



# UQ General Practice Newsletter

Mayne Academy of General Practice & General Practice Clinical Unit

Autumn May 2024

Thank you to our UQ affiliated practices that provide clinical placements for UQ medical students and/or are involved in research including the RELEASE (REdressing Long-tErM Antidepressant uSE in general practice) trial.

Implementation of the new MD program at UQ is well underway. For the first time, in 2024 we have hundreds of Year 2 medical students placed in general practice for one day per week over 14 weeks. This exciting initiative exposes students to the rich learning experiences available in general practice early in their training and is in addition to the immersive placement in general practice that comes later in the program. Under the new MD, the current Year 3 placement will transition to Year 4 and extend from the current six weeks to eight weeks in general practice. Combined, the placements for UQ medical students add millions of dollars to general practice through the practice incentives program (PIP) and helps to train the future workforce in the context where they are most needed to help us face the health challenges of the future, including an aging population, rising health care costs, and increasing health inequality. Thank you for being part of this exciting initiative.

We are still recruiting practices and GPs to both provide clinical placements in general practice for medical students and to be involved in the RELEASE trial. Please contact us if you or a colleague are interested [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  
The University of Queensland Medical School

## Upcoming events

### ONLINE JOURNAL CLUB

Tuesday 21st May 2024, 6pm – 7pm (AEST)

The GoldNet Research Network and UQGP Research network are pleased to invite you to an upcoming online collaborative journal club on benefits and harms of drug treatment for type 2 diabetes, with hosts, Prof. Nick Zwar & Prof Katharine Wallis, and guest panel, A/Prof. Geoffrey Spurling & Dr Anish Menon

**Free to join!** Please register via EventBrite Link [here](#)

### ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 6pm – 7pm (AEST)

Are you interested in UQ's Master of Medicine (Skin Cancer) program? Engage with academic staff to learn about our program, including what and how you'll learn, and ask any questions you may have about UQ or the program.

To Register click [here](#)

### IN PERSON EVENT – SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, 6pm – 8pm (AEST)

Educational Update evening with dinner provided

Mayne Medical School, Herston

Invitations with further details will be emailed.

## People

### Dr Lynne Reid

Dr. Lynne Reid recently moved from Cairns to Brisbane, joining the GP Clinical Unit Liaison Team. A University of Glasgow alum, she relocated from the UK to Australia in 2014, enjoying a decade in the tropics before heading to Brisbane with her husband Michael, an orthopaedic surgeon, and their kids, Lexie and Archie. With over twenty years in clinical practice and medical education, Lynne contributed to James Cook University as a Senior Clinical Lecturer and Lead Medical Educator, focusing on GP training and registrar supervision. Lynne continues to work in general practice and in sports injuries. She has an interest in medical law and works as an Independent Medical Advisor for AHPRA. She's keen on refining medical education methods and developing new training frameworks. When she's not deep in the world of general practice, Lynne loves hitting the running tracks, swooshing down ski slopes, and cheering from the sidelines at her kids' many sporting events.



### Dr Jessica van den Heuvel

Jess is a final year GP registrar, currently undertaking an RACGP Academic Post in the General Practice Clinical Unit. Her research is looking into weight bias in maternity care, investigating GP's attitudes towards weight and body size in pregnancy. The work is part of a nationwide body of research titled 'Body Positive Birth'. Jess will also be involved with GP course assessment and examination, as well as tutorial of 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students in their General Practice rotation. Prior to commencing GP training, she worked largely in obstetric and gynaecology positions across hospitals in Victoria and Brisbane. Jess has recently returned to work from maternity leave, after the birth of her daughter Matilda last year, and is still getting used to the juggle! Having just passed her RACGP written exams, she plans to return to her clinical role at Family Doctors Plus in Windsor later in the year.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2024 Mayne Academy of General Practice awards!

- Dr Parvin Delshad – Award for Researcher Development
- Dr Cheri Ryan & Dr Michaela Kelly – Award for Teaching Excellence
- Assoc. Prof Nancy Sturman – Early Career Researcher Award for Research Excellence
- Dr Ben Mitchell – Higher Degree Research Student Award for Research Excellence



## Rural and Regional Perspectives

The Wide Bay Learning Community ran a GP Networking & Information session in Bundaberg on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, which was attended by representatives from 6 of the 10 clinics that are supporting the Year 2 General Practice Immersion. We received some great feedback from the practices, and they were keen to have students in the second half of the year. The GPs reported that they enjoy having students in their practice and are finding meaningful ways to engage them in learning on consultations and with procedures. One of the GPs commented that it has been a long time since he has had a medical student with him in his practice, and he was enjoying it even though his student is set on being an O&G specialist, his challenge is to sway her around to General Practice as an excellent career option. His student is gaining confidence each week and is keen to stay longer than required. Another practice noted that the student feedback was important for his practice to make appropriate changes to encourage learning for students.

A practice manager shared her observation of students being kind, understanding, compassionate, and willing to participate in minor procedures like removal of sutures, wound management, and even Influenza vaccination with the nursing staff. It was also noted that having students assist with setting up and down for procedures has freed the nurse to assist with other activities like Care Plans. In addition to the great feedback, there was an opportunity to work through how we can improve communication between the Bundaberg Regional Clinical Unit and the GP practices and to provide hard copies of the GP handbook to those who prefer this format.

