



General Practice Clinical Unit GP Newsletter

November 2022

As we come towards the end of 2022, no doubt many of us are drawing a collective sigh of relief. There have been many changes and continued pressures. Despite the challenges, students continue to rate their experience in general practice highly, thanks to your efforts. The new medical curriculum starts in January 2023 with increased general practice footprint, reflecting the importance of general practice in our health system. Exposing students to general practice early in their training in Year 2 and again later in Year 4 will hopefully help to attract students into choosing general practice as a career option. Our succession plans rely on students choosing general practice as their career of choice. I thank you all for continuing to support student learning in your practices and wish you all the best for a relaxing break over the summer holiday season.

Katharine Wallis

Mayne Professor and Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice
Head, General Practice Clinical Unit

People

Staff updates

Hello, I am Karen Thrift. I am the GP Liaison Officer for the MRFF funded research project [RELEASE](#): REDressing Long-tErM Antidepressant uSE in general practice. I work in The University of Queensland, General Practice Clinical Unit, within the RELEASE team, recruiting practices and

providing support and outreach to participating practices. Prior to this role I was an educational visitor with NPS MedicineWise delivering educational outreach programs in general practice for more than 9 years.



I am Idin Panahi, and I am the GP Practice Support Officer for the RELEASE study. I also work at The University of Queensland's General Practice Clinical Unit, helping recruit and support GP practices throughout the RELEASE study. Before joining the RELEASE team, I was a PhD student at UQ's School of Public health, studying the treatment of hepatitis C among people who experience incarceration.

Teaching

Feedback from your students_

Here are some comments from your students about the things they liked best in their GP placements this semester:

- *a highlight of my year...*
- *regularly took the time to teach and develop my clinical skills...*
- *thoroughly enjoyed the placement...*
- *created a lot of opportunities to learn in the clinical environment...*
- *enthusiastic, supportive and welcoming...*
- *I felt like part of the team...*
- *lots of hands-on experience...*
- *wide breadth of patients, from pregnancy, week old babies, to more complex elderly patients...*
- *able to sit in with multiple different doctors and see how each practiced...*
- *provided good feedback...*

Practice Engagement Update

Thank you to all our GP teachers for the valuable contributions you make to student learning. As we move into 2023, the new MD Program commences in January as we 'teach out' for students enrolled in the current program (2023-2025). During this crossover period, we will have a great need for GP teachers, particularly July-November 2024.

The changes to the MD program will give students more exposure to General Practice. Under the new MD, all Year 2 students complete a longitudinal placement in general practice in Semester 2 (one day per week for 16 weeks) and Year 4 students complete a block placement in general practice in Semester 1. Under the current program students completing the 'old' curriculum will still do a block placement in 3rd year over 2023-2025.

Therefore, in the second half of 2024, there will be overlap, and we will be asking our valued teaching practices to consider taking an extra student, to assist us during this pressure point. Your friendly Practice Engagement Team is also recruiting new high quality teaching practices as quickly as possible to help meet this demand, so that all our GP teachers can continue to deliver sustainable high-quality teaching and mentoring, and, ultimately, help attract future GPs to our ranks!

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), Dr Alison Green (a.green1@uq.edu.au), Dr Cherri Ryan (cherri.ryan@uq.edu.au), Dr Beth Shirley (b.shirley1@uq.edu.au) or med.mdgp@uq.edu.au.

Becoming an Academic Title Holder

Most of our GP teachers are eligible for Academic Title Holder (ATH) status as a Senior Lecturer with the University of Queensland. If you teach medical students, and are not yet an Academic

Title Holder, we strongly encourage you to apply. Becoming an ATH gives you access to the UQ library, including essential online resources such as the Australian Medicines Handbook, electronic Therapeutic Guidelines, and key medical journals and textbooks. It also recognises the importance of our GP Teachers within the University.

All you need to apply is a screenshot/scanned copy of your AHPRA record, and a very basic CV. Allow 15-20 minutes, including [watching this video](#), which Dr Alison Green of the Practice Engagement Team has produced to talk you through the ATH application process.

GPCU Teaching Resources

The [UQ General Practice website](#) provides many useful resources for teaching. All Handbooks for the courses with student placements in General Practice will be updated for 2023 and can be found on the website, under Teaching Resources.

UQ MD Design update

The new UQ MD curriculum will commence in January 2023. The course remains a 4 year post graduate course which plans to have a *simplified and cohesive program organisation with a much more integrated approach to learning*. *There will be earlier meaningful clinical experience, more learner choice and a stronger emphasis on the effective transition to internship for our graduates*. (MD Design Website). For more detailed and updated information go to [MD Design](#) .

Dates for General Practice Placements 2023

3rd Year GP Block Placements

Block 1: 16 January – 24 February

Block 2: 27 February – 7 April

Block 3: 17 April – 27 May

Block 4: 26 June – 4 August

Block 5: 7 August – 15 September

Block 6: 25 September – 3 November

2nd Year Urban LInCC

Semester 1: 13 February – 19 May

Semester 2: 10 July – 20 October

Congratulations

Dr Cherri Ryan from the GPCU Practice Engagement Team was awarded the University of Queensland Medical Society (UQMS) *Award for Excellence in Teaching – Pre-Clinical Years* on 9 October 2022.

