



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021/2022

Welcome

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to this bumper edition of the Western Sydney University GP Newsletter! In a time of considerable anxiety and uncertainty we hope you will enjoy reading some good news and many positive stories!

We have much to celebrate as we review the year that was. Though our colleague and good friend Dr Lawrence Tan has left us to work in Africa, we have been joined by many new and enthusiastic academics including Phyllis Lau, Samantha Ryan, Allison Lyon and Yasin Shahab. Enjoy reading about Lawrence's important work. Again in 2022 we will welcome a GP colleague from Sri Lanka, Dr Shalinie Malintha, who will complete the overseas training component of her Doctor of Medicine in Family Medicine with us. Having greatly enjoyed having three academic registrars working with us in 2021, we are again fortunate to have three new registrars who will become valued members of our team in 2022! We introduce you to Anita, Cecilia, and Vivianne in this newsletter and will certainly keep in touch with Olivia, Yvonne and Tasnuba.

As well as the amazing commitment of all our GP Supervisors during a very challenging year, please celebrate GP supervisor, practice manager and practice team successes and the heart-warming generosity of GP Supervisors, Drs Pham and Jayadev! To better support our GP Supervisors, we are updating our website so you can access an even greater range of resources, including a recording of our latest GP supervisor workshop.

Please share our excitement about students who have won general practice awards this year and the many who will be joining our research team in 2022. All have great interest in general practice as a career and a passion for making a difference through general practice research under the leadership of our research team!



We are also very pleased to share some of the many inspiring stories from our GP alumni, some of whom are working as far afield as Auckland (Kierrtana Selva) and Armidale (Jessica Yip) and others who are not only practicing in Western Sydney but also setting a pace in GP education (Maiyoori Jeyaprakash and Duc Ho). We also love receiving photos of alumni babies so please keep those rolling in!

Whilst again in 2021 some of our research slowed with COVID-19, we continue to engage in landmark research that will impact on hearing health in urban Aboriginal communities and influence future models of Australian general practice. Our publications will give you some idea of the success we are achieving in this aspect of our work, thanks to our valued research partners.

Our grateful thanks go to each of you – we are pleased to be making a difference in Western Sydney and our rural sites, however we couldn't do this work without your ongoing support for our students and for our program!

Warm Regards

Jenny

Professor Jenny Reath
Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice

GP Conjoint

Thank you to all our GP Conjoins. We greatly value your commitment and contribution to our teaching and research activities here at Western Sydney University. If your name is not on this list your conjoint status may have expired. Please contact Vicki Bradley v.bradley@westernsydney.edu.au and she will assist you!

Dr Ali Alsamail, Dr Aline Smith, Dr Alison Lyon, Dr Angela Kwok, Dr Amadeus Klocker, Dr Andrew Knight, Dr Benjamin Tooma, Dr Brian Wallace, Dr Channappa Jayadev, Dr Christine Ahern, Dr Christine Metusela, Dr Clemant Lau, Dr Dana Slape, Dr David Cosgriff, Dr David Le, Dr Deepa Mahananda, Dr Derek Tang, Dr Fiona Mackintosh, Dr Hani Bittar, Dr Helen Balkin, Dr Helen Chriss, Dr Hien T Tran, Dr Ivan Parise, Dr Jane Burges, Dr Jason Cheng, Dr Jaspreet Saini, Dr John Houston, Dr Joanne Grimsdale, Dr Jo Marie Languido, Dr Jurriaan Beek, Dr Lawrence Tan, Ms Letitia Campbell, Dr Liliane Carchedi, Dr Linda Brown, Dr Louise McDonnell, Dr Magdy Girgis, Assoc Professor Matthew Gray, Dr Marietta Languido, Dr Mary Girgis, Dr Mazen Khan, Dr Natalie Cochrane, Dr Natalie Lindsay, Dr Olataga Alofiva- Doorbinia, Dr Penny Burns, Dr Pravind Kumar, Dr Qing Wan, Dr Rajkumar (Raj) Rajalingam, Dr Raymond Seeto, Dr Rosemary Isaacs, Dr Salman Zafar, Dr Sandra Morell, Dr Sithamparapillai Thava Seelan, Dr Tim Senior, Dr Wally Jammal

Update from the Department of General Practice



Dr Yasin Shahab



Ms Samantha Ryan



Dr Phyllis Lau

UPDATE ON GP LEARNING

2021 was an unprecedented and tumultuous year for GP learning in Western Sydney. Our third and fifth year students have worked alongside General Practitioners, amidst the COVID chaos, as they responded swiftly and diligently to the need for immunisation of their patient communities. Our students have witnessed the herculean efforts of General Practice clinicians and staff to continue to adapt and to provide quality ongoing care for their patients, throughout the great disruptions of the pandemic.