## Teaching

As we continue transitioning to the new MD Curriculum, our experienced GP clinical teachers may have noticed lower numbers of Year 3 (or Year 4) students on 6-week GP block placements in metropolitan areas. Please rest assured that we still need and value teaching for students on both types of placements. Currently, our greatest need in metropolitan areas is for Year 2 students on their 1-day per week longitudinal placements (14 weeks) and this will continue in 2025. From 2026, Year 4 students will undertake 8-week GP block placements in the first half of the year, AND Year 2 students will be completing longitudinal GP placements in the second half of the year. By providing two opportunities for students to experience general practice during their training, they will gain a greater understanding of, and interest in, the profession and the integral importance of general practice in the Australian health care system.

### Practice Liaison Update

Across the greater Brisbane region and the regions of the Rural Clinical School there are now over 250 general practices involved in hosting UQ medical students on placements. Thank you for being a part of this network of teachers! Our team have been liaising with many of you via practice visits, phone calls, Zoom meetings, emails and through this newsletter. We are striving to ensure that each of our GP clinical teachers in all of our practices feel supported. If your practice would like a visit (or call or Zoom meeting), e.g. you have questions about the new MD curriculum or additional GPs who would like to teach, please let us know at [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au) and we will arrange a mutually suitable time to contact you.

### GP Clinical Teachers Handbook and Resources

To locate the **Handbook for GP Clinical Teachers** (updated for 2024) go to the [UQ General Practice website](#), then click on the 'Teaching and Learning' tab.

Here you will also find other resources to support your teaching including a one-page overview that sets out the difference between students and placements for the Year 2 longitudinal and Year 3 or 4 immersive placement in practice.

### Becoming an Academic Title Holder

GP Clinical Teachers are eligible for Academic Title Holder status, which provides an academic title, UQ email address and access to the vast UQ Library resources! If you have not yet applied, please see the video guide on the [UQ General Practice website](#), click on the 'Teaching and Learning' tab, then 'Applying for a UQ Academic Title'.

### Dates for General Practice Placements 2024

Block Placements: Year 3 or 4 students (30 half-day sessions over 6 weeks)		Longitudinal Placements: Year 2 students (1 full-day per week for 14 weeks)	
Block 4	24 <sup>th</sup> June – 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Second Half	Weeks of 17 <sup>th</sup> June - 18 <sup>th</sup> October
Block 5	5 <sup>th</sup> August – 13 <sup>th</sup> September		
Block 6	23 <sup>rd</sup> September – 1 <sup>st</sup> November		

## Research

### UQGP Research Network

This practice-based research network enables GPs, practices and university researchers to work together to ask the questions that are relevant to general practice, and to develop practice-based solutions to practice-based problems. While most health care is delivered in primary care, most research happens elsewhere. Together we can work to build the evidence-base for a high-quality primary health care system.

### Webinar – Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines

Dr Johanna Lynch invites you to listen to this [webinar](#)!

This was offered as a free public lecture by the Australian Society for Psychological Medicine in conjunction with the GPCU RELEASE deprescribing research team. The lecture features Dr Mark Horowitz, co-author of the recently released Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines, who provides a fantastic summary of the latest science and practice in deprescribing and some really useful practical information for GPs. This webinar also featured Dr Ruth Vine, the Deputy Medical Officer of Australia (Mental Health) and Professor Katharine Wallis, Head of the GP Clinical Unit and Mayne Academy of General Practice. GPs can self-record CPD points from watching this webinar.

For future information on free public lectures and webinars offered by the Australian Society for Psychological Medicine – click [here](#).

### Recent articles

Wallis KA, Donald M, Moncrieff J. Antidepressant prescribing in general practice: A call to action. *AJGP*. 2021;50(12):954-6.

McDonald S, Wallis KA, Horowitz M, et al. Acceptability and optimisation of resources to support antidepressant cessation: A qualitative think-aloud study with patients in Australian primary care. *Br J Gen Pract*. 2023;DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.3399/BJGP.2023.0269>

Smith J, Cvejic E, Houssami N, Schonberg MA, Vincent W, Naganathan V, Jansen J, Dodd R, Wallis K, McCaffery KJ. Randomized trial of information for older women about cessation of breast cancer screening invitations. *J Gen Int Med*. 2024, in press.

## Upcoming GPCU Research seminars

GPCU research seminars, covering a range of topics, 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 Dr Andrew Webster [andrew.webster@uq.edu.au](mailto:andrew.webster@uq.edu.au)

Currently planned seminars include:  
(NB: topics and presenters are subject to change)

29 May	Professor Jason Ferris (Research and Statistical Support Services)	Applied statistics research, design and methods
12 June	Dr Shane Delisser with Nancy Sturman	LGBTQI teaching - comfort levels among educators and experiences of learners
10 Jul	Dr Johanna Lynch	The Generalist Gaze: making visible the generalist skills at the heart of quality health care
17 July	Dr Mark Horowitz	Antidepressant Deprescribing

## Culture, Community and Inclusivity

*We would love to hear from you!* If you would like to share your experiences of culture, community and 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.

Contact us

Apply to be an ATH  
(Academic Title Holder)

Teaching tips  
and resources

Editor: Cherri Ryan

This email was sent by Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland, Mayne Medical Building, 285 Herston Road, Herston, QLD, 4006, [www.medicine.uq.edu.au](http://www.medicine.uq.edu.au), CRICOS: 00025B | TEQSA: PRV12080 to [k.wicks@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.wicks@uq.edu.au)

[Unsubscribe](#)