Culture, Community and Inclusivity

We would love to hear from you! In this section, we would like to share your experiences of culture, community and inclusivity, and how this enhances your life or your work in general practice. As GPs, we share common goals and values, such as compassion and care for all. Yet, we come from many backgrounds and cultures, have vast ranges of life experiences, work within different communities and hold many roles.

If you would like to share your experience of culture, community or inclusivity, please email a brief paragraph, poem, or image (up to 200 words +/- photo) to med.mdgp@uq.edu.au, for inclusion in a future newsletter.

Community

For many years, alongside medical and educational roles, I have belonged to a community of writers for children. We share goals of bringing laughter and hope to children. Many in this community have experienced hardships and overcome challenges. Supporting each other, for the sake of children's happiness, brings me great joy. Recently, while attending a book launch, I was

reminded of the incredible value of different communities, when the author explained why her latest junior novel was set in the world of roller derby. She and her teenage children are part of that community. She spoke of the culture of acceptance; every person being welcome; every style, speed and body shape being important; how gender does not define your role or which team you are on; and how you can be tough *and* vulnerable. Then, she shared how that community had wrapped its arms around her family, when her husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness during 2020; how the community held them up as they learned to live without him; and how that community, with its rough and tumble appearance, and deep culture of acceptance, had been their lifeline. Sometimes we find our community, sometimes it finds us.

(Dr Cherri Ryan, GPCU Practice Engagement Team)

Inclusivity

A safe & welcoming teaching environment, a place where everybody is welcome & everybody belongs.

[by Dineli Kalansuriya, Oluseyi Kolawole, Dr Alison Green & Dr Michaela Kelly]

GP teachers and medical students recognise the vital role of teaching and learning in the clinical environment. It's also a vulnerable time for students; we can all recall times in our own learning where we were not sure what to do or felt very nervous practicing a new skill or asking questions.

Part 1: Impressions in a practice

This is part 1 of a series compiled with medical students from Rainbow Med, to provide some basic starter tips to help provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people we meet through General Practice, including LGBTQIASB+ people.

Patient registration forms

Inclusivity & sensitivity: It is helpful to look at patient registration forms. This is the first thing our patients see when they register online as a new patient.

- When was the form last revised? Is there a place for noting pronouns? Birth sex? Gender identity? Can titles be optional?
- It may be helpful to ask for both "Name on Medicare Card" and "Preferred Name", to ensure that a person's current 'legal' name is recorded correctly, but they are only referred to by their preferred name. This will prevent the use of deadnames, which refers to a name that was assigned at birth but has been changed since.

Visible symbols of welcome

- It's helpful to signal that your practice and consult room are safe places and that everyone is welcome, and everyone belongs.
- Many of us choose to display the rainbow symbol or flag, AG has one that was helpfully drawn by her 9-year-old daughter, who is well aware of why the symbol is displayed, and enjoys reflecting on this and listening to the Teeny Tiny Stevies song "Family (Love is Love)" on Spotify.
- And did you know that there are many more flags displayed with pride by LGBTQIASB+ people and those who wish to show welcome and friendship? These include the progressive flag [1], transgender flag [2] & intersex flag [3].



- Pronoun pins, or inclusion of pronouns on staff name badges, are an important signal of understanding the importance of language. If all people are wearing their pronouns, it makes the space safer for trans and gender-diverse people to be able to disclose.
- Having a gender-neutral bathroom accessible or even degendering all your bathrooms
- Avoiding gendered language where possible in your signage
- Including pamphlets from LGBTQIASB+ specific service providers such as QC, 2spirits and diverse voices

- [1] Progressive flag courtesy paul2520 under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License
[2] Transgender pride flag courtesy of SVG file Dllloyd based on Monica Helms design via Wikimedia commons
[3] Intersex flag courtesy of Morgan Carpenter (SVG file simplification by AnonMoos) via Wikimedia commons

'We look forward to continuing this series in future newsletters. Do you have any thoughts or feedback? We would love to hear from you.

Research

UQGP Research Network

Enabling GPs, practices and university researchers to work together to develop practice-based solutions to practice-based problems and to build the evidence-base for a high-quality primary health care system. [Please get in touch if you have a burning research question or would like to work with us to help answer questions that are important to general practice.](#)
uqgpresearch@uq.edu.au

RELEASE

This research is led by Professor Katharine Wallis and A/Professor Maria Donald and funded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) 2020 Clinician Researchers: Applied Research in Health - MRFAR000079 (\$1.9 million).

With RELEASE, our vision is to improve Australian health outcomes by decreasing unnecessary and potentially harmful long-term antidepressant use. The RELEASE randomised trial is investigating effectiveness of the 'RELEASE intervention' compared to 'Usual care'. The RELEASE intervention has been designed to support patients on long-term antidepressants (>12m) to have a conversation with their GP about the risks and benefits of long-term antidepressant use, and to guide safe discontinuation when patient and GP choose this option.