It was also the year we sadly farewelled our colleague Dr Lawrence Tan, who has moved to Africa to set up a new primary care physician training program. Dr Ally Lyon, a previous much valued academic registrar, has assisted since Jenny moved to a half time position in the Department. We also welcomed with great pleasure our new lecturer Dr Yasin Shahab, an experienced GP from South Western Sydney and another previous academic registrar, who has taken on the role of supervising year 1 and 2 students. Dr Winston Lo continues to coordinate year 3 and Dr Miriam Brooks year 5. We are very grateful for the valuable assistance and innovative contributions to our teaching program of our three academic registrars Dr Yvonne An, Dr Tasnuba Pervez and Dr Olivia Missiakos.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

In addition to the welcomes and farewells noted above we were fortunate to be joined in 2021 by Dr Phyllis Lau and (almost doctor) Samantha Ryan. Phyllis and Sam are working on our QUEST PHC research – a national research project identifying evidence based and professionally supported indicators of high quality in Australian General Practice. Sadly, Courtney Weston who was a terrific addition to the WATCH/ INFLATE research team in 2021 moved onto a new position at the end of the year.

We are also delighted to be welcoming three academic registrars in 2022 - Anita Jenkins, Cecilia Lee and Vivianne Xia. They are all doing interesting research projects, which are about end of life care, GP training in culturally and linguistically diverse practices, and medication adherence. Our registrars contribute greatly to our teaching at WSU, with our students enjoying learning from their 'near-peers'. We are so pleased that we continue to get so many applications to join our Department.

COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA, SRI LANKA

In other good news, we will be welcoming a Research Fellow from Sri Lanka in February 2022 – Dr Shalinie Malintha. An experienced GP, Dr Malintha has recently graduated from the Doctor of Medicine in Family Medicine program at the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine Colombo. She will spend a year with us at WSU to complete the overseas training component of her MD and will be involved with teaching and research activities within our Department. One goal of this placement is to learn about general practice in Australia, and she seeks the opportunity to attend some days at our teaching practices as an observer throughout the year. If you are interested please contact us – or await a tap on the shoulder as we hope to provide Dr Malintha with an experience of diverse practices in our region.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Despite COVID, we have been able to join several conferences and present our research through 2021. There has been a lot of interest in the research we have been doing on the management of ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait children. Assoc Prof Penny Abbott has represented the work the WATCH-INFLATE team has been doing on the management of ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at two conferences. She was an invited speaker and panellist at OMOZ 2021 – the national otitis media conference. She has also presented on behalf of the team at the Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery Aboriginal Health Conference and the International Society of Otitis Media Conference in 2021. At these conferences she presented our research findings on how to undertake ethical and sustainable clinical trial research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary care.

Penny also presented as a keynote speaker at the Public Health Association of Australia's Justice Health conference in November, discussing healthcare delivery and standards in prisons.

Update from the Department of General Practice



Dr Lawrence Tan



RIPLing at Bathurst (Photo courtesy of Nikki Adams, Medical Student)

UPDATE FROM LAWRENCE

After working at WSU for just over 10 years, I decided to make a career move and accepted a role as a lecturer in a medical school in Africa. I have learned so much from the team at the Dept of GP at WSU over the past 10 years about teaching, assessment, curriculum design and supporting GP supervisors; and thought these would be useful skills to share in a region where there is a huge gap in health infrastructure and workforce compared to what we take for granted in Australia.

Since we arrived in August, I have been learning about how the health and higher education systems work here. In a city the size of Canberra, there are only 140 doctors, none of whom are paediatricians, gynaecologists or internal medicine specialists. The referral hospital has two surgeons, but the remaining medical staff are general doctors with no specific postgraduate training. Primary care occurs in Maternal and Child Health Centres staffed by nurses and midwives. Local pharmacies are often people's first point of contact with a Western health system but there may or may not be a trained pharmacist running the pharmacy.

So far, I have been teaching Evidence-Based Medicine to Year 4 medical students and Geriatric Medicine to Year 5s, and am just finishing an intensive Introduction to Public Health course for MSc Epidemiology students. The university is very keen to improve the quality of health care and is considering introducing a postgraduate family medicine programme in the future. It has been a steep learning curve for me with many cultural factors and gaps in foundational knowledge to cater for, but a privilege to work with warm, friendly, and welcoming people with a thirst to learn and a fierce desire to help rebuild their country.

RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL UPDATES

RIPL at Bathurst (Kam Wong)

Finally after a long void for our Simulation weekends we were able to facilitate and host a fantastic group of students. Of particular note is the collaboration and commitment of our local clinicians across all disciplines who so enthusiastically give their time and energies to make this such a success.

Rural Inter-Professional Learning (RIPL) integrates GP roles in rural medicine. In November multidisciplinary teams from medicine, nursing, paramedicine, physiotherapy, forensic science and radiography participated in the RIPL at Bathurst. The RIPL clinical cases included assessing an elderly patient who had recurrent falls in the Mens Shed. A GP (role-played by medical students) was called to see the patient. The students managed the patient, called for help and communicated with the multidisciplinary team. The objectives of RIPL were to share the interdisciplinary experiences in managing acute and chronic conditions in a rural setting, and to enhance interprofessional communications among medical, paramedic, nursing, and allied health students.

Medical Students Assist with the Vaccination Rollout in the Northern Rivers

Recently our medical students had the opportunity to assist with the vaccine rollout in Northern New South Wales. This was a wonderful experience for the students involved and improved access to vaccination for Aboriginal communities in our region. Below is a personal account of the experience written by one of our students, Abigail Baker.

