



DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE TEACHING NEWSLETTER

June 2016

As the year progresses and the third rotation is under way, we continue to receive positive evaluations about the practice placements from our students. The most common comments are about being welcomed by GPs and staff, GPs being good teachers and the active involvement of students in learning clinical skills. We thank you for your continued commitment to teaching our students.

This edition, we present brief summaries of two of our teaching projects - Student Evaluations of Online Lectures and the Urban Longitudinal Integrated Community Care (Urban LInCC) project. To find out about our other teaching research, go to <https://general-practice.medicine.uq.edu.au/research-area/medical-education> .

We are sad to be farewelling Associate Professor Wendy Brodribb who will retire from her academic position next month. Wendy's research in the area of perinatal care, breastfeeding and lactation is recognised internationally and has put our discipline on the world stage. She has been a mentor and role model to many students, registrars and PhD students and will be dearly missed. We wish her a happy and healthy retirement with plenty of time for family and fun.

Two of our younger staff, Dr Rebecca Farley and Dr Laura Deckx will be taking maternity leave. We wish them all the joys of motherhood and look forward to their return.

Last newsletter we reported on a pending restructure of the medical school which also affected DGP. At the moment of writing a different structure is being debated and we will update you when the plans are finalised.

Professor Mieke van Driel, Head of Discipline

Dr David King, Academic Coordinator GP Rotation

Featured Profile: Dr Loretto Wainwright



Loretto is Discipline Academic Supervisor in General Practice and is based at the UQ Rural Clinical School (UQRCS) Toowoomba.

She has been teaching in general

practice for 14 years and is delighted to be involved in the education of practitioners for the future, and in particular to be working within UQRCS which is funded to address health workforce shortages in rural and regional Queensland. Studies have shown that UQRCS students are 2.5 times more likely than other UQ graduates to work in a rural area.

A country girl and UQ graduate herself, Loretto has been living and working in Toowoomba for 36 years. She works within a multidisciplinary general practice and has a special interest in mental health having attained a Master 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.

2016 GP Rotation Dates

16th May – 8th July

18th July – 9th September

19th September – 11th November

Urban LInCC Dates

18th July – 22nd October

STUDENTS' GP ROTATION EVALUATIONS

ROTATIONS 1 AND 2, 2016

The things I liked most about my clinical attachment:

Flexibility to move between main GP teacher, registrar and practice nurse.

My GP was amazing. He developed my clinical skills immensely and gave me a lot of tips regarding patient communication.

GP knew everything.

Researching information and presenting it to GP helped understanding specific conditions.

The things I liked least about my clinical attachment:

Minimal involvement.

Not much experience in history taking.

Nil.

I enjoyed my experience there and I can't think of anything I disliked.

TEACHING RESEARCH AT DGP

The Discipline has been involved with a number of medical education projects. One of these, **Student Evaluations of Online Lectures** comprised a series of focus groups with medical students to explore their attitudes to online lectures, including the Discipline's Voice over PowerPoint presentations. Some of students' expectations of these online lectures, and their place in the overall ecology of student learning resources, are unfamiliar to academics more used to face to face lecturing. We also found that students appreciate brevity, structure and a proportionate emphasis on the most important material much more than attractive animations and interactive features. They also appreciate brief anecdotes from the personal experience of clinicians, and mnemonic strategies. Other literature has also found that students in general practice particularly value having the most important aspects of content highlighted, probably because of the broad nature of general practice compared to other medical disciplines. Students don't have the experience to know which are the *zebras*, and which are the *horses*!

The Urban LInCC Project which places a small number of 2nd Year medical students in a general practice for ½ day per week over 13 or 26 weeks is now in its 4th year. Evaluation has shown that both students and GPs have found this to be a very positive experience with the students gaining clinical skills (especially communication skills), an understanding of general practice and an appreciation of the management of chronic diseases in the community. Students have also enjoyed the one to one teaching and having the same tutor for the 13 weeks. As part of the project, students have logged their involvement in consultations and analysis of this has clearly shown that as time progresses they become more actively involved to the point (for some) of doing consultations on their own. Another analysis has shown that most students think there are more opportunities to learn patient centred care, history taking and communication skills in general practice while opportunities to learn examination skills are better in the hospitals.

If you wish to be involved in future research of clinical teaching, please contact us at dgpadmin@uq.edu.au.

ACADEMIC TITLE HOLDERS FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONER TEACHERS

The Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences proudly acknowledges the dedicated work of its many externally-funded health professionals, including our general practitioner teachers. To recognise the work of these health professionals the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences awards individuals with academic titles.

To apply for an Academic Title please go to <http://www.uq.edu.au/health/academic-titles>

VISIT US

www.general-practice.medicine.uq.edu.au

or contact DGP Administrator dgpadmin@uq.edu.au



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