

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE • ISSUE TEN • DECEMBER 2013

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MESSAGE FROM THE PETER BRENNAN CHAIR OF GENERAL PRACTICE

We are squeaking in with this bumper newsletter, at the end of a busy year and hoping you enjoy the catch up on our activities as you have a well earned break over Christmas—New Year!

As always, the core of our work is teaching our students about the many and varied rewards (and challenges) of General Practice. Our GP Supervisors, many also conjoints of UWS, continue as role models for our students. Some of the comments we received this year include: “Dr x is incredible/ awesome”; ‘Learnt a lot of medicine and critical thinking process’; ‘eye-opening’; ‘learned about the ‘art of medicine’’. “Dr x is a passionate teacher”.

We are stretching into new areas of GP learning with student placements to commence in 2015 at the RSL LifeCare Queen Victoria aged care facility and mentoring offered to interested

students from the end of this year. Thanks to Nick Collins for his work on these innovations.

In recognition of the high quality teaching in General Practice, the School of Medicine is increasingly using the General Practice rotation as an opportunity to trouble shoot where problems are noted. At the other end of the spectrum, this month we celebrated with the top GP students of the year. They were awarded prizes kindly donated by Dr Anna Pham and Wollondilly Shire Council, and Primary Health Care. Anthony Huynh and Betsy Dang were worthy prize winners, as was Madeleine Gibbs who won the inaugural Skin and Cancer Foundation Australia Dermatology Prize. (Photos next newsletter!)

Enjoy reading about our super GP Supervisor and Mentor Dr Teresa Wong who truly follows her passion and inspires our students. Celebrate with us the success of the team at Bridgeview in winning the RACGP NSW Practice of the year and our own Penny Abbott who was awarded an RACGP Family Medical Care Education and Research Grant for her PhD work on “*The health needs, pre-release planning and experiences of women on release from custody and their engagement with general practice in the community*”.

Our students continue to enjoy a wide variety of “extra- curricular” activities and Dr Penny Burns has provided some stimulating opportunities for them to assist in disaster management scenarios and major event support.

Our Department continues to grow,

particularly as we embark on new research projects. We are currently completing a report for General Practice Education and Training about Cultural Education and Mentoring; progressing on an evaluation of the Partnership between Western Sydney Medicare Local and the Western Sydney LHD; and commencing the development of an evaluation framework for Nepean Blue Mountains Medicare Local. Meanwhile our work on the WATCH trial of treatment of Acute Otitis Media in urban Aboriginal children is gearing up for patient recruitment in the new year!

Lawrence Tan presented a key note address (in Spanish!) at Bolivian Family Medicine Conference. For me, the WONCA conference in Prague was a high point of the year and I would encourage you to enjoy some of the presentations at <http://www.wonca2013.com/en/home>

I leave you with the words from the opening address by Dr Margaret Chan (Director General of WHO) titled “*Family Doctors in an era of inequality: From unsung heroes to rising stars*”:

“The first physicians were generalists. Family doctors have always been the backbone of health care. Family doctors have always been the bedrock of comprehensive, compassionate, and people-centred care. Today, you are the rising stars who offer our best hope of coping with a number of complex and ominous trends. Your talents and skills are needed, and wanted, now more than ever before.”

Seasons greetings and best wishes for the new year!
Jenny Reath

WELCOME

The continued expansion of our team saw research, teaching and administrative appointments to the team.

We would like to welcome our newly appointed Senior Research Fellow, **Dr Louise McDonnell**. Louise has been a GP in the Blue Mountains for 18 years. She is a long time GP supervisor of students and registrars. She completed a Masters of Applied epidemiology at NECPH and been involved in several clinical research projects through her practice including the Kanyini-GAP poly pill study.

Her main role with the GP unit is to support GPs in research. She has set up an Evidence Based Journal Club in the Blue Mountains and hopes to commence a similar journal club in Western Sydney. Louise has also been working on a study to evaluate Blue Mountains Cancer Help, a community based cancer support service in the Blue Mountains.

Dr Robyn Walsh joins us as Otitis Media Watch Trial Research Officer. Robyn has

worked in clinical research in the commercial, not for profit and academic sectors, most recently the George Institute for Global Health.

She has undertaken a variety of lead research roles including in the areas of cardiovascular, neurological, women's health, diabetes, respiratory and sleep medicine. Her areas of interest are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Women's Health, and education and training.

