



Primary Care Clinical Unit

GP Newsletter
August 2021

With 2021 proving another challenging year for many, we write again to thank you and your practice team for teaching UQ medical students in your practice and/or for participating in UQGP Research practice-based research projects. UQ medical students continue to rate their experience in general practice very highly, and especially value feeling part of the team and interacting with patients. We hope you are enjoying mentoring our next generation of junior doctors and especially thank you for continuing to support student training during such stressful and busy times for general practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to provide challenges to our daily lives and practices. Thank you for encouraging your students to participate in telehealth consultations, which now play a key role in general practice.

The most recent lockdown was the first time that the Chief Health Officer restricted student placements in general practice. We are delighted that placements have resumed. We expect that students will continue to need to be fully vaccinated prior to undertaking clinical placements.

We are looking to grow longitudinal placements in general practice for Year 2 medical students, half a day per week over 14 weeks, so please get in touch if your practice would be interested in also hosting a Year 2 student.

Please view at your leisure the series of short video clips on our website featuring GP teachers sharing their tips for teaching and supporting students:

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

We look forward to seeing you at our planned face-to-face meeting later in the year, COVID permitting.

A/Prof Katharine Wallis

Acting Head, Primary Care Clinical Unit

A/Prof Nancy Sturman,

Acting Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice

Save the date:

Wednesday 6 October 7pm 'Challenges in Teaching' webinar

Wednesday 17 November GP Teacher evening and dinner

“Getting to know patients and seeing how to put people at ease and get them to open up in order to better help them.”

Year 2 MD student Urban LInCC 2021

“I am worried about my medical student.”

As GP teachers we spend a lot of time with our medical student colleagues. The vast majority of the time we enjoy this and find it very rewarding – this is one of the reasons that we teach!

Sometimes GP teachers tell the practice engagement team that they have been worried about a medical student but didn't feel comfortable raising this with the PCCU. These worries can range from concern about the student's knowledge or clinical skills, concern that the student is unwell, right through to more serious concerns around student-patient, student-teacher, or student-staff interactions.

There can be lots of reasons why a GP teacher may be concerned about speaking to the PCCU about their concerns. Sometimes GP teachers are worried about affecting a student's academic progress. Sometimes GP teachers feel that they should be able to completely manage the issue themselves rather than making it someone else's problem. Of course, often things are solved with a kind, frank chat and useful feedback. For those times when this is not enough, or not appropriate, we offer the following advice.

Please feel empowered to speak up if you are worried about a student. We want to hear from you. These are some key ways you can do this:

Within the PCCU: med.gp@uq.edu.au is the email inbox monitored regularly by the small PCCU expert Professional staff team, who will ensure your concern is managed promptly, sensitively and discreetly and forwarded to the appropriate staff member for response.

The appropriate staff member may be the GP Block Course Coordinator or the Practice Engagement Team GPs. Assoc Prof Katharine Wallis (acting Head of PCCU) and Assoc Prof Nancy Sturman (acting Mayne Chair of General Practice) who are highly experienced medical educators will be consulted for guidance in complex cases.

Contact the Faculty of Medicine: <https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/current-students/referral-assistance>. All members of the medical community, including patients, can make a referral for assistance if they have concerns about a medical student.

A suite of resources for students is here <https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/medical-student-aspirations-and-support>

Thank you for the important work which you do in teaching and working with our junior colleagues.

What is an Urban LInCC student?

Urban LInCC is a program which places year 2 MD students for ½ a day (1 session of at least 3 hours) a week for 13-14 weeks in General Practice. This program has been running since 2013, with very positive feedback from GP teachers and students. (Please see the attached AMAQ article.)

Students are pre-clinical and may have had very little clinical exposure previously, particularly in the time of the COVID19 pandemic. This cohort are particularly proactive and keen to experience General Practice and have been chosen through a highly competitive selection process.

The Urban LInCC program is expanding, and in fact is part of the inspiration for longitudinal placements for all MD year 2 students from 2024 onwards which will be additional to the usual GP immersion placement in the clinical years.

Please contact med.ul@uq.edu.au with any questions about Urban LInCC & please consider working with our Urban LInCC students!

UQ GP teaching opportunities in your practice

Please contact us at med.gp@uq.edu.au if you are interested in teaching any of these UQ students in your practice.

Year 3 GP Block Placements

This placement provides all Year 3 students with an immersion in General Practice. Students attend the practice for 5 sessions per week for 6 weeks (total 30 sessions). There are 6 blocks across the year. The focus for these clinical students is understanding the scope of general practice, developing their clinical skills and formulating patient management.

