

UQ General Practice Newsletter 2025.3

Thank you to all the practices, GP clinical teachers, practice managers, nurses, and other practice staff supporting UQ medical students to learn in general practice. Feedback from the Year 2 students about their placement in general practice (one day per week) is overwhelmingly positive. At UQ, preparation for the first cohort of Year 4 students to undertake an immersive placement in general practice is well underway as we prepare to implement the final year of the new MD from January 2026. The Year 4 students will have an 8-week placement in general practice, of around two and a half days per week in practice, supported with a weekly small group tutorial with a UQ GP academic.

The monthly lunchtime drop-in zoom sessions (Wednesday 12:30-1pm) for GP clinical teachers continue and I look forward to meeting you there – BYO lunch. These sessions were introduced to answer your questions and to support you to provide excellent learning experiences and to help your students make best use of their time with you. See the link below.

In other news, we are seeking GP referrals of older drivers to the PA Occupational Therapy Driving assessment clinic for a fitness-to-drive assessment including on-road driving assessment. This study is a partnership between UQ General Practice Clinical Unit and the PA Occupational Therapy Driving assessment clinic and is funded by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission. Assessments are free to the older driver as funded by the study. Referrals are accepted from any GP and may be made via Smart Referrals.

Katharine Wallis

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

Events

Lunchtime drop-in sessions for GP clinical teachers

Please join us and some of your colleagues for our monthly lunchtime online drop-in sessions. We will discuss common challenges, answer any queries and provide a short education session.

Day: The first Wednesday of each month – next sessions are 3rd September and 8th October

Time: 12:30pm to 1pm

[Zoom Link](#)

This activity can be self-logged for CPD hours.

Webinar: The benefits of medical students in general practice

The University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane North PHN, and Brisbane South PHN invite all GPs and GP registrars to this webinar.

Date: Wednesday 10 September 2025

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (AEST)

[Register](#)

This session will explore the general practice training pipeline and its future, the benefits of teaching medical students in your practice—for supervisors, practices, and students—and how to get involved as a teaching site.

Panellists:

- Professor Katharine Wallis (Mayne Professor and Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice, and Head of the General Practice Clinical Unit, The University of Queensland)
- Paul Wallwork, Lead Workforce Planning and Prioritisation, Brisbane North PHN
- Dr Beth Shirley, Senior Lecturer and Specialty Supervisor, The University of Queensland
- Dr Lynne Reid, GP Clinical Teacher

- Dr Chloe Tyson, GP Registrar
- Sarah Cunningham, Year 2 Medical Student, The University of Queensland

Save the Date

Thank you lunch and 2026 update for practice managers

We invite Practice Managers to join us for lunch to say thank you! We will also provide updates for 2026.

Date: Wed 29th October 2025

Time: 12pm-1.30pm

Venue: Mary Emelia Mayne Room, Mayne Medical School, Herston

RSVP: please let us know if you are interested in attending by emailing med.mdgp@uq.edu.au

Formal invitations will also be emailed to each of our Teaching Practices.

End of year Awards Night for GP Clinical Teachers

Save the date for our annual end of year celebration and hear updates on the year to come!

Date: Wed 26th November 2025

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: Mary Emelia Mayne Room, Mayne Medical School, Herston

Formal invitations to follow

People and culture

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following people from the GPCU and Mayne Academy of GP, for abstracts at the 2025 Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Annual Research Conference: Katharine Wallis, Geoff Spurling, Nancy Sturman, Maria Donald, Ben Mitchell, Parvin Delshad, Matthew Roughan, Chloe Tyson, Idin Panahi and Chengjun Liu. Geoff Spurling was a co-author on 6 abstracts and also presented on his team's work on opioid pharmacotherapy (known to halve mortality and be highly cost-effective), discussing how 'reorienting policy away from harm and risk, and towards access and integration within 'usual business', could improve access to opioid pharmacotherapy in Australian primary care.'

Congratulations to Ruby Strauss and the CHSRI team for selection as the SAPC Prize winner for the abstract submitted for AAAPC25 '*Implementation of the Virtual Integrated Practice (VIP) Partnership Program: Supporting access to primary care in rural Queensland*'. This means the paper was ranked in the top submissions received. In collaboration with the Society for Academic Primary Care, the awardee is also invited to present this paper at the SAPC Annual Scientific Meeting next year and will receive a small bursary (\$1000) from the AAAPC.

For the list of abstracts from AAAPC25, please see the Research articles section below in this newsletter.

Professor Claire Jackson, Director of the Centre for Health System Reform and Integration (CHSRI), chaired the sixth International Healthcare Reform Conference in Cambridge in July. Held in partnership with The University of Queensland, the Mater Research, Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research, Nuffield Trust, and the American Board of Family Medicine, the event brought together thought leaders from England, Australia, United States, Canada and New Zealand, including clinicians, policymakers, bureaucrats, managers, and service providers, to explore barriers to effective reform and propose practical, evidence-based solutions.