Dr Steven Trankle recently graduated from his PhD Candidature which had a particular focus on Australian critical/acute and palliative settings. His qualitative investigation explored the complexity in end of life decisions and practices and the subsequent experiences of physicians. Steven takes up the position of Senior Research Officer in the Department of General Practice on a partnered project with the Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local. He will develop an evaluation framework to assess the Medicare Local's programs and services.

Dr Kelly Watt has been an Academic GP

registrar with the Department for 12 months now and has recently been successful in her application for another 12 month term. She is completing her current research project on Cross-Cultural training of GP registrars and her next research project will involve exploring access to primary health care in the community for women of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds on release from custody.

Dr Jaspreet Saini is a General Practice Registrar training with WentWest. He will be joining team in 2014 as an Academic Registrar.

Jaspreet's research with UWS will seek to explore the barriers and facilitators for people interested in medical careers progressing on to undertaking medical degrees. He hopes that his research will help to identify opportunities for future research targeted at ways to allow for wider participation in medical training.

Kelly and Jaspreet will also be assisting with all our teaching activities.

SUPERVISOR WORKSHOPS**WENTWEST COMBINED SUPERVISOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

On a pleasant Saturday afternoon high above Westfield in Blacktown, a large group of GP supervisors and academic registrars met to hear and share ideas about improving the learning within general practice. Professors Reath and Usherwood updated us on developments in the UWS and USyd programs respectively; and Walter Kmet, CEO of Wentwest Medicare Local, also gave us a brief update.

Dr Peter Silberberg, a medical educator from North Coast GP training, then presented his research findings on vertical integration in learning within general practice. Two models were presented: shared learning, where GP supervisors were teaching learners at multiple levels simultaneously (registrars, PGPPPs, medical students); and near-peer teaching, where learners themselves are teaching others. There were many benefits seen in these models of teaching, and some potential

barriers were also discussed. Vertical integration appears to be highly supported by learners although they prefer a blend of both shared and one-to-one learning.

After a break, the group divided into parallel sessions looking at the assessment of learners; and practical strategies to implement shared learning models. Overall it was a very educational and useful afternoon, and a great opportunity to network with other GPs interested and involved in teaching at all levels.

UWS SUPERVISOR WORKSHOP

On a cool September evening, a group of GP supervisors met at the UWS medical school in Campbelltown for an evening learning from each other about student assessment. Dr Tim Senior led a discussion on student assessments using a mock mini-CEX based on a video of a student doing a physical examination of a knee. There was an interesting discussion about the standard expected of students over their training, and

people shared their ideas on using the Mini-CEX for teaching and providing feedback.

Next, Dr Nick Collins led a discussion about recognising students in difficulty and how to help them. Case scenarios were presented of students who seemed to be struggling, and the possible reasons for this. At the beginning of the evening, Professor Jenny Reath described her experiences at the WONCA conference in Prague, meeting Professor Graham Watt in Glasgow, who led the GPs at the Deep End Project and a teaching masterclass in using narrative methods in teaching.

Recommended reading from the WONCA conference is the speech by the Director General of the WHO, Dr Margaret Chan

http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2013/family_medicine_20130626/en/index.html

GP SUPERVISOR NEWS

NEW PIP FORM FOR 2014

Medicare has released a new format for 2014 PiP forms. The document is now a two page A4 document in a portrait orientation. Students will supply your practice with the correctly formatted and typed document on their last day of rotation. Please give the signed form back to the student to return to us for authorisation. We will always issue you with a copy and confirmation that we have either sent to your practice network head office for signing or direct to Medicare for payment. Follow this link for a copy of the updated form:

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/forms/ipoo6.pdf>

or guidelines <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/pip/files/9861-1208en.pdf>

2014 MEDICARE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

"Point in Time" Dates (Last Day of PiP submission to Medicare)	Quarterly Payment Month
31 January	February
30 April	May
31 July	August
31 October	November

MiC & Yr 5 PIP PROCESS

In an effort to reduce the administrative load for our Supervising GP's and their staff, all UWS Medical Students are responsible for completing the Medicare PiP Teaching Incentive form online, then printing out for the Practice to authorise. The students **must** return the PiP to us and we will complete and submit to Medicare for payment on your behalf. Copies will be faxed to your practice for your records. For those practices who send to a head office for authorisation, we take care of that too! If you have any queries please contact **Melinda Wolfenden** on 02 4620 3896 or email melinda.wolfenden@uws.edu.au.

