



# Primary Care Clinical Unit

## GP Newsletter August 2019

The first semester of our new integrated model has been a great success. The GP and Medicine in Society courses (both delivered by the PCCU team) have again emerged as the highest rated clinical course in semester 1. We thank you all for contributing to this success.

We are always looking for ways to improve the students' experience and embed the GP model of care in their learning. Whether they specialise as a GP or choose another specialty, understanding the power of GP is important for all. It is inspiring that an appreciation for primary care is also articulated in the review of our medical program. "MD2025", a full review of the current MD curriculum at UQ, has recently been launched by our Executive Dean, Prof Geoff McColl. Over the next few months an extensive consultation process is being rolled out. You, our much-valued teachers at the coalface, are invited to contribute their ideas and insights to the MD2025 project (*email: [med.md2025@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.md2025@uq.edu.au)*).

Highly recommended is our GP Teacher Interactive Workshop: "Enhancing the student learning experience through feedback" which will be held at Herston on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September (RACGP QI&CPD Category 1/2 points available). Of course, we hope to see you all at our annual end-of-year GP teachers engagement event on Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The PCCU has a vibrant research culture. Our passion for giving the next generation of colleagues the best possible GP experience goes hand in hand with a quest to improve outcomes for our patients. We have a strong reputation in developing and testing new models of care, in improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, in antimicrobial stewardship, quality use of medicines and chronic disease. Samples of our research are published in the newsletters. As the best research questions are generated at the point of patient care, we aim to keep our research solidly grounded in general practice. Establishing a network of GP practices interested in contributing to generating and conducting research, is the logical next step. Please let us know if you're interested, we welcome your input!

Finally, as we are already planning the next year of clinical placements, we'd like to ask you to please confirm your practice availability for Semester 1 2020 by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept.

Thank you for your ongoing support.  
Professor Mieke van Driel, Head Primary Care Clinical Unit (PCCU) and Discipline of General Practice

### Save these 2019 dates:

**GP Teacher workshop**  
**GP Teacher dinner**

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> September 1 – 5pm  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> November 6 - 9 pm

*“The real-life clinical experience was very valuable and I feel that I learned a great deal about providing comprehensive patient care.”* UQ Urban LInCC Year 2 MD student 2019

## Urban LInCC Update Evening

The Urban LInCC Update for GPs and Practice Managers was held in June. It was a very interactive evening with GPs, Year 2 students and a Practice Manager discussing their insights and different perspectives about teaching and learning and patient safety issues. The following suggestions came from asking the question: **What facilitates your learning, teaching and/or organisation of teaching?**

**Students:** friendly/supportive environment; being asked questions; being thrown in the deep end; learning in bite sized pieces; open communication; building good relationship with doctor and patient; feeling comfortable to ask questions.

**GPs:** teamwork, everyone on board; types of patients, less acute; it is ok to make mistakes; set some time at the beginning of the day, preparation for students within the practice; opportunity to practice procedural skills on patient; see 1, do 1, teach 1; time; allow student freedom to do things; Talk/summarize with students on how things are going and any questions; having extra breaks, time to pause; encouraging and welcoming environment.

**Practice Manager:** lunchroom teaching, getting all doctors together, medical reps often initiate discussions; designated space and time for discussion; exposing students to a variety (flu, clinic, reception, nurse).

## Teaching resource

A new publication, **Building a Community of Learning in General Practice**, provides a practical guide to facilitating teaching based on tips and wisdom from many teaching practices and is written by ACT GP educators Katrina Anderson and Jennifer Thomson.

To obtain a copy, come to a UQ GP Teacher Workshop or contact [donna.anthes@anu.edu.au](mailto:donna.anthes@anu.edu.au)

### STUDENT PLACEMENTS Semester 1 2020

Please complete the attached form to confirm your practice availability to host a student in Semester 1 2020, if you have not already done so. The deadline is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Thank you to the practices that have already responded to [med.gp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.gp@uq.edu.au).

## Featured profile



**Belinda Tomlins** is a Student Coordinator with the Primary Care Clinical Unit. She has been working at the University of Queensland since 2016 and is currently assisting the year 3 students during their General Practice placement.

Belinda enjoys working with both the academic teams and the General Practices to ensure a smooth and valuable learning experience for her students. She particularly enjoys receiving positive feedback on how much the students have enjoyed their placements and how much their time with their GPs have boosted their confidence, knowledge and skills.

In her free time, Belinda likes to hike, run, read and write.

## Recent PCCU teaching research articles

**A Systematic Review of the Approaches to Multi-Level Learning in the General Practice Context, Using a Realist Synthesis Approach: BEME Guide No. 55.** Medical Teacher, 2019, 1–15. Dick, ML et al. doi: 10.1080/0142159X.2019.1595554

**Medical Student Contact with Specialty Trainees. Missing out in general practice?** Sturman, N et al. Australian Journal of General Practice, vol. 47, no. 6, 2018,391–395. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-12-17-4423

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

## GP Teacher Interactive Workshop: Enhancing the student learning experience through feedback

**Don't miss this GP Teacher Workshop** on September 14<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 5.00 pm. Come and exchange your ideas with other GPs, practise your skills with 3<sup>rd</sup> Year medical students and gain RACGP QI&CPD points. This can be a Category 1 activity when it is combined with pre and post activities including a practice visit or Category 2 points apply for attending the workshop. For further details, please see the attached Workshop flyer or contact [med.gp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.gp@uq.edu.au). Please note the extended deadline of 30/8/19 to register.

