



UQ General Practice Newsletter

Mayne Academy of General Practice & General Practice Clinical Unit

Winter August 2024

It is with great pleasure that I share the positive feedback from our first group of UQ Year 2 medical students placed on a longitudinal placement in general practices in Brisbane and in rural Queensland. As we implement the new UQ MD program, for the first time we placed more than 200 UQ medical students into GP practices for one day per week over 14 weeks. Feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive. Students relished the opportunity and the clinical experience and grew to appreciate the highly varied work in general practice and the highly skilled and caring general practice team. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase general practice, and to expose students to the excellent work that goes on in general practice. A huge thank you to all the practices and practice staff involved. I knew we could do it!

Katharine Wallis

Mayne Professor and Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice
Head, General Practice Clinical Unit
The University of Queensland Medical School

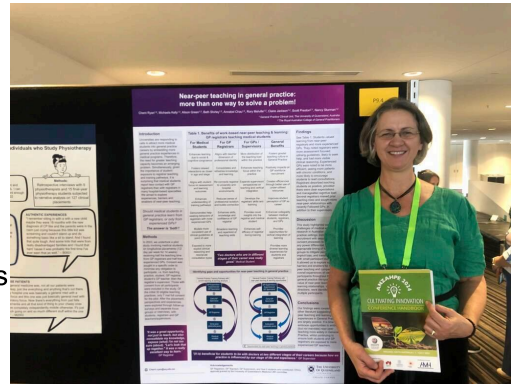
People

Congratulations

In a recent GPCU project, conducted in collaboration with RACGP, the “Near-peer teaching in general practice”, saw Year 2 medical students on longitudinal placements learning from GPs for half their time and from GP Registrars for the other half. We conducted focus groups and interviews with the students, registrars and GP supervisors, and received positive feedback about the experience from all involved. Dr Cherri Ryan presented a poster about this work, on behalf of

the team, at the Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) Conference 2024 in Adelaide, which was well-received. A paper has also been accepted by AJGP for upcoming publication. To read the poster click [here](#)

Alice Pender, PhD student (GPCU) and Advanced Audiologist, was invited onto ABC Radio National Health Report on 6th July 2024 to discuss findings from the focus article featured below in this newsletter! To listen to the interview click here: [Indigenous Australians with hearing loss aren't getting the care they need - ABC listen](#)



Dr Johanna Lynch is the current Writer-in-Residence for the ALIVE National Centre for Mental Health Research Translation! To read the first piece, please click here: <https://alivenetwork.com.au/sensing-as-a-whole-person-is-sensation-more-than-anecdotal-evidence/>

A/Prof Geoff Spurling recently received two UQ awards: UQ Amplify for people who have had investigator grants, and a UQ Career Development Award for career development and to progress an opioid agonist therapy model in primary care.

A/Prof Michaela Kelly, Dr Shane Delisser and Dr Alison Green collaborated with medical students, Shane Jayatillake and Dineli Kalansuriya in a recent student-staff partnership. The students were supported through the Mayne Academy of General Practice to attend the ANZAHPE Conference 2024 in Adelaide to give an oral presentation entitled: *Over the rainbow - skies aren't blue! Medical student experiences of LGBTQIASB+ content in the curriculum and microaggressions in the clinical workplace.*

Teaching

Practice Liaison Update

More than 50 GPs, GP registrars and medical students gathered with GPCU staff, orthopaedic and physiotherapy colleagues on Wednesday 31st July at the Mayne Medical School for a speed-dating style dinner and discussion on Musculoskeletal Teaching and Learning, organised by Dr Lynne Reid and Ms Kim Wicks. This collaborative event was enjoyed by all.



Save The Date!

Please save the date for the GPCU Annual End-of-Year Dinner and Awards educational evening: Wednesday 27th November 2024!

Feedback from your students

In the first half of 2024, over 220 Year 2 students attended one-day per week longitudinal placements in general practices across the greater Brisbane area and Rural Clinical School locations. The remaining half of the Year 2 cohort are now in their longitudinal placements.

Feedback received from year 2 students included *many* positive comments about being given opportunities to practice clinical skills. Other comments included:

- *very passionate GP that provided excellent, inspiring example of the specialty*
- *hands on learning experiences with a supervisor that I got to build a continuous relationship with over the duration of my placement*

- *being able to work with a diverse patient population*
- *doctor was very approachable, friendly and accommodating*
- *welcoming and inclusive nature of the clinic, making me and patients feel comfortable*

Some students identified aspects that would have improved their experiences, including:

- *a meet and greet (on or prior to) first day where students and clinicians have an opportunity to get to know one another before seeing patients and set expectations for placement*
- *more time spent one-on-one with the GP would have added to the learning experience*
- *giving students more opportunities to do things, e.g. history taking, examinations, vaccinations*

Thank you to all our GP Clinical Teachers for making these new Year 2 Longitudinal GP Placements such a resounding success.

GP Clinical Teachers Handbook and Resources

On the [UQ General Practice website](#), click on the 'Teaching and Learning' tab to find the current **Handbook for GP Clinical Teachers** and other resources to support your teaching, including a one-page overview outlining the differences between students on the Year 2 longitudinal placements versus Year 3 or 4 immersive placements.