2014 STUDENT PLACEMENT DATES

Year 3 MiC Students: Urban	Year 5 GP Students: Urban
MiC 1: 28 January - 28 February	UR1: 10 February - 15 March
MiC 2: 3 March - 4 April	UR2: 17 March - 17 April
MiC 3: 22 April - 23 May	UR3: 22 April - 23 May
MiC 4: 26 May - 27 June	UR4: 30 June - 1 August
MiC 5: 21 July - 22 August	UR5: 4 August - 5 September
MiC 6: 25 August - 26 September	UR6: 22 September - 24 October
MiC 7: 29 September - 31 October	UR7: 27 October - 28 November

Have you completed and returned your availability form? Please back fax to 4620 3891.

GPs IN SCHOOLS PROJECT. CAN YOU HELP?

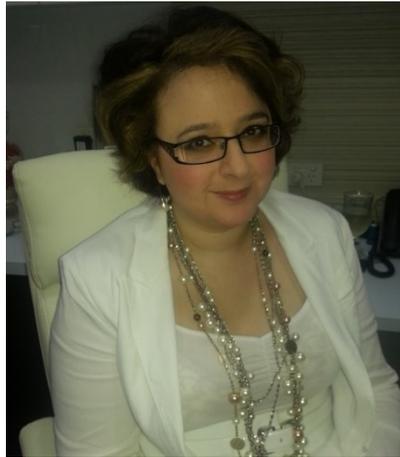
Dr Kelly Watt and Dr Penny Burns are seeking to recruit GPs who are interested in being involved in a two hour small-group teaching session for year 11 students at a local girls high schools in March/April 2014 (date to be confirmed). The project aims to increase engagement of local young people with General Practice. Please email Penny at P.Burns@uws.edu.au for further details.

FIVE MINUTES WITH DR WONG

Dr Teresa Wong is the owner/operator of the Ashford Medical Practice in Milperra. Dr Wong teaches Year 5 students in their GP attachment and is a foundation partner in the recently launched GP Mentorship Program

Tell us a bit about yourself and your practice.

How long do you have?! Let's just say I'm a woman who practices medicine who happens to absolutely LOVE it!! I want Ashford Medical Practice to be a beacon of light in our community. A place where people can go and feel safe, welcome, respected and looked after. A place where as soon as they step in the door the burden lifts from their shoulders and happiness replaces it. Sounds airy fairy but thanks to its design, my amazing staff and my service we can actually make that happen. I also want the practice to be a one-stop shop for health care, that way we can bring clarity to the confused. We do our very best to link community and government services together, and provide a wide range of allied health



services ourselves.

How did you become a GP?

It was just by sheer luck, a miracle. I had taken a break from medicine and wasn't sure what I was going to do with myself.

A kind and friendly GP who happened to know me through my best friend invited me to work with him. He knew I'd never been a GP so offered to mentor me and give me half an hour with patients! Luckily I agreed

because it's been a love affair ever since. I woke up, found my passion and became alive!

What do you enjoy about teaching medical students?

They're so innocent! I want to give them what I never got as a student - a mentor. Someone who won't judge them and who will guide their hearts as well as their minds in medicine. Knowledge is easily gained, only a mentor can show you what confidence and humility look like and give you permission to have them.

How do you relax?

I love movies, going out for coffee with people and believe it or not, reading medical journals. Mostly though I sleep!

What advice would you offer to students and to other GP Supervisors?

To follow their passion and be true to their own integrity.

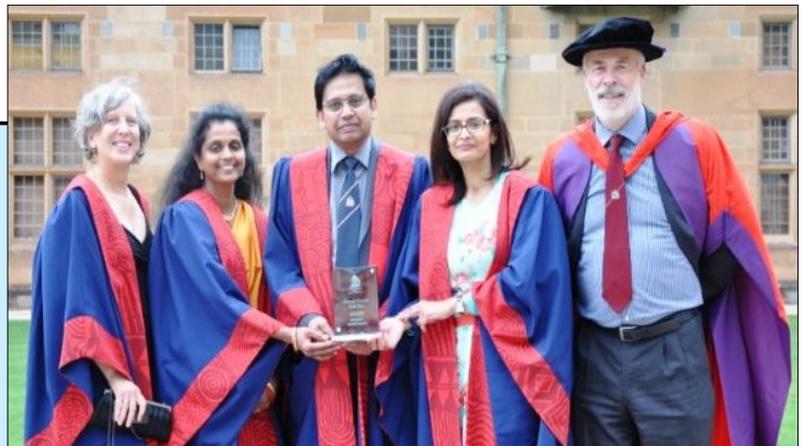
BRIDGEVIEW MEDICAL PRACTICE WINS NSW RACGP PRACTICE OF THE YEAR 2013

Please join us in congratulating the team at Bridgeview Medical Practice who have been awarded the RACGP NSW General Practice of the Year for 2013. When presenting the award to practice principal, Thava S. Seelan, Dr Guan Yeo, Chair of the NSW/ACT Faculty of the RACGP said:

"Bridgeview Medical Practice is a team of passionate, thoughtful and proactive medical professionals with a holistic approach to healthcare. They are thoroughly committed to the overall health of the patients and offer an invaluable primary healthcare service to the Western Sydney region."