Year 2 Urban LInCC placements

This placement provides an introduction to General Practice for a selected group of Year 2 students. Students attend the practice for 1 session (3-4 hours) per week for 13 or 14 weeks during either Semester 1 or Semester 2. The focus for these pre-clinical students is understanding the role of general practice, patient centred care and building basic clinical skills including history taking and physical examination.

Year 1 Longitudinal Observership Placements for UQ MD Ochsner students

These Year 1 students will complete their UQ MD Years 1 & 2 in Brisbane and Years 3 & 4 at the UQ Ochsner Clinical School USA. It is important for these students to gain a good understanding of the Australian health care system, and this placement provides an opportunity to showcase Australian General Practice. Students attend a practice for 1 session (3-4 hours) per week over 8 weeks. The focus for these students is understanding the Australian Health system.

Year 4 Elective (Personalised Learning Course) Placements

These Year 4 students choose to do their elective in general practice. Students attend the practice for 10 sessions per week over 6 weeks. The focus for these students is immersion in a health area of interest to them and preparing them for the junior doctor years and ongoing vocational training.

2021 remaining general practice placement dates

3rd year GP Placement Block

2nd year Urban LInCC

Block 5: 9 August – 17 September
Block 6: 27 September – 5 November

Semester 2: 12 July – 22 October

UQGP Research

This practice-based research network enables GP practices and PCCU researchers to work together to develop and conduct practice-based research projects, building the evidence-base for primary health care.

Update on projects:

Developing and optimising RELEASE study resources: A Think Aloud study. This project will use the 'Think Aloud' technique with patients to optimise resources for the RELEASE project (RELEASE: REaddressing Long-tErM Antidepressant uSE in general practice) including a Medicines Information brochure, Decision Aid, drug-specific tapering protocols, and personalised Discontinuation Plan. The project is undergoing ethics review and we will be recruiting soon.

The 3-Domains toolkit for driving medical assessment in older drivers: Nearly all participating practices have finished using the screening toolkit tests during driving medical assessments in older drivers. Marini continues to interview older drivers, GPs and practice nurses about their experience using the toolkit. Interview analysis is ongoing. Research team: Katharine Wallis, Geoff Spurling, James Matthews, Rory Melville, Theresa Scott and Marini Mendis.

Get in touch: We welcome new practices and staff who are keen to get involved in research or to find out more about research opportunities. Let us know your burning research question, sign-up to attend our research seminars via Zoom (alternate Wednesdays 12-1pm), and/or join the network. uqgpresearch@uq.edu.au or speak to one of the GP liaison Rory Melville or Alison Green.



Funding opportunities for General Practitioner Academic Title Holders

We have funding of up to \$1000 each for a small number of **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL) projects**. Please contact Associate Professor Nancy Sturman (n.sturman1@uq.edu.au) if you have ideas for leading, or contributing to, a general practice SOTL/medical education project

Some of these funds must be allocated by the end of this year. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Research focus

General practitioners' deprescribing decisions in older adults with polypharmacy: a case vignette study in 31 countries.

This study investigated GP deprescribing decisions across 31 countries using an online survey. GPs assessed three clinical case vignettes involving older people (>80y) with multimorbidity and polypharmacy and say whether they would deprescribe in routine practice. Of the 1,706 GPs who responded, most (>80%) said that they would deprescribe at least one medication irrespective of history of cardiovascular disease. GPs were more likely to deprescribe for patients with increased dependency, and less likely in patients with established cardiovascular disease. Older GPs were more likely to deprescribe.

Jungo KT, Mantelli S, Rozsnyai Z, Wallis KA, et al. General practitioners' deprescribing decisions in older adults with polypharmacy: a case vignette study in 31 countries. *BMC Geriatr.* 2021;21(1):19.

Recent PCCU staff articles

Tranter, Isaac, Magin, Parker and [van Driel, Mieke L.](#) (2021). **Immunising older Australians: Pre-COVID-19 vaccine perspectives from general practice training.** *Australian Journal of General Practice*, 50 (6), 388-393. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-02-21-5844

Oluboyede Y, Hill SR, [McDonald S](#), Henderson E. **Implementing a weight-specific quality-of-life tool for young people in primary health care: a qualitative study.** *BJGP open.* 2021 Jun 30.

Quality improvement toolkit for general practice. Mental health Trauma; Brisbane South PHN, 2021 https://bsphn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Qualitytoolkit_toolkit_Trauma-rebranded-2021.pdf

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

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



CREATE CHANGE