For the last 4 weeks I have been assisting in the Northern NSW COVID-19 vaccination effort. Throughout this experience I have had the amazing opportunity to assist in

many roles including administration, post immunisation observation, gaining informed consent, submitting vaccination evidence, drawing up vaccines and vaccinating. I have spent days attending Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal medical service vaccination hub and the pop-up vaccine clinics at Yamba and Coraki.

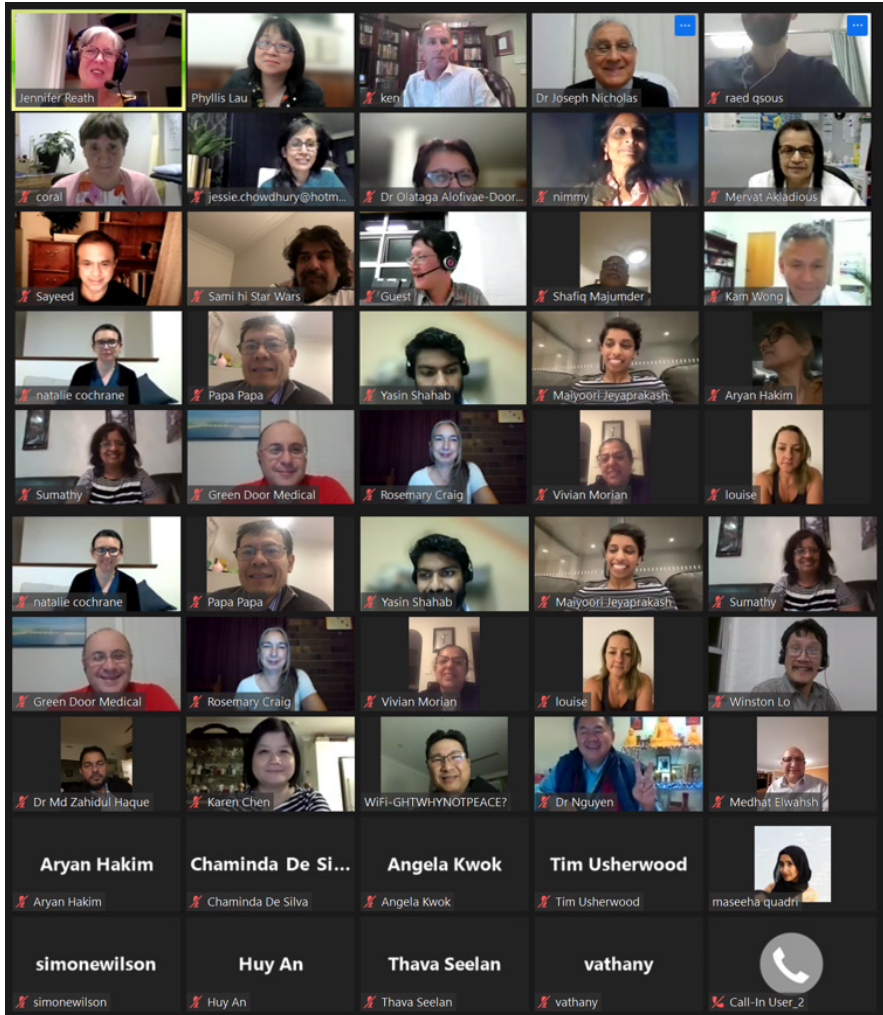
The opportunity to work within Bulgarr Ngaru has been an enriching experience that has taught me a huge amount about the local indigenous and non-indigenous community of the Richmond valley.

I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to work beside highly skilled nurse vaccinators to deliver up to and beyond 100 vaccines daily. These beautiful nurses have taught me a huge amount and help me vaccinate with confidence. I have been independently consenting, vaccinating and documenting for up to 50 patients daily which has given myself a feeling of accomplishment I have previously felt on only a few occasions throughout my medical school career.

My days working at the pop-up clinics have been an excellent learning experience, allowing myself to experience the truly amazing efforts that go into producing these clinics in the community. I have met many amazing people from many walks of life who have taught me many medical skills and greatly increased my understanding of these beautiful towns. Having the chance to both draw up and vaccinate at these clinics has been stressful and crazy at times but has given me a massive sense of confidence and achievement. These clinics have been a truly integral part to vaccinating our most vulnerable populations with thousands of vaccinations being administered. I am so proud of this amazing community and feel honoured to be a part of it.

I wish to say congratulations to the community of northern NSW for coming forward for vaccination. But mostly I would like to say thank you to all the people I have had the pleasure of working alongside, you have made an incredible impact on this community's safety and health.