We are so very fortunate to be able to offer our students learning in the company of leading clinicians and experience in a such a state of the art facility. Bridgeview Medical Practice joins Hazelbrook General Practice, The Practice (Blacktown), Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation and the Schwartz Family Practice at Elderslie as award winning practices taking UWS students. We are grateful for the high standard of General Practice experienced by our students in **all** their GP rotations and regularly hear how inspired they are by "my GP". For more information about the Bridgeview Medical Practice award follow the link:

<http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/news/media-releases/2013-nsw-gpoty/>



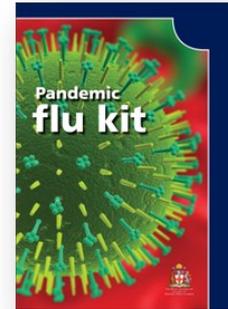
OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE GP TEAM

DR RON BROOKER IN THE AUSTRALIAN

Dr Ron Brooker, our Research Officer, was featured in the Australian newspaper in an article headlined “Young and swinging wildly” on the 26th of August. Published during the election campaign, it highlighted the demographic of young voters, and the influence they would have on the election. After interviewing voters under 35 in one electorate, the writer goes on to quote a “landmark study” authored by Ron Brooker, and a colleague, Eric Sidoti from the Whitlam Institute. The study uses NewsPoll data over each month to track the voting intentions of people under 35. It showed that, the political views of young people were fluid and volatile, meaning they weren’t attached to a single political party, and that this has implications for future elections. Follow the link for the full length article: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/young-and-swinging-wildly/story-e6fmgz6-1226703753974#>

PANDEMIC FLU KIT

The General Practice Unit at UWS has continued their involvement in disaster management in the latter half of this year. Dr Nicholas Collins and Dr Penny Burns are part of a task force involved with the revision of the RACGP Pandemic Flu Kit that will be occurring over the next 6 months. We invite any comments or suggestions, including on the usefulness of the existing Flu Kit. Please email Penny at P.Burns@uws.edu.au



FAMILIAR KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 16TH BOLIVIAN FAMILY MEDICINE

Potosi prides itself on an immense hill, the Cerro Rico, that towers over the city, from where thousands of tonnes of silver have been extracted since Spanish colonial times. The silver was mined in appalling conditions by African slaves, transported by mule to Peru, then across to Spain, unless it was purloined by pirates in transit. It is one one of the highest and most historic cities in the world, at over 4000m above sea level.

In October, Lawrence Tan (right), was honoured with an invitation to travel to Potosi to present at a national conference for Bolivian family doctors.

Their theme for this year was Mental Health in Primary Care. Lawrence was asked to give the keynote address on challenges facing Family Medicine in 2013, and also facilitate a workshop on finding medical information on the internet (which was a challenge in Spanish!), present on educational strategies for teaching Family Medicine, and on the drug management of depression and insomnia.

Bolivia has achieved dramatic



improvements in overall life expectancy, infant mortality, tuberculosis and Chagas seroprevalence in the past 20 years.

Upcoming challenges resulting from their success include the rise of non-communicable diseases and multimorbidity, the challenge of harnessing technology for good and not evil, and meeting population demands for quality care by embracing patient-centred medicine.

There was a brief poster exposition one afternoon where registrars and family doctors presented research they had been doing.

Themes included case presentations on zinc deficiency in children, and schizoaffective disorder; audit of problem-oriented medical records; a descriptive study of family dynamics in patients with prostatic hypertrophy.

Training for doctors to specialise in primary care is a relatively new development in Bolivia, and Lawrence was privileged to be a part of this process in the early 2000s. It was a great encouragement for him to meet some of his ex-students who are now part of a growing community of enthusiastic family doctors. They are keen on seeking the best for their patients and their communities, and have a growing interest in locally relevant research such as treatment of high-altitude polycythaemia.

Dr Lawrence Tan is a Senior Lecturer with the Department of General Practice .