Mater eConsultant is expanding and is now available for all Queensland general practices!

Currently available for 8 specialties: Cardiology, Endocrinology, Dermatology, Haematology, Respiratory/sleep, Neurology, Nephrology, and Obstetric-Medicine, with an additional 4 specialties to be available before the end of the year. The UQ-MRI Centre for Health System Reform and Integration has been conducting research since 2019 to investigate the impact of eConsultant which provides an asynchronous, digital, GP-to-specialist advice service, giving GPs remote access to specialist support for patient care within 3 business days. The research builds on partnerships between the research team and Queensland Health, the Western Queensland, Brisbane South and North Queensland Primary Health Networks, Mater Misericordiae Ltd, Ontario eConsult/ Champlain Base, Royal Australian College of General Practice and the Australian Digital Health Agency. For more information and to access the service please see the eConsultant website or contact: Dr Jenny Job at j.job@mater.uq.edu.au

Staff update

Please meet Dr. Anvita Chadha

I am Anvita, a dentist turned health services researcher currently working as a Project Officer with the Alliance for

Healthy Ageing (AHA) team at the Centre for Healthcare System Reform and Integration (CHSRI). With experience across clinical care, public health and health services research, and Queensland government administration, I bring a systems-focused approach to improving health care services. My PhD (under examination) evaluated the impact of an urban Birthing on Country service for First Nations families, using burden of disease metrics and economic modelling to inform scale-up, policy and investment. This work has deepened my interest in translational research that bridges evidence and implementation. I am passionate about developing sustainable, evidence-based solutions for strengthening health systems, that are scalable, person-centred, and responsive to diverse community needs. When not at work I enjoy baking and cooking, riding my bike and reading.



Teaching and learning

2025 GP placement dates

Block Placements: Year 3 or 4 students

Block 5: 4th August – 13th September

Block 6: 22nd Sept – 31st October

Longitudinal Placements: Year 2 students

Second Half: 23rd June – 31st October

Please Note: there are no Year 2 placements scheduled in the weeks commencing 11th, 18th, 25th August and 1st September.

GP Clinical Teachers Handbook and Resources

Access the Handbook for GP Clinical Teachers via [this link](#).

You will also find presentations from our GP clinical teacher drop in sessions, updates and other resources

Becoming a UQ Academic Title Holder

GP Clinical Teachers are eligible to become an Academic Title Holder (ATH) at the level of Senior Lecturer (Lecturer for GP Registrars). 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'. Once you have an Academic Title, please remember to check the expiry date and reapply before that time.

Rural and Regional Perspectives

Have you met the GP Principal Specialty Supervisors in our Regional Clinical Units? In this newsletter, we feature one who has recently joined and one of the most longstanding! Stay tuned to meet more in coming newsletters.

Rockhampton

Welcome Dr Bhavesh Dhamsania!

Bhavesh was born and raised in India and moved to Australia in 2007. With an early career in Emergency Medicine and Anaesthesia, he later transitioned to General Practice, settling in Rockhampton in 2009, attracted by the region's warmer climate and close-knit community.

Following his initial work in the Rockhampton Emergency Department, Bhavesh shifted his focus to general practice, where he values the opportunity to build long-term relationships with patients and provide continuity of care.

Beyond his clinical practice, Bhavesh spent six years as a GP Liaison Officer (GPLO) with the Central Queensland Primary Health Network (PHN), contributing to improved access to primary care and better integration across the local health system. He also served as Deputy Chair of the PHN Clinical Council, playing a key role in regional health system reform and clinical leadership. A committed lifelong learner, he holds a Diploma in Child Health, Fellowship in Rural and Remote Medicine, Diploma in Dermatology, Certificate in Advanced Skin Surgery, and has completed numerous emergency and procedural skills courses. His diverse clinical experience and dedication to quality care have naturally led him into medical education, where he enjoys teaching and mentoring the next generation of doctors.

Toowoomba

Celebrating Dr Loretto Wainwright – over 23 years of medical student GP education with the Rural Clinical School!

Loretto has been teaching in general practice for 23 years with the RCS and is committed to the education of practitioners for the future. Loretto has also been the academic lead for the GP component of the Extended Placement Program. This program will continue in the new MD course and will support students with online tutorials so that they will have the opportunity to live and learn in a small rural community for up to 16 weeks.

A country girl and UQ graduate herself, Loretto has been living and working in Toowoomba for 45 years. She works within a

multidisciplinary general practice and has a special interest in mental health having attained a Master's in counselling and postgraduate qualifications in psychotherapy. As part of her commitment to the healthy lifestyle she advocates for her patients, Loretto loves walking, veggie gardening, yoga and singing in a community choir.



What is your best medical tip for your patients (and students)?

Chronic stress can cause lots of health issues and I notice that when people are stressed they often forget to breathe. Belly breathing is one the most useful things we can do for our health

Bundaberg EOI

Are you a Bundaberg GP who is interested in teaching medical students?

