



Primary Care Clinical Unit

GP Newsletter
February 2020

Welcome to 2020!

The new decade has started with a bang. I hope you have been safe amidst the wild weather events and had an energising break. In January a new cohort of students launched into the GP placements with great enthusiasm. The feedback to date is excellent!

At the end of 2019 the PCCU team saw two 'icons' of UQ General Practice retire. Heather McMaster, the anchor of our GP course retired after 23 years with the department (and 40+ with UQ!). Professor Geoff Mitchell returned to clinical practice. After more than 20 years in academia, the pull of patient care was irresistible. We are proud of Geoff's research that has been instrumental in shaping care for patients at the end of life. Heather's contributions are still tangible in how we operate today. They are dearly missed.

We welcome a new administrative team: Christine Gibson and Natalie Best look after the year 3 GP course. Sandii Comer is your contact for Urban LInCC. New to the team this year are three delightful GP Academic

Registrars, featured in this newsletter.

UQ offers world-class postgraduate education in skin cancer management, which is now housed in PCCU. As UQ supports development of flexible certificate courses, we plan to have some interesting offerings for you taught by world experts in the field.

With support from our Executive Dean, Prof Geoff McColl, PCCU is ready to start building a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN). We welcome your involvement in shaping the evidence base for our discipline.

We look forward to another year together and hope to see you at one of our 2020 teaching events (with CPD points attached).

Professor Mieke van Driel, Mayne Professor of General Practice
Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice & Head,
Primary Care Clinical Unit

“My interest in GP greatly increased due to this experience.” Year 2 MD student 2019

Top tips for teaching and learning

This new column is compiled by Jo O'Reilly and Rory Melville, our GPs who visit practices. We welcome any tips from our GPs, Practice Managers and Nurses so please feel free to send them to Rory at rory.melville@uq.edu.au

Here are our **top teaching tips** to consider at the commencement of a placement – these are simply suggestions you might like to try incorporating into your practice with the assistance of your practice colleagues:

1. Define the practice ethos to teaching – why is teaching important in your practice?
2. Consider your own motivation for teaching students (duty, professional development, financial considerations) – why is it important to you?
3. Make sure everyone involved in teaching is in agreement regarding their roles (including but not limited to GPs, Practice Nurses and Practice Managers).
4. Involve your Practice manager to help co-ordinate how teaching is carried out in the busy day-to-day environment of General Practice (e.g. sharing workload of teaching, ensuring sessions conducted are remunerated for PIP payments).
5. Asking your Receptionist to inform patients of your medical student's participation at the time of booking (both phone and online bookings) can help the flow of your teaching session.
6. Plan in advance the amount of time you will need with the student – allocating time in your appointment diary. This prevents the negative experience of feeling overwhelmed and running late.
7. Consider setting aside time early on to discuss and identify a student's learning needs and background.

Save the dates

We are planning our teaching activities for 2020 and hope you are able to attend. All our activities will attract CPD points.

29th April – Webinar – Teaching in the Consultation

17th June – Evening workshop - Teaching in the Practice

September – 1/2 day workshop – Practising your teaching skills

November – GP and Practice Teaching Staff Annual dinner

2020 general practice placement dates

3rd year GP Placement Block

Block 1: 20th January – 28th February

Block 2: 2nd March – 10th April

Block 3: 20th April – 29th May

Block 4: 29th June – 7th August

Block 5: 10th August – 18th September

Block 6: 28th September – 6th November



Featured profiles – our Academic Registrars

Dr Dilum Ekanayake is a graduate from the University of Queensland School of Medicine and in his 2nd year of General Practice training. Patient safety and healthcare quality improvement form the mainstay of his research with PCCU

and Queensland Health. He is also undertaking a part time Honorary Fellowship at the Healthcare Improvement Unit within Clinical Excellence Queensland while completing a combined Master's in Public Health and Healthcare Administration.

Dilum will be exploring the accessibility and availability of Specialist Outpatient Clinics, as well as the referral patterns from General Practitioners to these clinics as recorded in a Queensland state-wide referral database.

Outside of his clinical and academic work Dilum is passionate about doctor wellbeing and commits extensively to the Australian Medical Association and Doctors Union at an executive level.



Dr Neha Pandeya is a graduate from the University of Queensland and currently in her second year of general practice training. Neha spent her first year in General Practice working at the Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (CoE) in Inala and has a special interest in mental health.

