



## UQ General Practice Newsletter 2025.2

Welcome to the UQ General Practice Winter update. Thank you to all the practices, GP clinical teachers, practice managers, nurses, and other practice staff who have supported ongoing student learning through exceptional disruptions including a pandemic and now also a cyclone. Fingers crossed for smoother sailing ahead.

In other news, together with our OT colleagues, we are encouraging referrals for older driver (>75y) fitness to drive assessments via Smart Referrals to the PA Occupational Therapy Driving assessment clinic. This opportunity for on-road driving assessment is only available until the end of the year for older drivers referred for assessment by their GP and is not limited to the south side. This opportunity for assessments is made available via our research study which is funded by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission.

Thank you to Cherri Ryan and Beth Shirley for introducing monthly lunchtime drop-in zoom

sessions (Wednesday 12:30-1pm) to meet and answer your questions about student placements and how to support students to make best use of their time that they are with you in your practice. We look forward to meeting more of you at these sessions – bring your sandwich. Further information below.

**Katharine Wallis**

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

 Upcoming events

**Lunchtime Drop-in Educational Sessions for GP Clinical Teachers**

Please join our monthly lunchtime online drop-in sessions, where we provide a short educational session and answer any queries you have. This can be self-logged for CPD points.

**Time:** 12:30pm to 1pm

**Day:** The first Wednesday of each month

**Zoom Link:** Click [here](#)

Invitations will also be sent to all practices the week before.

**Save the Date**

Later this year (date to be confirmed), we will be holding a meet and greet and Thank You Lunch for all Practice Managers! We sincerely appreciate the extra work involved in hosting students. We will also provide updates on plans for medical student placements 2026. Further details and invitations will be emailed to each of our Teaching Practices.

Recent events

**RACGP 64<sup>th</sup> Clinical Update**

Dr Michaela Kelly and Dr Annabel Chau recently presented at the RACGP

64<sup>th</sup> Clinical Update with GP Academics from Bond, James Cook and Griffith Universities, along with students from each of these medical schools. Attendees valued the collaborative session. Students shared their perspectives on GP placements, particularly valuing the great experience of being able to practice skills under the supervision of a GP, the variety of presentations, and the opportunity to talk to lots of patients.



## People

### Staff Update

Dr Matt Roughan

I am Matt, a GP registrar currently undertaking an academic post in the General Practice Clinical Unit. I graduated from UQ in 2017 and am enjoying being back at the university. My research project is exploring the management of alcohol, tobacco and other substance use consults by GP registrars. I am also involved in teaching, examination and creating resources for UQ medical students, particularly those completing their General Practice rotation. I work part time clinically on the southside of Brisbane, and have previously worked in hospitals throughout Queensland and the Northern Territory. I also have an interest in public health, have completed an MPH and have worked in multiple Public Health Units in Queensland. In my spare time, I enjoy making mediocre attempts at surfing and playing golf.



### Congratulations

Congratulations to Professor Claire Jackson and the Centre for Health System and Reform team on receiving the following grant: MRFF 2025 'Alliance for Healthy Ageing (AHA): supporting local health system integration. AHA aims to prevent, delay or reverse frailty in the community. Utilizing a multidisciplinary, integrated, digitally supported, regional consortium committed to Alliance Governance principles the AHA directly addresses identified community priorities. This proposal builds upon the established work of the research and service delivery partners in providing evidence-based, well-evaluated innovations in governance and workforce re-design for vulnerable populations in the rural and remote Western Queensland (Qld) region.

Congratulations to Professor Katharine Wallis and co-authors, whose paper, *Coping with uncertainty in clinical practice: a narrative review*, was identified as one of the top 10 most-cited

papers published by the Medical Journal of Australia in 2023! Scott, I.A., Doust, J.A., Keijzers, G.B. and Wallis, K.A. (2023), *Coping with uncertainty in clinical practice: a narrative review*. Med J Aust, 218: 418-425. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51925>

## Teaching

We have been working with the RACGP to support GP registrars to become GP clinical teachers. We've had a wonderful response to this, with around 30 GP registrars teaching UQ medical students in their GP placements this year. We ask that GP registrars discuss their involvement with their GP supervisors and check that their medical indemnity insurance covers them for teaching prior to expressing interest.

Dr Amelia Duhs, the RACGP Regional Director of Training for QLD commented, *"It is such a pleasure for RACGP to collaborate with UQ to support near peer teaching in general practice training. Engagement between medical students and RACGP AGPT registrars is mutually beneficial in supporting both the general practice pipeline and general practice education. RACGP encourages registrars to collaborate with medical students under the tutelage of their supervisors (and after discussion with their MDO) - "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough," as Einstein said."*

Near peer teaching is an excellent opportunity for GP registrars to consolidate their knowledge and gain teaching skills. They are also eligible to apply for Academic Title with UQ. A recent AJGP article on the subject, linked [here](#) suggests that near peer teaching was beneficial for both the GP registrars and the medical students. Medical students really appreciate the chance to be taught by GP teachers nearer in age and stage to them and value their insight into GP as a career path. **If you have a GP registrar in your practice who might be interested in teaching UQ medical students, please fill in the GP registrar expression of interest form [here](#) or use the QR code below.**



### **GP Clinical Teachers Handbook and Resources**

On our website, we provide a range of useful resources for you to utilise as you support UQ MD student learning in your practice, including:

- the *Handbook for GP Clinical Teachers*, which includes specific information you need for when a student is on placement, from contact details, to assessment, to advice on what to do if your student suffers a needle stick injury
- *Resources for GP Clinical Teachers*, such as patient perspectives and tips on providing feedback.
- new presentations and other information added throughout the year

The QR code below will take you directly to the GPCU [Teaching and learning page](#)



If you have any questions, please bring them along to our monthly online drop-in sessions (see link in the Events section above) or please contact us at [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au)

### **Becoming an Academic Title Holder**

The University of Queensland values the contributions of health professionals who contribute to the teaching and mentoring of students, such as GP Clinical Teachers. You can apply for and be awarded an Academic Title. These are awarded for up to five years (then can reapply). For GP Clinical Teachers, this is at the level of Senior Lecturer (and for GP Registrars at the level of Lecturer). In addition to an Academic Title, this also provides access to the vast UQ Library resources and a UQ email address. For application instructions, please click [here](#) then click on 'Applying for a UQ Academic Title'.

### **Are you currently an Academic Title Holder (ATH)?**

If so, please check the expiry date of your Academic Title. If soon, you will need to resubmit another application for this to continue. Please submit the re-application at least one month before the expiry date to ensure continued access to your UQ email address and the UQ Library resources.

### **Remaining dates for General Practice Placements 2025**

<b>Block Placements: Year 3 or 4 students</b>		<b>Longitudinal Placements: Year 2 students</b>	
<b>Block 4</b>	23rd June - 2nd August		

<b>Block 5</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> August – 13 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Second Half</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Block 6</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> September – 31 <sup>st</sup> October		Please note: there are no Year 2 placements scheduled in the weeks commencing 11th, 18th, 25th Aug and 1st Sep

## Rural and Regional Perspectives

### Impact and Incentives

With the Australian Government's announcements on [GP Training Incentive Payments](#), aiming to strengthen the pipeline of general practitioners, at the recent [FRAME](#) meeting the Rural Clinical Schools across Australia have reflected on the impact of rural and regional training on GP workforce outcomes.

Historically, the Rural Clinical School (RCS) has played a vital role in shaping the future of general practice. Between **2002 and 2014, 52% of graduates completing 2 years with the RCS fellowed as GPs**, compared with 38% for those completing 1 year with the RCS and 34% for those without any time at the RCS, demonstrating the program's success in fostering long-term commitment to primary care. We are excited to see what workforce outcomes we can achieve supporting students who will be living and learning in the regions for 4 years.

## Research

### GPCU Research Seminars

You are welcome to attend our Research Seminars on Zoom, usually held on fortnightly Wednesdays, from 12 to 1pm (Dates may sometimes change due to the availability of local and visiting researchers. Upcoming seminars include:

11th June	A/Prof Chad Bousmann (University of Calgary)	Polygenic risk scores in psychiatry
18th June	Dr Sonia Shah (University of Queensland)	Genomic advancements and health

If you would like to receive the link to join these and other seminars, please contact [med.mdgp@uq.edu.au](mailto:med.mdgp@uq.edu.au)

### UQGP Research Network

This practice-based research network enables GPs, practices and university researchers to work together 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. To sign up, fill out this form

<https://survey.app.uq.edu.au/uqgp.aspx> - or contact Dr Andrew Webster with any questions - [andrew.webster@uq.edu.au](mailto:andrew.webster@uq.edu.au)

## Research Article Focus

### Online teaching materials and medical student impressions of general practice: Lots of rules and guidelines?

A GPCU study recently published in the Australian Journal of General Practice looked at medical student attitudes to the online learning resources we provide during their Year 4 general practice course. We found that these online learning materials do contribute to student impressions of general practice, although what they see on their general practice placements makes a much greater impression. Student decisions whether to read the online materials were based on their perceptions of examinability, efficiency, relevance to their placement and teaching from other specialities. Guidelines (although useful for learning) conveyed the impression that general practice was more algorithm-driven, 'prescriptive' and defensive than other specialities, reducing its intellectual challenge and attractiveness. Findings highlighted the importance of signposting the value-add of general practice knowledge, anticipating apparent misalignment between observed practice and formal guidelines, and including other learning materials that better convey the clinical acumen of general practice work.

**Sturman, N., Mitchell, B., Cameron, R., Thomas, H., Kelly, M., and King, D.** (2025). *Online teaching materials and medical student impressions of general practice: Lots of rules and guidelines?* *Australian Journal of General Practice* 54 (4) 229-233. <https://doi.org/10.31128/ajgp-05-24-7253>

## Other recent articles

Yong, F., Martin, P., **Wallis, K.**, Fox J., Kirubakaran, S., Partanen R., Kondalsamy-Chennakesavan S., McGrail M. *General practice specialty decision-making: a system-level Australian qualitative study.* *BJGP Open* 20 February 2025; BJGPO.2024.0218. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/BJGPO.2024.0218>

Nicholson C, **Jackson C**, Gillies S, and Brown T. *'Delivering tangible population-based outcomes via an alliance governance model: the South West Primary Health Care Alliance, Queensland.'* *Deeble Evidence Brief* 25. Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association 2025. [Delivering tangible population-based outcomes via an alliance model: South West Primary Health Care Alliance Queensland](#)

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)

*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.

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