GP Supervisor/ Practice Manager News



GP Supervisor workshop

FORTY-FOUR GP SUPERVISORS AND PRESENTERS GATHERED FOR A VERY INFORMATIVE EVENING

Chaired by Prof Jenny Reath, the workshop started with Dr Yasin Shahab presenting a new GP supervisor one-page Quick Guide on students' GP placement requirements which provides a very useful and easy summary for supervisors. This is followed by Dr Ken McCroary, Dr Louise McDonnell and Prof Tim Usherwood who shared the challenges of and learnings from making the practice workplace COVID-safe. Our very own former GP registrar Dr Maiyoori Jeyaprakash and Dr Joe Nicholas reflected on their experience of teaching students in a Telehealth setting and the satisfaction that brought. Dr Winston Lo then wrapped up the evening with a thought-provoking session on looking after yourself as GPs and provided many self-care resources.

The session was recorded and will soon be posted on our website!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPERVISING MEDICAL STUDENTS IN YOUR PRACTICE?

Many GPs find having a medical student in their practice is both interesting and rewarding. There are opportunities for mutual learning and to pass on their skills and experience to the next generation of medical practitioners. Patients also enjoy the opportunity to contribute to the learning of a future health professional. The School of Medicine at Western Sydney University provides a GP placement for students in Year 1 (eight sessions in second semester), Year 3 (1-2 days per week over five weeks) and Year 5 (3 days per week for five weeks). With Year 1 placements requiring only two sessions (one day) per month, we encourage our GP Supervisors to take these students in addition to our Year 3 and 5 students!

Findings from a survey of our graduates who are now GPs or GP registrars mention the key role of highly-regarded supervisors during their GP placement that influenced them towards this career pathway. PIP payments for student teaching are available for accredited practices. Please contact Sharon at S.Lawrence@westernsydney.edu.au if you or a colleague are interested in finding out more and she will be pleased to provide more information.

GP Supervisor/ Practice Manager News



The Bridgeview Team



Dr Waheed Akhtar

GP SUPERVISOR AWARDS

Dr Anna Pham

We are enormously grateful to Dr Anna Pham for her generous support for an annual scholarship for a student studying Medicine at Western Sydney University. This highly valued scholarship will be awarded each year to one student and will support them for the duration of their studies. With many of our students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, this support will assist the scholarship recipients to focus on their studies and achieve success.

Many thanks Dr Pham for this generous and practical support!

Dr Jayadev Scholarships

Dr Channappa Jayadev, one of our GP Supervisors, has generously established a research opportunity through the Department of General Practice for 2022. Medical students were invited to apply for one of two bursaries worth \$2500 to work with us on a current project promoting quality in Australian general practice. See in our research wrap below for the winners of this highly valued scholarship.

Our grateful thanks go to Dr Jayadev for his support of both our research and our students!

Bridgeview Team work acknowledged

The Bridgeview Medical Practice team were runners up in the Aus Doc Pandemic Heroes competition. They serve a huge multicultural community in Toongabbie in Western Sydney. Bridgeview actively increased COVID-19 awareness and vaccination rates using respectful culturally appropriate approaches, social media, on-line fora, vaccination clinics and working in partnership with Multicultural Health Services NSW, the Western Sydney Primary Health Network and Local Health District. The Bridgeview team showed commitment, compassion and empathy whilst working with patients undergoing immense mental and physical distress.

Dr Waheed Akhtar

We are excited to announce that Dr Waheed Akhtar was awarded the GP Synergy 2021 Practice Manager of the Year for Central, Eastern and South Western Sydney. The award recognises Dr Akhtar's dedication and on-going commitment to the provision of quality general practice education and training. We can certainly endorse Dr Akhtar's great enthusiasm and the commitment of the practice teams at the My Family Health Medical Centres to training our students!

Congratulations Waheed!

NEW PIP DATES

Medicare Payment Schedule

Cut-off dates for submitting claim forms	Quarterly Payment Month
24 January	February
23 April	May
24 July	August
24 October	November

2022 Metro Placement Dates

Year 1	Year 2
July – October, 2022	February – May, 2022
Year 3 MiC Students: Metro	Year 5 GP Students: Metro
MiC 1: 24 January – 25 February, 2022	Metro 1: 31 January – 4 March, 2022
MiC 2: 28 February – 1 April, 2022	Metro 2: 7 March – 8 April, 2022
MiC 3: 19 April – 20 May, 2022	Metro 3: 11 April – 13 May, 2022
MiC 4: 23 May – 24 June, 2022	Metro 4: 20 June – 22 July, 2022
MiC 5: 18 July – 19 August, 2022	Metro 5: 25 July – 26 August, 2022
MiC 6: 22 August – 23 September, 2022	Metro 6: 12 September – 14 October, 2022
MiC 7: 26 September – 28 October, 2022	Metro 7: 17 October – 18 November, 2022

Student News

WHERE DO OUR STUDENTS GO AFTER THEY GRADUATE?

In a tantalizing early snap shot of some research that will soon be published, Professors Annemarie Hennessy, Wendy Hu and Barbara Griffin recently reported early results from an ongoing School of Medicine research and evaluation program to track WSU graduate destinations. This research shows a significant difference in location of practice between Greater Western Sydney (GWS) and non-GWS background students. Data from the first 10 years shows that graduates who come from GWS are more likely to come back to GWS to work. It appears that WSU selection policy of preferential interviewing of GWS background applicants is working to achieve the School's mission!

We will let you know when these findings are publicly available.



