

# General Practice Clinical Unit

## GP Newsletter February 2022

**Welcome to the first newsletter from the newly named General Practice Clinical Unit** (previously Primary Care Clinical Unit) with me as new Head of the GP Clinical Unit and Mayne Professor of General Practice. We chose to change our name to better reflect our core identity and close affiliation with general practice. Following the Faculty of Medicine restructure process, the 'GP Clinical Unit' is part of the 'Greater Brisbane Clinical School', which is part of the newly formed UQ 'Medical School', in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Queensland.

While 2022 got off to a wild ride with the explosion of COVID in the community coinciding with the beginning of clinical teaching, with your continued support for student learning in your practices we are settling into the saddle. Rest assured that all UQ medical students on clinical placement are up to date with their vaccinations and obliged to follow the QLD Chief Health Officer PPE guidance for healthcare staff. The Faculty have fit-tested all students for N95 masks. We have moved student tutorials and assessment online again but hope to return to face-to-face learning as the year progresses.

Planning for the new MD 2023 program continues apace with the Australian Medical Council accreditation process in train for the program to begin next year. The new MD 2023 program recognises the important role that general practice plays in the Australian healthcare system with an increased general practice footprint in the new MD program. The general practice clinical placement moves from Year 3 to Year 4 of the program and all in Semester 1, while the Year 2

longitudinal placement (Urban LInCC) is extended to all Year 2 medical students and all in Semester 2. For us this means increasing our capacity to provide clinical placements in general practice with a pressure point in Semester 2 of 2024 where we have both Year 3 students on the existing program and Year 2 students on the new program on general practice clinical placements. Our GP liaison Drs Rory Melville and Alison Green are our core personnel recruiting GP practices to become part of our UQGP network and involved in teaching, and supporting practices to provide high quality clinical learning experiences for students – both face-to-face and via Telehealth.

The importance of general practice is also recognised in national research priorities to see increased translational research in general practice for a high value primary health care system for all Australians. We will keep you informed as opportunities arise to become involved. Potential areas of interest include quality use of medicines, supporting safe and effective implementation of health care innovations such as genomics, and integrating digital interventions to support self-management of chronic conditions.

I look forward to working with you over the coming years and to your continued support for student learning and research in general practice as we go forward into the exciting if challenging times ahead.

**Katharine Wallis**

Mayne Professor of General Practice  
Head, General Practice Clinical Unit  
Director, UQGP Research

*“Excellent teachers tailoring teaching to the curriculum and providing practical clinical skills and involvement in a variety of procedures.”* 2021 MD Year 3 student on What they liked most about their placement.

Congratulations to:



**Dr Kathy Williams** and **Dr Colin Chow** who were the winners of the **2021 Medical Program Teaching Awards** for the General Practice Clinical Unit. These awards are nominated by students for a

clinical teacher they think is worthy of receiving an award.



**Dr Liam Rath** who was recently issued with an award by the **Metro North Elders Yarning Circle** who have recognised him as an Honorary Indigenous Elder.

Teaching news:

**The Practice Liaison Team** has been out and about visiting our valued teaching practices and meeting enthusiastic prospective GP Teachers at new practices.

Teaching practices are a critical part of the GPCU family and we enjoy visiting to learn how we can help you, and to update you on the MD2023 program, research and teaching opportunities, and how to become an Academic Title Holder.

Please contact us if you would like a visit and/or have any concerns about a student or any teaching issues. Dr Rory Melville [rory.melville@uq.edu.au](mailto:rory.melville@uq.edu.au), Dr Alison Green [a.green1@uq.edu.au](mailto:a.green1@uq.edu.au) or [med.gp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.gp@uq.edu.au)

**The 2021 End of year function** was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet with some of our GP teachers and thank them for the work they and their staff have done over the year. We were especially pleased to present

certificates to the nominees for the (student nominated) Medical Program Teaching Awards. Professor Kirsty Foster outlined the planned new curriculum for the MD Program and our staff provided updates on the work being done by GPCU. The evening finished with lots of laughs as teams contested a trivia quiz developed by Drs Ben Mitchell and Rory Melville. We hope to see many of you at the 2022 End of Year function.

**Planned events for 2022:** We are planning some webinars, a workshop and our end of year evening plus two new groups for GP teachers. Keep an eye out for further notifications about our events.

Webinar 1, **Assisting student learning while COVID lurks**, will be held on **16<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm -8pm**. We will be sending information soon.

The new groups to be held later in the year are:

**The GP Teachers Discussion Group** is aimed at recent Fellows and GPs who are new to teaching. A group will meet monthly and discuss aspects of teaching in the practice.

**The Vulnerability in Medicine for GP Teachers Group** will be held weekly over 6 weeks and involve critical reflection of your general practice and teaching experiences.

For information about any of our events, please contact [med.gp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.gp@uq.edu.au)

**Update re obtaining patient consent for students**

Please note the RACGP Standards for General Practice (Edition 5) section about documenting the presence of a student in your consultations:

*C2.2 A Our practice obtains and documents the prior consent of a patient when the practice introduces a third party to the consultation*

Our understanding is that this has come up in practice accreditation visits. For further information, see <https://www.racgp.org.au/download/Documents/Standards/RACGP-Standards-for-general-practices-5th-edition.pdf>.