STUDENT NEWS

CITY2SURF MEDICAL TEAM

Justin Sujardi, a UWS medical student, joined the medical team for the City2Surf. Here, he tells us about his experience.

When I was presented with the opportunity to be a part of the City2Surf medical team from Western Sydney Local Health District (Blacktown and Mt Druitt Hospitals), I didn't hesitate to sign up.

As a final year medical student, greater patient experience and exposure is like gold at my stage of training. What better stage than Sydney's largest running festival for charity!

The medical team consisted of 4 doctors and 4 nurses. We were situated at a scout hall near the finish line at Bondi Beach and received patients via ambulance transport or as direct walk-ins.

It was quite a warm and sunny Sunday for the event and we received a number of patients with signs of heat exhaustion and dehydration. Patients were treated by cooling them down rapidly and administering fluids until they were fit enough to be released.

My role was to scribe all the happenings of each patient, from the moment they enter the door to signing the discharge papers at release.

I gained invaluable experience in working in an uncontrolled



Justin (Right Front) and Dr Burns (Right Rear)

environment outside of the hospital and observing how to treat seriously ill patients with hyperthermia and signs of heat exhaustion. I was fortunate to be surrounded by a group of fantastic and enthusiastic doctors and nurses who not only were highly competent with patient care, but created a healthy and supportive environment to work in. I greatly enjoyed the experience and would highly recommend future medical students to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.



MEDICAL STUDENTS AND PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE IN THE COMMUNITY

The age-old idiom "prevention is better than cure," is the core principle behind health promotion and preventative health initiatives that aim to empower patients and the community to avoid the need for a cure in the future. As medical students, we are often itching to interact with real patients, and health promotion in the community would seem to be the perfect opportunity to make the constructive step into practical medicine. Recently, along with two other 3rd year medical students and Dr Penny Burns as our GP supervisor, we were invited to have a stall for health checks at a "Men's Car and Bike Show" in Tahmoor, put on by Community Links for Men's Health Day. We jumped at the opportunity, and used the focus of cardiovascular risk to promote healthy lifestyle choices and health targets assess risk factors in men in particular.

From the perspective of a medical student, it was an awesome opportunity to practice chatting about cardiovascular risk factors without jargon, take a lot of manual blood pressures, measure hip and waist ratios and interact with real patients. Talking to men about their health when there are incredible cars, bikes and sausage sizzles available posed a challenge at first, nonetheless, we persisted and

by the end of the successful day, men were bringing their wives back to us to get assessed as well. In this way, it was an effective and encouraging step in the right direction to help empower and prevent the need for a cure in the future for many of our own community members.

This initiative is a great example of both improving our own skills as future doctors while also making a change in our community's health. I believe that this is a model that can and should be repeated at many events on various scales in the future in order to initiate, build and strengthen the relationship between the community and the health profession.

STUDENT NEWS

NATIONAL COMPETITION WIN!

BUILDING STRONGER HEALTH CARE TEAMS: UWS STUDENTS CARRY OFF NATIONAL AWARD.

UWS Team Alan Dyason, Elham Zolfaghari, Heidi Jennings, Kate Thomson, Mauli Trivedi and Nirav Patel were fantastic ambassadors not only for our university, but their individual professions and for health care as a whole.

Their place as the 2013 *HealthFusion Team Challenge (HFTC)* Winning Team was awarded by a panel of judges based wholly on the exemplary teamwork, collaboration and sportsmanship shown on the day.

The HFTC is an annual national competition for students studying in the health sciences. It is designed to promote effective interprofessional collaboration and teamwork through a shared learning experience while fostering the next generation of health care leaders.

The HFTC hosts a range of events each year around Australia and overseas, of which the TT HFTC is the pinnacle event for Australasia and the program's flagship competition. During the TT HFTC, each team is required to prepare a comprehensive patient management plan in response to a complex case study over several weeks. Teams then present their plans live before an audience and panel of expert judges before responding to a range of challenging unseen extension activities and reflection exercises. The team that demonstrates a mastery of teamwork and collaboration over the course of the day is



declared the winner.

The 2013 TT HFTC hosted teams from some of the nation's top universities which included Deakin University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, The University of Queensland, The University of Sydney and The University of Newcastle.

Team UWS progressed to the Final Top Four based on their performance in the heats and went on to win the Challenge by a considerable margin.

By winning the premier competition of its kind in Australasia, UWS has highlighted amongst its peers not only the quality of its health programs, but the quality of its students as well.