## 2019/2020 general practice placement dates

3rd year GP Placement Block

Urban LInCC

### 2019

Block 5: 5th August – 13th September  
Block 6: 23rd September – 1st November

### 2020 Semester 1

Block 1: 20<sup>th</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Block 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April  
Block 3: 20<sup>th</sup> April – 29<sup>th</sup> May

2019 Semester 2: 8th July - 25th October  
2020 Semester 1: 24<sup>th</sup> February – 29<sup>th</sup> May

## Research focus

### The Primary Care Practice Improvement Tool (PC-PIT) process for organisational improvement in primary care: application by Australian Primary Health Networks

Primary care is central to the healthcare system and increasingly a healthcare reform priority. General practices' commitment to quality improvement (QI) is needed to strengthen both primary care and the larger healthcare system. However, this requires an explicit dedication to improvement as well as external infrastructure to assist practices in acquiring and developing skills to undertake QI initiatives. Our previously developed tool, the Primary Care Practice Improvement Tool (PC-PIT), was implemented and supported at scale via two Primary Health Networks (PHNs). The tool focuses on organisational performance and provides a whole-of-practice assessment, identifying high and low-performing areas to focus and streamline QI efforts. Barriers and facilitators were explored with PHN support staff. The tool was highly compatible with existing PHN QI programs and offered enhanced opportunity to support capacity building when delivered at scale.

*Borg SJ, Crossland L, Risk J, Porritt J, Jackson CL. (2019) The Primary Care Practice Improvement Tool (PC-PIT) process for organisational improvement in primary care: application by Australian Primary Health Networks. Aust J Prim Health. 25(2):185-191. doi: 10.1071/PY18106.*

## Recent PCCU clinical research articles

**Getting it Right: Validating a culturally specific screening tool for depression (aPHQ-9) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.** Askew, D et al. Med. J. Aust., 211: 24-30. doi:10.5694/mja2.50212

**The false dichotomy of viral versus bacterial aetiology in upper respiratory tract infections.** Van Driel, M. et al. Med. J. Aust., 211: 108-109.e1. doi:10.5694/mja2.50250

**How Can We Support the Healthcare Needs of Autistic Adults Without Intellectual Disability?** Van Driel, M. et al. Current Developmental Disorders Reports, 6, 2019, 45-56. doi: 10.1007/s40474-019-00159-9

**Management of human immunodeficiency virus in older people.** Salleh, E et al. Australian Journal of General Practice, vol. 48, no. 7, 2019, 440-445. ISSN: 2208-7958

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

## Research Recruitment

### 1. Long-term antidepressant use

We're interested in GPs' views on long-term antidepressant use and invite you to take part in this University of Queensland research project.

It involves a 30-45 minutes interview discussion to explore your experiences and opinions about long-term antidepressant use. Long-term use is contributing to a rise in antidepressant use in Australia, and data show Australia now has one of the highest rates of antidepressant use in the world.

We hope the findings will inform the development of an intervention to support GPs and patients to discontinue long-term antidepressant use when it's no longer indicated.

We understand that being involved in research is time consuming and will be thanking you with a \$120 e-Gift card.

Please participate! GPs play a key role in mental health care in Australia and we really want to hear about your experiences and opinions.

If you're interested in taking part please send us an email at [longtermAD@uq.edu.au](mailto:longtermAD@uq.edu.au) simply stating that you're interested in taking part and we'll reply to your email and arrange a telephone interview at a time convenient for you.

### 2. Testing a multi morbidity toolkit

We are developing an online toolkit that summarizes evidence on interactions, harms and benefits of different treatments for people who have multi morbidity. We have developed a first prototype but we need your expertise to help us improve it.

Participation involves testing the online tool, filling in an online survey and one face-to-face meeting. In recognition of your time we offer 200\$ gift vouchers.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr Laura Deckx ([l.deckx@uq.edu.au](mailto:l.deckx@uq.edu.au)).

### 3. Tackling the growing problem of loneliness and isolation

A program to address social isolation and reduce burden on the health care system is being trialed in Australia. The Ways to Wellness Social Isolation Project is a partnership between UQ, the Queensland Community Alliance, the Mt Gravatt Community Centre and the Mt Gravatt Men's Shed.

The program uses 'social prescribing', where patients are referred to a link worker and on to non-medical group programs in the community. Along with addressing the serious health consequences caused by loneliness and social isolation, the project hopes to reduce the burden on the health care system by addressing the unmet social needs of patients including some of the 10% of GP patients who are 'frequent attenders'.

Link Worker Wendy Blackmon, based at the Mt Gravatt Community Centre, will receive client referrals from GPs, members of the community and self-referrals.

She will discuss health and wellbeing goals with each client and identify groups or activities in the local area that align with their interests (for example technical and trades groups at the Men's Shed, art classes, group singing and exercise programs).

A team of researchers, led by Associate Professor Genevieve Dingle of the UQ School of Psychology, will examine the effects of the project with a view to developing a model that can be implemented in multiple settings across Australia.

For more information, the Ways to Wellness webpage dedicated to Health Professionals explains more about social prescribing, and provides links to referral forms: <https://waystowellness.org.au/health-professionals/>

Or you can contact Wendy Blackmon on:

E: [linkworker@mgcci.org.au](mailto:linkworker@mgcci.org.au)

T: 3343 9833 (ext: 103)

**For further details, please contact:** Primary Care Clinical Unit:  
[med.gp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.gp@uq.edu.au)  
<https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/academic-disciplines/general-practice>



CREATE CHANGE