



# General Practice Clinical Unit GP Newsletter

Winter August 2023

Welcome to General Practice Clinical Unit Newsletter for Winter 2023.

Planning and implementation of the new MD at the University of Queensland is well underway with the first cohort of medical students in Year 1 of the new program this year. Next year will see implementation of the new Year 2 longitudinal placement in general practice. Thus from 2024, in addition to medical students completing a 6-week placement in general practice, there will be 420 Year 2 medical students spending one day per week in general practice over about 16 weeks. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase general practice to students early in their medical career. Thank you to all the practices and GP teachers who have signed up to support this new initiative.

Both teaching and research are CPD eligible activities; GPs may claim up to 30 CPD hours per year for participation in teaching and/or research.

In the research space, growing translational research and building the evidence base to support high-quality primary health care continue to be Government priorities. To this end, we are thrilled to report that both the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health Medical Research Future Fund and the National Health and Medical Research Council have funded the RELEASE trial. RELEASE (REdressing Long-tErm Antidepressant uSE) is a 3-arm cluster randomised controlled trial in general practice testing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of two multi-strategy interventions, RELEASE and RELEASE+, in supporting safe cessation of long-term antidepressants when there is no clinical indication for continued use. Thank you to all participating practices and GPs. If you or your practice would like to participate, please contact us as we would love to work with you: [release.study@uq.edu.au](mailto:release.study@uq.edu.au)

**Katharine Wallis**

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

## Upcoming events and education

### **Educational evening and dinner**

Wednesday 30 August 2023

### **Teaching Medical Students in General Practice: for GPs and GP Registrars**

All GP Teachers, GP Supervisors and Registrars are invited to attend an upcoming educational evening and dinner

Hosted by UQ GPCU and RACGP

**When:** 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Where:** Mary Emelia Mayne Room, Level 4,  
Mayne Medical School, Herston

**RSVP:** to [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au) by 23rd August  
(please notify any dietary needs)

### **GPCU Research seminars**

GPCU research seminars, 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](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au)

### **Upcoming Conferences**

GPCU Academic GP staff will be presenting at upcoming conferences, including:

- AAAPC August 2023 (Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care)
- WONCA October 2023 (World Organisation of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians)

## People

### **Staff update**

Hello, I am Natalii Paczkowski. I am the Qld State Coordinator for the Australia-wide PARTNER Network. This project is part of the Australian Teletrials Program. In my role, I will be recruiting and supporting rural and remote General Practices to be research-ready, to enable rural and remote patients to participate in clinical trials. I have a background in research and education. Living on a nature refuge near Warwick with my family keeps me busy in my spare time. I look forward to supporting you, your practice and patients, and your research. If your practice is MM3-7 and you are interested please contact me: [n.paczowski@uq.edu.au](mailto:n.paczowski@uq.edu.au)



### **Congratulations**

Dr Annabel Chau, Academic Coordinator Urban LInCC, received the Mayne Academy of General Practice Educator Award. This award is to support the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and to foster collaborations between Australasian primary care educators/educationalists and to enable partnerships with international educationalists.

The Near-Peer Teaching (GP Registrars and Year 2 MD students) Project Team received the Mayne Academy of General Practice Research Award.

Dr Idin Panahi, from the RELEASE team, has been conferred his PhD for the thesis “Hepatitis C virus treatment among people transitioning from correctional facilities in South-East Queensland”, exploring contemporary approaches to HCV treatment for people who have experienced incarceration, the barriers and facilitators to treatment initiation and completion for this population, and presents a mixed methods case study assessing a novel HCV Prison Transition Service run by the Queensland Injectors Health Network. (Available at [UQ eSpace](#))

Alice Pender (PhD Student and Audiologist) won ‘Best Early Career Research Poster Award’ at the Audiology Australia 2023 Conference in May for the article ‘Ear and hearing health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and older: A scoping review’ by A. M. Pender, W. J. Wilson, R. G. Bainbridge, P. J. Schluter, G. K. Spurling & D. Askew.

## Teaching

### Feedback from your students

Here are some aspects students liked best about their recent GP placements (across Year 3 GP Block placements and Year 2 Urban LInCC placements):

- *excellent clinical knowledge*
- *ability to sit with each of the GPs*
- *wide variety of presentations*
- *encouraged questions and engagement*
- *enjoyed the diversity of the patient population*
- *able to understand more about preventative health*
- *able to practice actual clinical skills*
- *ample opportunities to practice examination and history taking*

Here are some aspects students have found challenging:

- whilst sitting in with several different GPs during placement is positive, some students find it difficult to follow the progress of patients if rotating too often.
- observation is an important part of placement, however, some students would like to be involved in a more 'hands on' way, such as taking histories or performing focussed examinations, then presenting to their GP Teacher, or assisting with procedural skills. Year 2 students have learnt to take histories, many examination skills and some basic procedural skills and are eager to receive guidance and support to practice these skills. Year 3 or 4 students are often honing their skills in these aspects.

### Practice engagement update

We appreciate all our GP Teachers, Practice Managers and other practice staff who ensure our medical students have valuable experiences in General Practice. Also, we thank all the new practices who have joined our network in the last three months, as we prepare for changes to the MD curriculum which will see all students undertaking *two* placements in General Practice during their 4-year MD, a longitudinal placement in Year 2 and a 6-week block placement in Year 3 or 4. If you have any queries, or would like a visit from one of the GP Liaisons in the Practice Engagement Team (Dr Alison Green, Dr Rory Melville, Dr Beth Shirley and Dr Cherri Ryan), please email your request to [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au).