GENERAL PRACTICE STUDENT NETWORK ELECT A NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR 2014

Near the end of the semester GPSN (UWS) ran online elections for a new GPSN Executive Team. The General Practice Unit congratulates the Executive Team elect for 2014. We look forward to another year of successful collaborative events promoting General Practice awareness in the School of Medicine and the Community.

The Executive Team for 2014 is:

- Jarrold Bradley 2nd year – University Chair
- Jaislie Anderson 2nd year – Vice Chair
- Maiyoori Jeyaprakash 4th year – Secretary
- Larry Lam 2nd year – State Projects Officer
- Sasha Paramesthi 3rd year – Media and Publications Officer
- Tom Knellwolf 2nd year – Blacktown Clinical Officer
- Karimi Williams 4th year – Macarthur Clinical Officer



STUDENT NEWS



STUDENT POSTER ACCEPTED AT GP13

UWS Year 5 Medical Students
Samuel Rajadurai and Harkaraj

Kang represented a group of 7 undergraduate co-authors of a poster entitled “Enablers and Barriers to General Practice engagement with Undergraduate Learners in Southwest Sydney” displayed at GP13.

The poster condensed the contents of the students’ Community Group Research Project, a compulsory research activity undertaken in Year 4 of

the course. The key message from their research was that only 37% of GPs had taught students in the preceding two years but that 83% of GPs overall were interested in teaching.

Samuel (M) and Harkaraj (R) are pictured here with Dr Nick Collins (L) Senior Lecturer - General Practice, who assisted with the poster’s design and production.

“ALL IN A MORNINGS WORK” - EMERGO DISASTER EXERCISE IN A HOSPITAL

It’s mid-morning and you are a couple of hours into your shift in the ED at Liverpool hospital, a major trauma centre. Just as you walk past the “bat phone”, it rings and a voice on the other end says “there has been an explosion, approximately 40 casualties, ETA for first casualties is 10 minutes”.

In what seems like seconds, 10 minutes pass and the ED is busier than it has ever been. By 30 minutes, every part of the hospital is involved in some way. Surgeons are triaging patients to make effective use of the rapidly filling theatre lists. The radiology team are working harder than ever and just to make things worse, one of the CT scanners isn’t working. Fortunately this situation isn’t that common, however for the team at this hospital, this was the start of

the hospital’s recent emergency exercise. Rather than shutting down a major trauma centre, this whole of hospital exercise was conducted in the hospital’s training facility, using a Swedish “Emergo Train System” (ETS), with wards, theatres and ED all represented on whiteboards surrounded by hospital staff. Patients are represented by small magnetic symbols or “Gubers”.

During the three hours of the exercise, around 240 “patients” were treated throughout the “hospital”. The exercise was a resounding success and the opportunity to see a whole-of-hospital exercise, particularly in a

major trauma centre, was certainly a fascinating experience. From a student’s perspective, I found the camaraderie shown by the team at the hospital exemplary. I was amazed by the fast cohesion of the rapidly formed teams in the face of overwhelming pressure.

I would like to thank Dr Burns for inviting me to observe the exercise and Professor Mark McLean (UWS MBBS Year 3 Coordinator) for granting leave to attend.

Paul McLucas is an RACGP student member completing MBBS year 3 at UWS this year and a member of the NFSI Disaster Management Network. Paul has many years experience as a career firefighter in the ACT.



Paul McLucas (R)

RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH

Evaluation of a community-based cancer support service : Blue Mountains Cancer Help

This exciting consumer led research is a collaborative project involving Blue Mountains Cancer Help (BMCH), Nepean-Blue Mountains Medicare Local (NBMML) and UWS. It will evaluate the BMCH model of care from client, carer and health care provider perspectives.

Blue Mountains Cancer Help (BMCH) is a community-based cancer support service based in Katoomba operating since 2005 and offering a range of services including psychological support, lifestyle advice and complementary therapies. The complementary therapies are used alongside conventional medicine and are not intended to replace conventional medical treatments. The organisation is self-funded through membership fees, donations and the proceeds of two opportunity shops in Katoomba and Penrith.

There has been little formal research on community-based cancer support services. This evaluation of BMCH will provide an opportunity to better understand the contribution a community-based cancer support service makes to the well-being of people living with cancer and their families, and to identify unmet needs and service gaps.

A working party consisting of 3 consumers, the CEO of BMCH, and representatives from NBMML and UWS has worked closely since July 2013 to formulate the study protocol, questionnaire design and focus group scripts. It has been a truly consumer led, collaborative process with ideas passionately debated and distilled around the white board. We now have a fantastic project and are awaiting word from the ethics committees so that we can start collecting data.