Dr Miriam Brooks with Rahul Mitra

STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS

Picton Family Practice Medical Centre Prize

Anita Ma is the 2021 winner of this prestigious award for the highest mark in the Year 5 General Practice placement. Anita's professionalism, interest in learning, clinical rigour and care for patients, as well as her written PBLA assignments, were outstanding. Anita was supervised by Dr Brian Nguy in Lidcombe.

Dermatology Prize

Alec Pham was the 2021 winner of the Dermatology Essay competition, winning a \$1000 award kindly donated by the Westmead Skin Hospital. We are grateful to Dr Brian Wallace from the Westmead Skin Hospital as well as our own Western Sydney School of Medicine alumni dermatologists Dr Dana Slape and Dr Artiene Tatian, who assisted in selecting the prize winning essay. Congratulations to Alec!

Nick Collins Award

Rahul Mitra won the Nick Collins Award in 2021, however he was unable to attend the GP21 as this was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Rahul is keen to attend GP22. Winners of this award are supported through the donations of GP supervisors and academics of the Department to attend this prestigious national conference. They are always greatly excited by the opportunity to meet and greet many of the greats in Australian General Practice and for many students, this confirms their general practice career aspirations.

Please consider donating to the Nick Collins Award so that we can continue to offer this award to deserving students in 2022. Nick was an enthusiastic GP leader in South Western Sydney and member of our Department who tragically died of a heart attack whilst training for the City to Surf. We greatly appreciate the generosity of those who have given previously in honour of Nick and in support of students with a passion for general practice.

To donate please follow this link to [Dr Nick Collins Memorial Fund](#)

Student News



Quest Working Group Screenshot

STUDENT RESEARCH

Quest PHC Student researchers

Alice Shen was appointed as a casual research assistant through the generous funding of the Translational Health Research Institute (THRI) to assist the QUEST PHC team to complete its systematic review of patient-reported measures (PRMs) used in primary health. Alice also assisted in the development of a bespoke appraisal tool for this purpose.

Dhruvi Lathigara has been awarded the Summer Scholarship to work on QUEST PHC from December 2021 to February 2022. Dhruvi will be assisting the team to complete its systematic review of PRMs, data extraction for literature review of indicators used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Justice Health sectors, and preliminary analysis of the Delphi rounds 1 and 2 surveys to establish consensus of the QUEST PHC indicators amongst practice and industry experts.

Both **Lucy Bannister** and **Baneen Alrubayi** have been awarded the Jayadev Scholarships to work with the QUEST PHC team in 2022. They will be assisting the team to complete the literature review of indicators used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Justice Health sectors, full analysis of the Delphi rounds 1,2 and 3 surveys, and the conduct and qualitative analysis of up to 4 focus groups with consumers and stakeholders.

Dylan Pakkiam and **Jack Sun** are MD students allocated QUEST PHC as their MD project in 2022. Each will work with us for 5 weeks. They will assist with the full analysis of the Delphi surveys and the qualitative analysis of the focus groups with consumers and stakeholders.

Meet Dhruvi

I am Dhruvi Lathigara, a 4th year MBBS student and have recently commenced collaborating on the QUEST PHC project as part of the Western Sydney University Summer Scholarship Research Program 2021/2022. My experiences during general practice and medicine in context (MIC) placements have fostered a keen interest in the social determinants of health. This has inspired me to explore methods and avenues to address and ameliorate existing disparities in the accessibility and quality of healthcare. Hence, I am thrilled at the opportunity to help develop an evidence-based tool that seeks to enrich health care outcomes in general practice. I am also eager to immerse myself in clinical research through this project, further applying and developing my skills.

OTHER STUDENT RESEARCH

Emma Gregory is completing her review of articles targeting Australian GPs. She aims to describe how often different health practitioners recommend that GPs play a 'key role' in managing various health issues.

Astha Malik, is re-analysing the interviews from the Western Sydney Integrated Care Program for her project "Understanding the factors that influence Australian general practices to participate in an integrated care approach: A thematic analysis". This project is also part of her MBBS honours.

Alice Shen has been awarded a GP Synergy scholarship for 2022. This project is a systematic literature review into the GP role of screening for domestic and intimate partner violence through telehealth.

We are also pleased to have two other new students who will be starting their MD research projects with the Department in 2022. **Keesha Von Stieglitz** is joining Penny Abbott to research ear health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending primary care clinics in prison, and **Niranjanan Sriganeshwaran** will be investigating unmet needs in general practice in Greater Western Sydney which may inform future health innovations.

GP STUDENT NETWORK ACTIVITIES (YASMINE TOUFAILI)

The opportunity to be GPSN President at WSU this year is one of the biggest highlights of my time in medical school. This organisation is a brilliant platform that connects medical students interested in general practice across Australia. In 2021, the GPSN team hosted a range of events for medical students at WSU. This included introducing ourselves to the first years during O-Week, running all the otoscope and ophthalmoscope workshops at the state-wide GPSN First Steps event, and collaborating with GP Synergy for a highly informative GP Careers Evening. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 posed, with the support of the School of Medicine GP Department, GP Synergy, and GP Registrars Association, GPSN WSU was still able to engage with the student body through our shared passion in general practice.