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 click on '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 th June – 2 nd August	Second Half	Weeks of 17 th June - 18 th October
Block 5	5 th August – 13 th September		
Block 6	23 rd September – 1 st November		

Rural and Regional Perspectives

With the introduction of Year 2 of the Medical Program in Toowoomba in 2025, the Toowoomba Regional Clinical Unit is enjoying the opportunity to visit and meet with GP practices in the region as we look to expand GP placements in 2025 with the ultimate goal of inspiring the next generation of regional GPs. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with the Darling Downs and West Moreton PHN who are planning a workshop focusing on GP Workforce in the region. This will be an opportunity for us to continue to share information about the Medical Pathways which is the shared vision of regionally based end-to-end medical education and training pathways made possible through partnerships with the University of Southern Queensland, Darling Downs Health, and South-West Hospital and Health Service. A similar collaboration with Central Queensland University, Wide Bay, and Central Queensland Hospital and Health Services is a year ahead in implementation and we will welcome Year 1 MD students to Bundaberg and Rockhampton in 2025. We are currently recruiting teachers across the RCS footprint and would love to hear from GPs who are looking to diversify the working week and take up teaching opportunities. Opportunities are listed on [UQ Careers](#) or submit an Expression of interest to ugrcs.enquiries@uq.edu.au. Collaboration is key to the success of this program, and we are delighted to be hosting RACGP for their fortnightly education and workshops with GP Registrars at the Rockhampton and Hervey Bay Regional Clinical Units.

Research

RELEASE (REdressing Long-tErm Antidepressant uSE) trial update

Twenty-seven GP practices in southeast Queensland are participating in this randomised controlled trial testing the effectiveness of an intervention (the RELEASE 3As brief intervention):

Ask, Advise, Assist) designed to support people to safely stop long-term antidepressants in general practice compared to usual care. This work aims to address the “priority reform” identified in the Australian Productivity Commission Mental Health Inquiry report of increasing antidepressant prescribing and associated adverse effects. Thank you to all participating practices and patients. Data collection will be complete December 2025.

Research article focus

Self-reported hearing loss in urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults: unmeasured, unknown and unmanaged

Alice Pender, Prof Philip Schluter, A/Prof Geoff Spurling, and A/Prof Deb Askew from GPCU together with Prof Roxanne Bainbridge (UQ Poche Centre), A/Prof Wayne Wilson (UQ Audiology) and Sissy Tyson (Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence) published this article on the 1st of July in the Australian Journal of Primary Health.

The article reports findings from Alice Pender’s PhD studies which is aimed at improving management of hearing loss in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults. It discusses findings of significant rates of self-reported hearing loss among urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults which are likely to be lower than actual measured hearing loss. The study also found that 60% of adults did not receive management of their reported hearing loss. The WHO have developed an App that can be used to screen hearing called the [hearWHO](#). Information for Hearing Australia services for First Nations People can be found [here](#).

Pender Alice M., Schluter Philip J., Bainbridge Roxanne G., Spurling Geoffrey K., Wilson Wayne J., Tyson Claudette ‘Sissy’, Askew Deborah A. (2024) Self-reported hearing loss in urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults: unmeasured, unknown and unmanaged. *Australian Journal of Primary Health* 30, PY24024. <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY24024>

Recent articles

Jackson C ‘Redrawing Australia’s next National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) – confronting the wickedest of wicked problems’ *Medical Journal of Australia* accepted 6th June 2024.

Kelly M, Sturman N, Green A, Ryan C, Shirley B, Chau A, Preston S, Jackson C ‘Wanted - nearer peers for teaching and learning in general practice.’ *AJGP* accepted 15th May 2024.

Job J, Nicholson C, Clark D, Arapova J, Jackson C ‘The feasibility, acceptability and appropriateness of screening for frailty in Australians aged 75 years and over attending Australian general practice. *Australian Journal of Primary Health* 30, PY23173, 13 May 2024 <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY23173> .

Jackson C ‘Big Talk, Little Action: the enduring narrative of primary care reform.’ *Australian Health Review* 7 May 2024 www.publish.csiro.au/ah/pdf/AH24090.

Jayatillake S, Kalansuriya D, **Green A, Delisser S, Kelly M.** Over the rainbow - skies aren't blue! Medical student experiences of LGBTQIASB+ content in the curriculum and microaggressions in the clinical workplace. Paper presented at: Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) 2024 Conference: Cultivating Innovation; 1-4 July 2024; Adelaide, South Australia.

Ryan C, Kelly M, Green A, Shirley B, Chau A, Melville R, Jackson C, Preston S, Sturman N. Near-peer teaching in general practice: more than one way to solve a problem! Poster session presented at: Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) 2024 Conference: Cultivating Innovation; 1-4 July 2024; Adelaide, South Australia.

Wallis K. [Many people get withdrawal symptoms when they try to stop antidepressants. So how can you safely stop? \(The Conversation\)](#) June 14, 2024.

Wallis K. [How to safely cease antidepressants \(HealthEd\)](#) July 3, 2024.

Auld S (interviewing **Wallis K** and Horowitz M) [Practical guide to deprescribing antidepressants - Healthed](#) May 3, 2024.

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

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 med.mdgp@uq.edu.au

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, 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 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

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