Dr Louise McDonnell, Senior GP Research Fellow with the Department of General Practice, is providing a consultancy to this project.

OUR FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

The WentWest funded evaluation of the Partnership between Western Sydney Medicare Local and Western Sydney Local Health District is being undertaken by a research team consisting of the Project Research Officer Brogan Renshaw, Dr Penny Burns, Dr Ron Brooker and Professor Jennifer Reath. The project aims to evaluate the 'effectiveness of the partnership between Western Sydney Medicare Local (WSML) and the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) in delivering better outcomes in agreed priority areas'.

The research team is developing a Program Logic model of the Partnership using a Participatory Action Research approach. A Reference Group consisting of representatives from key stakeholder groups has been convened to guide and input to the research.

This research provides a unique and exciting opportunity to contribute to the emerging literature on health service partnerships. It is hoped that this research will prove beneficial for the WSML and WSLHD and inform other similar collaborative partnerships nationally and internationally.

INAUGURAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM INTRODUCTION EVENING - NOVEMBER 2013

In association with our GP Student Network, the Department of General Practice was extremely pleased to see a number of prospective GP mentors and Year 3 student mentees gather for an evening of introductions, both to each other and the program.

The program is designed to match experienced GPs with Year 3 students who have an interest in General Practice to provide professional support, career advice and moral & ethical guidance in the early clinical years.

The Department is very grateful to those GPs from across Sydney and the Blue Mountains who have offered their time and services.

It is early days, but it is hoped that this program fulfils somewhat an element of the Department's Strategic Plan to support and encourage those students who identify an interest in the discipline of General Practice. We will keep you abreast of progress with the program in subsequent newsletters!

Dr Nick Collins, Senior Lecturer.

CONFERENCE CORNER

GP13, THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION OF THE RACGP was held in Darwin this year, just as the dry season was turning into the wet. Dr Penny Burns was involved in a timely disaster management plenary, as the RACGP launched a useful tool for practices to plan for disasters. Dr Tim Senior was involved in a popular social media workshop at the start of the conference. Professor Jenny Reath presented research on GP use of pneumatic otoscopy and tympanometry in middle ear disease. There was an inspirational key note speech from Jeff McMullen, the respected journalist on improving Indigenous health, an issue for which he has campaigned for a long time. The whole range of General Practice was covered throughout the conference, not least of which during a performance of 'GP The Musical', written and performed by GPs.

Dr Tim Senior, Senior Lecturer



Dr Tim Senior tuning up in the corridor at GP13

2013 PHCRIS CONFERENCE

This year the 2013 Primary Health Care Research Conference (organised by the Primary Health Care Research & Information Service) was held at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney on 10-12 July. General Practice team attendees included Jenny Reath, Penny Abbott, Lawrence Tan, Kelly Watt and Ron Brooker.

The theme of the conference, Allies for better primary health care, was regularly addressed by the quality and diversity of the plenary sessions, workshops and papers presentations. A major theme throughout the Conference was multimorbidity and the strategies to address this in primary health care.

Our Department was well-represented throughout the conference with Jenny co-facilitating a workshop discussing strategies to support novice practitioner

researchers.

Penny presented a paper on Practice Nurses and sexual health care, Lawrence presented his paper: "Through a screen, darkly: How do patient-initiated camera phone images contribute to general practice consultations". Ron spoke on an evaluation of Justice Health placements for UWS medical students.

Our Academic Registrar, Kelly, attended a GPET research workshop for academic registrars led by WONCA President Professor Michael Kidd.

Features of the PHCRC are its promotion of collaboration and the establishment of relationships between researchers (particularly at the Conference Dinner) and importantly the sharing of information and knowledge.

Dr Ron Brooker, Research Officer.

THE 2013 GPET CONVENTION

The GPET Convention is an annual event for all those involved in GP training. This year it was held in Perth, and there was a good representation from the Department of General Practice. Particular highlights included a presentation by medical student Emma Kozianski reflecting on her experiences during her attachment in a remote Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. Emma gave a heartfelt presentation, admirably showing her emotional engagement with the work she wanted to do. Dr Kelly Watt presented her research finding from her project performed as an academic GP registrar. This looked at GP Supervisors' perceptions of cultural competence and their role in teaching this to students and registrars. It demonstrated that much more needs to be known about the best ways to do this.