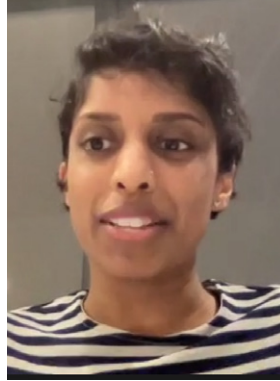
Alumni News

As always, our GP Alumni make us proud of both their professional pursuits and their personal celebrations!

Please pass this newsletter onto GP alumni you know and ask them please to drop Jenny a quick email at j.reath@westernsydney.edu.au so we can add them to our contact list!



Kierrtana Selva



Maiyoori Jeyaprakash



Duc Ho, partner and Robbie



Ayesha's new baby

UPDATE FROM KIERRTANA SELVA IN AUCKLAND

My husband and I, both WSU Alumni made the move across to Auckland, New Zealand in July of this year. Amongst the obvious tribulations, the pandemic has brought us all, learning the ropes in our trans-Tasman counterpart has been challenging but enjoyable.

As a GP, there are a number of differences between primary care in Auckland as compared with Sydney. First is the absence of a Medicare system. Each practice is allocated funding depending on the socioeconomic status of the patients and the number of chronic disease or high needs patients enrolled with the practice. The price of each consultation for an individual patient is then based on the amount of funding the practice receives. This means in areas of higher need with a lower socioeconomic demographic, patients are charged minimal out of pocket costs and the practice receives extra funding for initiatives to engage this demographic in healthcare.

Another point of difference is communication with tertiary care. All admissions to hospitals in Auckland involve the submission of an electronic referral form for easy and quick communication of patient information including attaching the most recent results and an ECG. It is common practice to ring the appropriate registrar on call prior to sending the patient in for admission, and also for advice on management in the community. I believe this reflects a culture of more open and increased communication between primary care and tertiary care. All clinic letters and blood results from hospital admissions within the Auckland region can be accessed electronically on a system called Testsafe which eliminates the need for chasing discharge summaries and results. Laboratory forms can also be sent electronically to be used at any date and repeat requests

can be also submitted online e.g. diabetic bloods. Referrals for private and public clinics or specialists are also sent via online communication. Through this process, you receive an acknowledgement and status update informing you when you can expect your patient to be seen or if they require more information from you.

While it has taken some adaptation, it has been enriching to see how the system functions on the other side of the ditch. Ultimately, the patients are similar and primary care remains by far my favourite discipline of medicine and I am grateful for this new chapter.

MAIYOORI JEYAPRAKASH – GOLD MEDAL GP SUPERVISOR

Maiyoori Jeyaprakash is an alumna who graduated in 2015 AND a highly valued GP Supervisor with Western Sydney University. Based on outstanding student feedback, we invited Maiyoori to present at our recent GP supervisor workshop during a session on how to teach in the on-line environment. She talks below about her experience of supervising WSU students.

It has been an absolute pleasure being able to supervise medical students from WSU on their GP rotations. It is still so surprising how time has flown, as it seems like only yesterday that I was first discovering the vast wonders of general practice whilst on student placement. Despite the many challenges we have all faced during the pandemic, it is wonderful to see the students' enthusiasm for learning continue to shine through despite every obstacle thrown their way.

I would highly recommend supervising medical students to anyone who hasn't already given it a go. It is an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience that keeps you on your toes!

DR JESSICA YIP

Jessica is a WSU 2016 grad who completed her FRACGP this year. She undertook registrar training in the New England area including as GPT2 in Armajun Aboriginal Health Service, Inverell and an academic registrar post with University of New England (UNE) in 2020. Jessica is currently working at West Armidale Medical Centre alongside her appointment as a senior lecturer at UNE AND working on a Graduate Certificate in Health Profession Education (University of Notre Dame).

Congratulations Jessica and how wonderful to see our alumni contributing to GP education especially in a rural setting!

GP SYNERGY UPDATE FROM DUC HO (with thanks to 2021 Western Sydney University School of Medicine Alumni Stories)

I graduated from UWS in 2014. I am content. I am a GP for 3 days a week at Gandangara Health Services in Liverpool. I also spend a bit of time at GP Synergy. You will all be glad to hear that at GP Synergy, there is and was a team member from every year so far: Zenith, Eliza, Bhavana, Roy, Josie, Kulathevy, Nirusha, Angelia, Shakif. I have a dog named Robbie and a partner who is less exciting to talk about. Robbie was found on gumtree.com.au at the start of covid 2020. We don't know who Robbie's father is, and that's ok with us. The three of us live in Redfern. I think that's all, thank you for listening to my ramblings. Duc

BABY NEWS

Emma Kozianski is the proud Mum of Ina – her third baby. Ayesha Siriwardena sent us this beautiful photo of her with her first born - Dhamik born 5/10/2021 at 2.81kgs!

Congratulations Emma and Ayesha and no doubt many others who have similar excitement in your lives!