### GPCU Teaching Resources

The [UQ General Practice website](#) contains the regularly updated *Handbook for GP Teachers* and many other useful resources for teaching. To access, please click on the ‘Teaching and Learning’ tab and then on ‘Resources for GP Clinical Teachers’.

### Becoming an Academic Title Holder

All our GP Teachers are eligible for UQ Academic Title Holder status, at Senior Lecturer level (GPs) or Lecturer level (GP Registrars), which also provides access to the online library, including

to articles below, many journals and useful resources such as Therapeutic Guidelines. To apply, please follow instructions provided on the [UQ General Practice website](#) - click on 'Teaching and Learning' and then scroll down to 'UQ Academic Title Holders'.

## Dates for GPCU General Practice Placements 2023

3 <sup>rd</sup> Year GP Block Placements		2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Urban LinCC	
Block 5:	7 August – 15 September	Semester 2:	July – October
Block 6:	25 September – 3 November		

Dates for 2024 will be available in the next newsletter.

## Rural and Regional Perspectives

### Presentation to Department of Health

On June 15th, A/Prof Riitta Partanen, Prof Bruce Chater and A/Prof Matthew McGrail presented to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care's Health Workforce Divisional Meeting. Their presentation was a short summary of research evidence published by UQ's Rural Clinical School of outcomes relating to its Extended Placement Program in smaller rural communities, which was published in BMJ Open in early 2023. This evidence was presented alongside UQ's redesign of its MD and expanded medical training pathways.

This session was attended by well over 100 members of the divisional team, with plenty of engagement and enthusiasm seen. Following the session, a Department response summed up its impact "thank you again for the great presentation – we've heard a lot of great comments, discussion and interest following on from your talk – it was fantastic.... It was a great opportunity for all members of our division to hear about the work being done to address the workforce shortages in rural and regional Australia...Good to know we are all on the right track!".

### Recent article

Anderson E, **McGrail MR**, Hollins A, Young L, McArthur L, O'Sullivan B, et al. Comparison of performance outcomes after general practice training in remote and rural or and regional locations in Australia. Med J Aust. 2023; 218(9):408-9.

## Research

### Featured article

#### 3-Domains screening toolkit for medical assessment of older drivers: Feasibility study in Australian general practice

Older driver medical assessment is an important but challenging role for general practice. The 3-Domains screening toolkit measures across the three functional domains essential for driving (sensory, motor, cognitive) and generates a combined predictive score which is the likelihood an older driver would pass on-road driving assessment. We tested the 3-Domains toolkit in 43 older driver (>75 years) medical assessments during 2021 in 9 practices in southeast Queensland. We interviewed older drivers (9), practice nurses (5), and GPs (8) about the toolkit. Findings suggest that the toolkit is feasible in routine practice, acceptable to older drivers, and useful for GPs to inform clinical judgement and support communication about fitness to drive.

**Wallis KA**, Scott TL, Mendis M, **Spurling G**. 3-Domains screening toolkit for medical assessment of older drivers: Feasibility study in Australian general practice. AJGP Vol. 52, No. 6, June 2023. <https://doi.org/10.31128/AJGP-08-22-6528>

### Recent articles from GPCU

**Lynch JM**, **Thomas HR**, **Askew DA**, **Sturman N**. Holding the complex whole: Generalist philosophy, priorities and practice that facilitate whole-person care. AJGP, Volume 52, Issue 7, July 2023 <https://doi.org/10.31128/AJGP-01-23-6686>

Scott IA, Doust JA, Keijzers GB, **Wallis KA**. Coping with uncertainty in clinical practice: a narrative review. MJA Open, 23rd April 2023. <http://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51925>

**King D**, Schien M, Stanton R. Plant-rich diets: Healthier for people and the planet. AJGP Volume 52, Issue 5, May 2023. <https://doi.org/10.31128/AJGP-09-22-6558>

**Tranter I, van Driel ML, Mitchell B**. How to 'Google' in front of the patient: A practical approach to information seeking during the consultation. AJGP Vol 52, Issue 7, July 2023 <https://doi.org/10.31128/AJGP-09-22-6562>

**Sturman NJ, Mitchell B, Jennings W, Kelly M, O'Reilly JM, King D**. Work-based feedback conversations with GP teachers. Clinical Teacher, Vol 20, Issue 3, April 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tct.13576>

**Turner A** et al. Temporal patterns of antibiotic prescribing for sore throat, otitis media, and sinusitis: a longitudinal study of general practitioner registrars, Family Practice, May 2023; cmad055, <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmad055>

Gil-Hernández E, Carrillo I, Tumelty M-E, Srulovici E, Vanhaecht K, **Wallis KA**, Giraldo P, Astier-Peña M P, Panella M, Guerra-Paiva S, Buttigieg S, Seys D, Strametz R, Mora A U, Mira JJ. How different countries respond to adverse events whilst patients' rights are protected. Medicine, Science and the Law. 27th June 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00258024231182369>

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

## Culture, Community and Inclusivity

*We would love to hear from you!*

If you would like to share your experience of culture, community or inclusivity, and how this enhances your life or your work in general practice, please email a brief paragraph, poem, or image (up to 200 words +/- photo) to [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au), for inclusion in a future newsletter.

## 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](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au) with '*Please subscribe me to GPCU newsletter*' in the subject line.

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(Academic Title Holder)

Teaching tips  
and resources