Dr Penny Abbott

PUBLICATIONS

All UWS Conjoint are invited to advise the General Practice Unit of any recent publications to be recognised in future newsletters. Please contact Melinda Wolfenden on melinda.wolfenden@uws.edu.au

P Abbott, A Dadich, H Hosseinzadeh, M Kang, W Hu, C Bourne, C Murray, **J Reath**. Practice nurses and sexual health care: Enhancing team care within general practice. *Australian family physician* 42 (10), 729-733.

M DiGiacomo, P Delaney, **P Abbott**, PM Davidson, J Delaney, F Vincent. 'Doing the hard yards': carer and provider focus group perspectives of accessing Aboriginal childhood disability services. *BMC health services research* 13 (1), 1-12.

P Abbott, R Menzies, J Davison, L Moore, H Wang. Improving immunisation timeliness in Aboriginal children through personalised calendars. *BMC Public Health* 13 (1), 598.

Falster K, Randall D, Banks E, Eades S, Gunasekera H, **Reath J**, Jorm. (2013) Inequalities in the receipt of myringotomy and ventilation tube insertion procedures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in New South Wales, Australia: a data linkage study. *BMJ Open* 2013;3:e003807 doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2013-003807

George, A., Johnson, M., **Reath, J.**, Dahlen, H., Bhole, S., Ajwani, S. & Korda, A., (2013) Oral Health Care During Pregnancy. *Australian Nursing Journal (special issue women's health/midwifery)*, 21 (3): 42.

PRESENTATIONS

Paper: "Protocol for an RCT of watchful waiting vs. AB for AOM without perforation in low risk Aboriginal children"(Co-author, J Reath)

7th Extraordinary International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media

Paper: "Improving diagnosis of otitis media in the Australian primary health care setting - acceptability and impact of tympanometry and pneumatic otoscopy" (Presenter, J Reath)

7th Extraordinary International Symposium on Recent Advances in Otitis Media

Paper: Use of Pneumatic Otoscopy and Tympanometry in diagnosis of middle ear disease: The GP perspective. (J Reath)

RACGP GP13 conference

Workshop Presentation: Strengthening the roles of Cultural Educators and Mentors in GP Vocational Training. (J Reath)

GPET Conference

THANK YOU TO OUR GP CONJOINTS

Dr Rick Aitken	Dr Stephen Hampton	Dr Kenneth McCroary
Dr James Aitken	Dr Emad Hanna	Dr Linda McQueen
Dr Sushil Anand	Dr Nigel Hawkins	Dr Arif Mirza
Dr Soheyl Aran	Dr Charles Hayes	Dr Suresh Nair
Dr Kam Cheung Glen Au-Yeung	Dr Angela Hsiao	Dr Diana O'Halloran
Dr Matthew Bailey	Dr Rosemary Isaacs	Dr Helen Parsons
Dr Jurriaan Beek	Dr Colin Jamieson	A/Prof David Peiris
Dr Hamdy Boulis	Dr Wally Jammal	Dr Ramesh Pillai
Dr Michael Burke	Dr Channappa Jayadev	Dr Harry Pope
Dr Graham Chaffey	Dr Frank Keh	Dr Georgia Rigas
Dr Kenneth Cho	Dr Sayeed Khan	Dr Hal Rikard-Bell
Dr Helen Chriss	Dr Chee Khoo	Dr Bernd Rupprecht
Dr Michelle Crockett	Dr Andrew Knight	Dr Adel Saman
Dr Milan Djukanovic	Dr Heather Knox	Dr John Sandra
Dr Clare Donnelly	Dr Chee Koh	Dr Raymond Seeto
Dr Bernadette Drouslers	Dr Angela Kwok	Dr Michael Tan
A/Prof Michael Fasher	Dr Tatiana Lacic	Dr Ian Thong
Dr Agatino Ferraro	Dr Madhu Lal	Dr Furio Virant
Dr Sarah Gani	Dr Carina Law	Dr Kam Cheung Wong
Dr Deepa Garg	Dr Phillip Law	Dr Steven Wong
Dr Magdy Girgis	Dr Karen Lickiss	Dr Ling Yoong
Dr Upkar Goval	Dr Tuan Lieng	Dr Simon Young
Dr Matthew Gray	Dr Parker Magin	

The Department of General Practice would like to welcome and congratulate our newly appointed Conjoints:

Dr Nigel Hawkins, Dr Charles Hayes and Dr Ling Yoong

Please contact Melinda Wolfenden if you wish to apply for a Conjoint appointment with UWS.

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