Research Updates

GP REG RESEARCH UPDATES

Yvonne An has been working on a mixed-methods exploratory study on factors affecting uptake of advanced care planning in Western Sydney's Vietnamese community. The study involves a questionnaire survey followed by one-on-one interviews. There have been multiple challenges during the pandemic, but data collection is in its final stage. Preliminary data analysis is in progress. The protocol was presented as a poster at the AAAPC 2021 Conference.

Olivia Missiakos has been conducting research this year about improving cervical cancer screening in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) women. This has involved running culturally tailored education sessions for women in Western Sydney and evaluating these sessions afterwards through surveys and focus groups. The pandemic has impacted data collection so she is also working with the team at WSU's Translational Health Research Institute on a scoping review about interventions that address cervical cancer knowledge and behaviours in CALD women.

Tasnuba Pervez has been exploring what characterizes high quality paediatric care in general practice and how this is demonstrated. It is a qualitative study involving interviews with parents/carers, GPs and Paediatricians in Greater Western Sydney to obtain their perspectives on this topic and what the facilitator and barriers to care may be. Data collection continues with preliminary data analysis underway.

WATCH INFLATE AND PREVENT

Although recruitment to the WATCH and INFLATE trials has been impacted over the past 2 years by COVID-19, our Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) partners have continued to show great commitment to the trials, screening for eligible patients whenever they are able.

As part of our commitment to providing feedback of research outcomes to community, a suite of communication and promotional materials describing our qualitative research findings have been developed in consultation with AMS staff, and distributed to the communities with which we are working. The team at Inala Indigenous Service, have published a paper regarding use of a hand held device for testing hearing, the outcome of a small WATCH trial substudy. Meanwhile, at WSU, Penny Abbott has recently published a paper focussed on qualitative research outcomes of the trials - the importance of Aboriginal Research Officers in the WATCH trial (see below). Penny is also preparing a manuscript describing the use of text and pictorial symptoms scale for monitoring symptoms in Acute Otitis Media (AOM), whilst Jenny Reath is drafting a paper with a WSU alumnus discussing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parent and carer views on use of watchful waiting versus antibiotics for treatment of AOM.

We look forward to receiving word mid-2022 regarding the outcome of a new clinical trial funding application, PREVENT, which, if successful, will allow the WATCH and INFLATE trials to continue recruitment to 2026 in parallel with the PREVENT trial. PREVENT is a multicentre clinical trial which would assess hand hygiene strategies for the prevention of early onset otitis media in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders neonates/infants from 6 weeks to 6 months old.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH BEYOND OUR DEPARTMENT

GPs knowledge, attitudes and prescribing intentions for e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid

A significant change to policy impacting the availability of nicotine for use in e-cigarettes in Australia took effect from October 1, 2021. This means that nicotine containing liquids for use with e-cigarettes will only be available by prescription from a health care provider. You are invited to take part in a short 5 minute online survey that aims to understand the current levels of general practitioner's knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and prescribing intentions in respect to e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid.

If you wish to complete the survey, you can do so through [this link](#)

Invitation to join the Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPS) Network

AusCAPPS, an NHMRC funded study, is a free online network developed in partnership with the RACGP, RANZCOG, APNA, the PSA, and other key stakeholders in women's health services. Supporting care in LARC and EMA services, it is designed to be interactive, helping clinicians connect with peers, access expert knowledge, information, and educational activities such as webinars and podcasts. GPs, practice nurses, and pharmacists are invited to join via the [link](#) or can contact ausCAPPS.trial@monash.edu for any questions.

