for those nearing their end of life is becoming an increasing health burden. Predicting death early in this phase can ensure adequate anticipatory care planning, recognising patients' preferences, planning for likely deteriorations and empowers patients and carers. General practitioners (GPs) are the cornerstone of delivering this care. Tools which can assist GPs in recognising those at risk of dying are vital. Our preliminary research has developed a tool that uses patient characteristics which can predict the risk of death within six to twelve months. It has the potential to be incorporated into medical records. Pending further validation this tool could be instrumental in assisting those who care for our dearest at their end of life.

Woolfield A, et al. Predicting those who are at risk of dying within six to twelve months in primary care: A retrospective case-control General Practice chart analysis. *Journal of Palliative Medicine* 2019 DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2018.0562.

2019 general practice placement dates

3rd year GP Placement Block

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

For further details, please contact:

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

Featured profile



Dr Maria Donald is a Senior Research Fellow with the Primary Care Clinical Unit. She is a University of Queensland graduate and health services researcher with a background in psychology and public health. She has over 20 years experience in 'real world' health services research.

Maria is currently undertaking research into long-term antidepressant use with collaborators from the PCCU and the University of Queensland's School of Psychology. Australia has one of the highest rates of antidepressant prescribing in the world, in part explained by increasing long-term use. The most recent study involves interviews with GPs to understand their perspectives on long-term antidepressant use. It is hoped this research will lead to interventions that consider patients' and GPs' concerns while supporting GPs to discontinue long-term use when indicated.

Maria works part-time appreciating the work-life balance this allows. She and her husband travel regularly, visiting places with beautiful scenery and enjoy weekends that involve long beach or bush walks with their labradoodle Ruby.

PCCU featured research articles

- **Definition of whole person care in general practice in the English language literature: a systematic review.** Thomas, H, et al. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e023758. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-023758
- **From liminality to vitality: Infant feeding beliefs among refugee mothers from Vietnam and Myanmar.** Joseph, J, Liamputtong, P, Brodribb, W. *Qualitative Health Research* 2019;1-12. DOI 10.1177/1049732318825147
- **Can nurturing the young be the key to tackling chronic diseases in the old? A narrative review with a global perspective.** Holt, B et al. *Ochsner Journal* 2018:364–369. DOI: 10.31486/toj.18.0054
- **Providing palliative care at the end of life: Should health professionals fear regulation?** Willmott L, et al *JLawMed* 2018:214-215

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



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