**Are you an Academic Title Holder?**

As teachers of medical students in their practices, GPs are able to apply for a UQ Academic Title. As an Academic Title Holder (ATH), you are given UQ Library access, research support, UQ email access and UQ sports benefits. For further information see <https://medicine.uq.edu.au/alumni-and-community/academic-title-holders> or contact [med.gp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.gp@uq.edu.au)

2022 general practice placement dates

3rd year GP Placement Block

Block 1: 17 January – 25 February  
Block 2: 28 February – 8 April  
Block 3: 18 April – 27 May  
Block 4: 27 June – 5 August  
Block 5: 8 August – 16 September  
Block 6: 26 September – 4 November

2nd year Urban LInCC

Semester 1: 14 February – 20 May  
Semester 2: 11 July – 21 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.

**Get in touch:** We welcome new practices and staff. 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](mailto:uqgpresearch@uq.edu.au) or speak to one of the GP liaison Rory Melville or Alison Green.

## Research Focus

### The Craft of Generalism: clinical skills and attitudes for whole person care.

This paper is a tribute to the amazing wise ways that GPs think so they can care for both the biography and biology of the whole person. It frames generalism as a sophisticated and much needed antidote to reductionism. It defines the 'generalist gaze' as wider and more relational than the more biologically focussed 'medical gaze'. By describing the Whole Person Scope, Relational Process, Healing Orientation (or priorities) and Integrative Wisdom of the ways that GPs see the world, this paper hopes to protect, defend and encourage GPs in the wise dignity of their work. I really enjoyed gathering a wonderful collection of wise GP researchers and GP educators from Norway, USA, UK and Australia (including my PhD examiners and supervisors!), to critique and refine a key chapter of my PhD into this paper. I hope it encourages the GPs who read it!

Lynch JM, van Driel M, Meredith P, Stange KC, Getz L, Reeve J, Miller WL, Dowrick C. The Craft of Generalism: clinical skills and attitudes for whole person care. *J Eval Clin Pract.* 2021 Oct 15. doi: 10.1111/jep.13624. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34652051

## Recent PCCU articles

**Older peoples' views on cardiovascular disease medication: a qualitative study.** Wallis KA, Taylor DA, Fanueli EF, Saravanakumar P, Wells S. *Fam Pract.* 2022 Jan 25;cmab186. doi: 10.1093/fampra/cmab186. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35078221.

**Trial and error: challenges conducting pragmatic trials in general practice.** Wallis KA, Elley CR *British Journal of General Practice* 2022; 72 (715): 54-55.

DOI: 10.3399/bjgp22X718289

**Antidepressant prescribing in general practice: A call to action.** Wallis KA, Donald M, Moncrieff J. *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2021 Dec;50(12):954-956. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-02-21-5828. PMID: 34845476.

**Preserving antibiotics for the future: Where Australian general practice sits on the global spectrum.** van Driel ML, Merlo G, Baillie E, Dartnell J, Hall L, Heal C. *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2022 Jan-Feb;51(1-2):10-13. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-08-21-6144. PMID: 35098271.

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)

## Who's who at GPCU in 2022

There have been several staff changes in the General Practice Clinical Unit. The following people are the initial contacts for our GPs, both teaching and research based.

<b>Prof Katharine Wallis</b> <a href="mailto:k.wallis@uq.edu.au">k.wallis@uq.edu.au</a>	Mayne Professor of General Practice Head, General Practice Clinical Unit Director, UQGP Research
<b>Dr Hayley Thomas</b> <a href="mailto:h.thomas@uq.edu.au">h.thomas@uq.edu.au</a>	Academic Coordinator, Year 3 GP block
<b>Dr Jo O'Reilly</b> <a href="mailto:j.oreilly1@uq.edu.au">j.oreilly1@uq.edu.au</a>	Academic Coordinator, Year 2 Urban LInCC
<b>Dr Rory Melville</b> <a href="mailto:rory.melville@uq.edu.au">rory.melville@uq.edu.au</a>	GP Liaison
<b>Dr Alison Green</b> <a href="mailto:a.green1@uq.edu.au">a.green1@uq.edu.au</a>	GP Liaison
<b>Ms Sandii Comer</b> <a href="mailto:Med.gp@uq.edu.au">Med.gp@uq.edu.au</a>	GP Course Administrator
<b>Ms Ina Jenkins</b> <a href="mailto:Med.gp@uq.edu.au">Med.gp@uq.edu.au</a> <a href="mailto:Med.ul@uq.edu.au">Med.ul@uq.edu.au</a>	GP Course student Coordinator Urban LInCC student Coordinator (from 18 April 2022)
<b>Ms Natalie Best</b> <a href="mailto:Med.gp@uq.edu.au">Med.gp@uq.edu.au</a>	GP Course student coordinator (from 18 April 2022)

**For further details, please contact:** General Practice Clinical Unit:

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



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