An opportunity currently exists for our next GP Academic Lead. Please email: gina.watkins@uq.edu.au

Research

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, please contact Karen Thrift k.thrift@uq.edu.au

Virtual Journal Club - National Lung Cancer Screening in Practice: Implementation Opportunities and Challenges

The GPCU and the GoldNet Research and Education Network are pleased to invite you to the next virtual journal club. With Australia's national lung cancer screening program now underway, this session will explore practical considerations in identifying eligible patients, managing referrals, accessing diagnostic services and addressing incidental findings in lung cancer screening.

Date: Wednesday 20 August 2025

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm AEST

To Register: [click here](#) – (then you will receive a confirmation email and instructions to join)

Please note the session will be recorded and posted along with the slides on the GoldNet website. Attendees will receive a certificate of attendance following the journal club.

Article for discussion: Amicizia, D., Piazza, M. F., Marchini, F., Astengo, M., Grammatico, F., Battaglini, A., Schenone, I., Sticchi, C., Lavieri, R., Di Silverio, B., Andreoli, G. B., & Ansaldi, F. (2023). Systematic Review of Lung Cancer Screening: Advancements and Strategies for Implementation. *Healthcare (Basel, Switzerland)*, 11(14), 2085. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11142085>

Panellists:

- Assoc. Prof. Henry Marshall - Thoracic Physician at The Prince Charles Hospital and University of Queensland Thoracic Research Centre

- Dr Maninder P Singh - Director and Head of Respiratory department GCUH, Senior Consultant Respiratory Specialist, A/ Professor (Honorary Adjunct) Bond University
- Prof. Nick Zwar - Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University and Chair Steering committee of GoldNet Research and Education Network
- Assoc. Prof. Loai Albarqouni - Institute for Evidence-based Healthcare, Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University

Research Articles

(2025) Abstracts of the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Annual Research Conference. Australian Journal of Primary Health 31, PYv31n4abs.
<https://www.publish.csiro.au/PY/fulltext/PYv31n4abs>

- Delshad P (2025) 19. Unfamiliar and unsupported: IMG GPs' experiences with Centrelink medical certification in general practice.
- Edwards J, Panahi I, Piatkowski T, Kill E, Davey G, Spurling G (2025) 23. Access denied: how policy constructions of harms and risk place opioid pharmacotherapy beyond the usual business of primary care.
- Franklin G, Barton C, Sturman N (2025) 32. Where are you now? Medium term outcomes and impacts of the 2017–2023 RACGP Academic Post program.
- Liu C, Sooriyaarachchi P, Donald M, Wallis K (2025) 57. 'If all is well, no one will touch it': an interview study to understand rising antidepressant use in Australian residential aged care.
- Reid N, Magin P, Fisher K, Ralston A, Tapley A, Holliday L, Dizon J, Mitchell B (2025) 81. Use of point-of-care resources for management of paediatric asthma in early-career general practitioners: frequency, types and temporal trends.
- Roughan M, Magin P, Tapley A, Spurling G (2025) 84. Frequency and outcomes of alcohol, tobacco and other substance use consults in general practice registrar training.
- Spurling G, Tyson C, Soe K, Hayman N (2025) 92. Exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people's perspectives on health and health assessments in primary care: a qualitative study.
- Spurling G, Jennings W, Panahi I, Askew D, Wirtz C, Ting D, Piatkowski T (2025) 93. A scoping review of opioid agonist therapy in Australian general practice.
- Spurling G, Tyson S, Soe K, Hayman N (2025) 94. Exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people's perspectives on health and health assessments in primary care: a qualitative study.
- Strauss R, Jenny Job J, Jackson C (2025) 96. Implementation of the Virtual Integrated Practice (VIP) Partnership Program: supporting access to primary care in rural Queensland.
- Tyson C (2025) 110. RELEASE antidepressant drug dose tapering protocols in practice: a mixed methods study with general practitioners.
- Wallis K, Spurling G, Bassingthwaite L, Griffin J, Knowles J (2025) 112. Older driver medical assessment: validating a screening toolkit for use in general practice.

Wallis KA, et al. Antidepressant prescribing in Australian primary care: time to reevaluate. Med J Aust. 2025;222(9):430-432. doi: 10.5694/mja2.52645

King, D. Why won't my cough go away? The Conversation, June 10, 2025. <https://theconversation.com/why-wont-my-cough-go-away-241899>

Vanderstaay A, Job J, Strauss R, Coltau A, Jackson C. (2025) Virtual Integrated Practice (VIP) GP in South West HHS. Clinical Excellence Queensland (Qld Health) [Virtual Integrated Practice \(VIP\) GP in South West HHS](#)

GPCU Research seminars

You are welcome to attend our Research Seminars on Zoom, held fortnightly on a Wednesday from 12 to 1pm. If you would like to receive the zoom link to join 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.



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