In the RELEASE trial, all prescribing decisions are made as usual by GP and patient together.

We would love to have you and your practice join us in this study. We are currently recruiting practices. Participation is not onerous and is remunerated.

To find out more and to express an interest in joining the study please contact GP liaison officer: k.thrift@uq.edu.au or GP practice support officer i.panahi@uq.edu.au or call us on 0436 098 609.

Research article focus

[Recognising and responding to domestic and family violence in general practice.](#)

This paper offers practical tips on recognising and responding to domestic and family violence (DFV) in general practice. Dr Johanna Lynch consulted widely with DFV expertise from around the country, and from the BSPHN Recognise Respond Refer team where she is Clinical Advisor. This paper discusses the unique role of trust and continuity of care that GPs provide, alongside their pattern recognition skills that mean they can recognise DFV and may be the only person that a victim of DFV can reach out to safely. It also mentions the new information sharing legislation that allows GPs to raise the alarm to the DFV High Risk Team (as they are known in Queensland), if warranted, and gives practical tips on how to help patients prepare for safe exiting of their relationship when appropriate. Overall, this paper encourages GPs to create a safe climate for disclosure, to recognise, respond, and refer to DFV expertise appropriately and offers tips for good record keeping and reflection as part of self-care.

Recognising and responding to domestic and family violence in general practice. Lynch JM, Stone L, Victoire A. *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2022 Nov;51(11) doi: 10.31128/AJGP-03-22-6375

Recent articles

'I thought I was about to die': Management of non-fatal strangulation in general practice. Victoire A, De Boos J, Lynch JM. *Aust J Gen Pract.* 2022 Nov;51(11) doi:

Ear and hearing health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and older: A scoping review. Pender AM, Wilson WJ, Bainbridge RG, Schluter PJ, Spurling GK, Askew DA. *Int J Audiol.* 2022. Published online 19 October 2022. DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2022.2129853

The UQ Flap: A Novel Modification of the Keystone Flap. Mohammadreza H, Hertess I, Tucker S, Coetzer-Botha M, Kittler H, Rosendahl C. *Plast Reconstr Surg Glob Open.* 2022;10:e4619. Published online 24 October 2022. doi: 10.1097/GOX.0000000000004619.

General practitioners' views and experiences of communicating with older people about cancer screening: A qualitative study. Smith J, Dodd RH, Wallis KA, Naganathan V, Cvejic E, Jansen J, McCaffery KJ. *Family Practice.* 2022: <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmac126>

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

Congratulations

Dr Caroline Nicholson, from the Centre for Health System Reform and Integration (CHSRI) and Mater/UQ Centre for Integrated Care, was a joint winner of the Mater Innovator of the Year award, for health services research, co-designed in partnership with community stakeholders, to identify, develop and evaluate innovative systems of effective and integrated healthcare provision for individuals and communities.

Upcoming events and education

GPCU Annual GP Dinner and Awards Night

Please join us for the General Practice Clinical Unit Annual GP Dinner and Awards night. Catch up with your GP teaching colleagues, refresh your knowledge of teaching and research within the GPCU, learn about the new UQ MD Program commencing in 2023 and acknowledge the GP teachers nominated for Teaching Awards.

Date/Time: Wednesday 30 November 2022, 6-8pm

Venue: Mary Emelia Mayne Room, Mayne Medical Building, Herston Rd, Herston

Enquiries: med.mdgp@uq.edu.au. RSVP essential.

GPCU Research seminars

GPCU research seminars will resume in February 2023. Covering a range of topics, they are held fortnightly on Wednesdays from 12pm to 1pm, and can be accessed by Zoom. If you would like to be on the mailing list for these seminars, please contact med.mdgp@uq.edu.au

Skin Cancer Education

The GP Clinical Unit also delivers a program of *Skin Cancer Medicine*, offering a master's degree and a graduate certificate. Courses are online, can be undertaken part-time, and aim to improve skills in diagnosis and management of skin cancer. In 2022 a 'shorter form credential' course was also launched. More information and access to free professional development resources are available at the **UQ Skin Cancer Education Hub**, click [here and follow the prompts](#) or email med.enquiries@uq.edu.au.

GPs subscribing to this newsletter

Many GPs have told us they would like to receive this newsletter directly into their own inboxes, to stay up to date with the latest GPCU news on teaching, research and upcoming events.

If you, or other GPs in your practice, would like to directly subscribe to this newsletter:

Click [subscribe](#) or send the preferred email address/es to med.mdgp@uq.edu.au with '*Please subscribe me to GPCU newsletter*' in the subject line.

Contact us

Apply to be an ATH
(Academic Title Holder)

Teaching tips
and resources

This email was sent by Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland, Level 6, Oral Health Centre,
Herston Rd, Herston Qld 4006, www.medicine.uq.edu.au, CRICOS Provider Number: 00025B to
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