New Publications

1. **Abbott P**, Watt K, Magin P, Davison J, Hu W. (2021) Welcomeness for people with substance use disorders to general practice: a qualitative study. *Family Practice*. Doi:10.1093/fampra/cmab151.
2. **Metusela C**, Cochrane N, van Werven H, Usherwood T, Ferdousi S, Messom R, O'Halloran D, Fasher M, Page A, **Trankle S**, **Abbott P**, Tannous K, Peters K, Meisinger K, **Reath J** (2021). Developing indicators and measures of high-quality for Australian general practice. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. (In press)
3. **Trankle SA**, **Metusela C**, **Reath J**. (2021). Undertaking general practice quality improvement to improve cancer screening - a thematic analysis of provider experiences. *BMC Family Practice* 22:230. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12875-021-01581y>
4. Ndwigwa, D.W.; McBride, K.A.; Simmons, D.; Thompson, R.; **Reath, J.**; **Abbott, P.**; Aloffivae-Doorbina, O.; Patu, P.; Vaovasa, A.T.; MacMillan, F. (2021). Using Community Based Research Frameworks to Develop and Implement a Church-Based Program to Prevent Diabetes and Its Complications for Samoan Communities in South Western Sydney. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 18, 9385. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18179385>
5. Bovill M, Bar-Zeev Y, Bonevski B, **Reath J**, Oldmeadow C, Hall A, I. C. A. N. Q. U. I. T. in Pregnancy Pilot Group, Gould GS. (2021). Ngaa-bi-nya-nhumi-nya (to Test First): Piloting the Feasibility of Using the Growth and Empowerment Measure with Aboriginal Pregnant Women Who Smoke. *Journal of Smoking Cessation*. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/6610500>
6. Spurling G, Askew D, Tyson S, **Reath J**. (2021) A mixed methods evaluation of screening for hearing loss using the hearScreen™ mobile health application, in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attending an urban primary health care service. *AJGP* <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY21059>
7. Leach AJ, Morris PS, Coates HLC, Nelson S, O'Leary SJ, Richmond PC, Gunasekera H, Harkus S, Kong K, Brennon-Jones CG, Brophy-Williams S, Currie K, Das SK, Isaacs D, Jarosz K, Lehmann D, Pak J, Patel H, Pery C, **Reath JS**, Sommer J, Torzillo PJ. (2021). Otitis Media Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: Summary of recommendations. *Med J Aust*. <http://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.50953>
8. **Brooks M**, **Reath J**, **McDonnell L**, **Abbott P**. (2021). Increasing general practitioner use of evidence-based medicine in teaching and clinical practice through evidence-based journal clubs. *Australian Journal of Primary Health* 27(4) 271-275 <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY20267>
9. **Ryan S**, Ussher JM, Hawkey A. (2021). Managing the premenstrual body: a body mapping study of women's negotiation of premenstrual food cravings and exercise. *Journal of Eating Disorders*. 2021 9:125 <https://jeatdisord.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40337-021-00478-6>
10. **Abbott P**, Askew D, Bond C, Hu W, Campbell C, Tyson C, **Walsh R**, Hussey S, Doyle K, Gunasekera H, Leach AJ, Usherwood T, **Armstrong-Kearns J**, **Reath J** (2021). Randomised clinical trial research within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services: a qualitative study. *BMJ Open* 2021;0:e050839. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-050839 <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/11/12/e050839.full.pdf>
11. Saberi S, Wachtler C, **Lau P**. (2021). Are we on the same page? Mental health literacy and access to care: a qualitative study in young Hazara refugees in Melbourne. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY21017>
12. Ekawati F, Emilia O, Gunn J, Licqurish S, **Lau P**. Challenging the status quo: results of an acceptability and feasibility study of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) management pathways in Indonesian primary care. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 2021;21(1):507.
13. **Abbott P**, Watt K, Magin P, Davison J, Hu W. (2021) Welcomeness for people with substance use disorders to general practice: a qualitative study. *Family Practice*. Doi:10.1093/fampra/cmab151. (abstract available ahead of print) <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmab151>
14. **Parise I**, **Abbott P**, **Trankle SA**. (2022). Drivers to Obesity - a study of the association between time spent commuting daily and obesity in the Nepean Blue Mountains area. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 19; 410 <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19010410>

Our Communities

Since 2020 many community events have been postponed due to COVID. In 2021 however, Dr Miriam Brooks has supervised third year student Baneen Alrubayi in her service learning project in NSW Refugee Health Service. Dr Penny Abbott has supervised Emily Woods in her service learning project in the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network. This project seeks to aid the Network to improve discharge planning for people with opioid use disorders who are leaving prison so there is less risk of relapse to drug use in the community. These projects reflect the GP department's commitment to promoting health equity and social justice in our communities.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE
ACADEMIC & RESEARCH STAFF

Professor Jenny Reath

Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice
(02) 4620 3725 | 0412 586 135
j.reath@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Penny Abbott

Associate Professor (Tues/Wed)
(02) 4620 3560
p.abbott@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Miriam Brooks

Senior Lecturer (Tue/Fri)
(02) 4620 3896
miriam.brooks@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Yasin Shahab

Senior Lecturer (Tues/Wed)
(02) 4620 3896
Y.Shahab@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Winston Lo

Senior Lecturer (Mon/Fri)
(02) 4620 3561 | 0403 163 868
w.lo@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Steven Trankle

Research Fellow
0408 407 600
s.trankle@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Olivia Missiakos

Academic Registrar
(Mon/Wed/Fri morning)
(02) 4620 3896
O.Missiakos@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Tasnuba Pervez

Academic Registrar
(Tues/Thurs/Fri)
(02) 4620 3896
T.Pervez@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Yvonne An

Academic Registrar
(Tue/Wed morning/Fri)
(02) 4620 3896
Y.An@westernsydney.edu.au

Ms Robyn Walsh

Clinical Trial Coordinator
0450 272 007
r.walsh@westernsydney.edu.au

Dr Phyllis Lau

Senior Research Fellow
0400778812
phyllis.lau@westernsydney.edu.au

Ms Samantha Ryan

Research Assistant
S.Ryan4@westernsydney.edu.au

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Ms Vicki Bradley

Administrative Officer (Mon-Thurs)
(02) 4620 3896 | 0412 189 965
v.bradley@westernsydney.edu.au

Mrs Sharon Lawrence

Administrative Officer (Tues-Fri)
(02) 4620 3933 | 0450 778 075
s.lawrence@westernsydney.edu.au

Ms Nicole King (WATCH Trial)

Administrative Officer (Mon-Wed)
(02) 4620 3562
n.king@westernsydney.edu.au

Contact information

1300 897 669
study@westernsydney.edu.au

Western Sydney University
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751 Australia



WESTERNSYDNEY.EDU.AU