Neha's project aims to identify the risk and protective factors for suicidal thoughts using health check data from the CoE. She hopes that this research will help guide programs for social and emotional well-being for the health service and the local community.



Dr Isaac Tranter is a second year general practice registrar. He has recently made the move into a more urban environment after spending a large proportion of his medical career working rurally. Isaac has interests in public health and infectious disease and is keen to explore how these themes integrate into the primary

care setting.

This year will be Isaac's first dalliance with research and he is looking into the barriers to immunisation in an ageing population and the factors that influence immunisation rates in general practice. He will also be analysing data from the Registrar cohort study (ReCENT).

2nd year Urban LInCC

Semester 1: 17th February – 22nd May

Semester 2: 13th July – 23rd October

Research focus

Whole-person care in general practice. The nature of whole-person care

Whole person care (WPC) is a core value of practice, and particularly relevant with increasing population multimorbidity. However, WPC has lacked a consensus definition, and some argue that it is not consistently practised. In view of this, we interviewed 20 Australian GPs or general practice registrars regarding how they understand WPC, and which factors affect its provision.

The GPs described WPC as a fundamental feature of general practice, which treats patients as multidimensional persons rather than disease entities. They described its scope as having length (repeated visits over time), breadth (inclusive of all patients and problems) and depth (delves beyond the presenting complaint to address underlying issues and preventive health). They emphasised that a strong doctor-patient relationship was foundational for WPC, as this enabled the doctor to know the patient, and the patient to trust the doctor. Additionally, GPs described WPC may involve a health care team.

This provides a clear understanding of how these Australian GPs conceptualise WPC, which could inform education, self-reflection and policy.

Thomas H, Best M, Mitchell G. *Whole-person care in general practice. The nature of whole-person care. AJGP* (49), 1–2, 2020 doi: 10.31128/AJGP-05-19-49501

Recent PCCU articles

Delayed prescribing of antibiotics for acute respiratory infections by GP registrars: a qualitative study. Dallas A, Davey A, van Driel M et al. *Family Practice* 30 Nov 2019. doi:10.1093/fampra/cmz079

Closing the gap between rhetoric and practice in strengths-based approaches to Indigenous public health: a qualitative study Askew D, Brady K et al. *Aust NZ J Public Health.* 2020; Online; doi: 10.1111/1753-6405.12953

General practitioners' considerations when deciding whether to initiate end-of-life conversations: a qualitative study Thomas H, Deckx L et al. *Family Practice*, 2019, 1–7 doi:10.1093/fampra/cmz088

General practitioners' practical approach to initiating end-of-life conversations: a qualitative study. Deckx L, Thomas H et al *Family Practice* Dec1st 2019. doi: 10.1093/fampra/cmz074

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

UQ Practice Based Research Network

PCCU has been awarded funding to develop a Practice Based Research Network (PBRN). A PBRN aims to develop relevant and translatable evidence for Australian general practice to improve the quality of care for patients. Watch this space for regular updates about our progress and how you can be involved.

How to become a 'Master in Skin Cancer Medicine'

UQ Postgraduate degrees in Skin Cancer Medicine

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in Australia and the need for appropriate detection and treatment in primary care is growing. This online program will provide you with the skills required to diagnose and manage skin cancer through a flexible online structure that can fit around your existing schedule.

The courses will provide you with:

- an understanding of the embryology, microanatomy, physiology, oncology and epidemiology of skin
- the ability to assess skin lesions through dermatoscopy and dermal imaging and be competent in differential diagnosis
- the capacity to confidently advise and manage most patients with skin cancer, using appropriate medical and/or surgical therapeutic modalities in partnership with the patient.

There are different enrolment options:

- Masters (2 years part-time)
- Graduate Certificate (1 year part-time)
- Non-award individual courses from within the program suite.

The Master's program is designed for applicants with an approved medical degree and a minimum of two years post-qualification clinical experience. However, the Graduate Certificate is available to medical and other professional groups as well as researchers to enhance their skills in the diagnosis and management of skin cancer and research. The Graduate Certificate is therefore offered to applicants with an approved degree, or equivalent, from medicine, nursing, medical science or related fields who have completed at least two years full-time clinical practice.

Further information regarding the programs is available at: <https://future-students.uq.edu.au/study/program/Master-of-Medicine-5398> including a video from Alumnus Dr Julia Fomiatti.

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



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