



DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE TEACHING NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2014

Most medical students are of course strong academic performers and a delight to teach, but a few “problem” students make it through medical schools as far as the clinical placement years.

A recent review of the “problem” learner (1) reminds us that identifying the problem early, making a thoughtful working diagnosis, and providing early support, are essential to successfully manage students who have significant problems with knowledge, skills and/or attitudes.

Although being clear at the outset with your students about your expectations of them can prevent some problems, sometimes you will have a hunch that all is not well. It is important that you do not accept poor performance, or ignore the problem until a critical event occurs. Instead, observe the student carefully, check your intuitions with your colleagues, and talk to the learner directly about your concerns.

Your feedback is very valuable for a student in difficulty. Talking to the learner will also of course help you identify inter-current stressors, including medical or psychiatric illness, and assess the student’s level of insight. Your personal emotional reactions to the student may mirror the student’s feelings, and identifying these can be helpful.

Working with “problem” learners can be time-consuming for teachers, and sharing the workload with practice colleagues may be helpful for everyone. Fortunately it can also be extremely rewarding for all concerned.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academic Coordinator for the General Practice Rotation, Dr Nancy Sturman (n.sturman1@uq.edu.au), with any concerns about your student.

1. Steiner Y. The “problem” learner: Whose problem is it?
AMEE Guide No. 76

GP Rotation DVD

Please let Heather McMaster know if you would like a GP Rotation DVD with the Learning Materials we distribute to students. Email her at h.mcmaster@uq.edu.au with your postal address.

Contributions Welcome!

Would you like to write for this newsletter? The editor would be delighted to publish your thoughts about teaching medical students on GP placements! Email them to Nancy Sturman at n.sturman1@uq.edu.au

Featured Profile: Professor Geoffrey Mitchell

Professor Geoff Mitchell has been a GP registrar trainer since 1986 at Limestone Medical Centre, Ipswich. This practice has a long commitment to GP registrar training, with virtually continuous registrar placements since the early 1990s.



It was a natural progression to move to the School of Medicine to absorb the increased responsibilities for teaching medical students that came the way of the Discipline of General

Practice when the graduate entry course commenced in 1996.

The practice has taken on both registrars and medical students since that time, working very hard to model high quality general practice, and highlight the complexities and challenges inherent in performing general practice well. Students and registrars frequently remark on the challenging nature of the work they encounter, and how much they enjoy the experience.

The practice has also been heavily involved in the wider community, particularly in services offered by the then Division of General Practice. Ipswich has its own GP run hospice, and the practice partners are heavily involved with this, offering another skill for registrars and medical students to learn during their placements.

The practice hopes to model the broad interest and appeal of working in a regional centre, and becoming embedded in the community in which the general practitioner works.

Australian Medical Council Visit

The School of Medicine will host a visit from the Australian Medical Council from 16 - 20 June 2014. This visit is part of the cycle of reviews of Australian medical schools. The AMC panel will also be meeting with GP teachers, staff and students, an acknowledgement of the important role of GP teaching in our curriculum. The AMC visit is an important event for the School and an opportunity to showcase the excellent teaching by inspiring teachers and role models. A big thank you to all who contribute to teaching our students in their practices. We will keep you updated on the results of the visit.

For Your Calendars

Third Year GP Rotation Dates 2014

Monday 19th May - Friday 11th July

Monday 21st July - Friday 12th September

Monday 22nd September - Friday 14th November



GENERAL PRACTITIONER TEACHING TIPS

- Sit the student at the computer while you sit in the spare chair.
- Ask the student to present an educational session on a clinical topic at the practice meeting.
- Ask the student to take a social history from the little old lady who loves to chat, and you will learn a great deal about her!
- Ask the student to review your pathology results.

STUDENTS' GENERAL PRACTICE EVALUATIONS

- The things I liked most about my clinical attachment:
- Very hands on! I had my own room to communicate with patients and do examinations
 - My GP was very approachable and enthusiastic
 - The GP, registrars and nurses were very focused on teaching and their skills were excellent

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.

Many of Queensland's best health professionals are UQ Academic Title Holders with the Faculty.

It is their enthusiasm and dedication that keeps the Faculty at the forefront of worldwide health education and research trends and ensures the recognition the Academic Title gives is of the highest value.

Benefits of a University of Queensland Academic Title include:

UQ LIBRARY ACCESS

The UQ Library has one of the largest academic collections in Australia and by far the largest in Queensland. It provides an exceptional collection of health and medical books, more than 3500 health and medical e-Journals, drug information online and access to medical databases.

RESEARCH SUPPORT NETWORK

Academic Title Holders are expected to submit research grant applications through UQ and will benefit from the excellent research support network available.

UQ EMAIL ACCOUNT, INTERNET AND STAFF WEB PORTAL ACCESS

All Academic Title Holders receive a UQ email account, internet and staff web portal access.

DISCOUNTED BOOKS

The University Bookshop offers a rewards system for UQ staff and Academic Title Holders (approximately equivalent to 10% discount on books after a certain number of points accrued).

UQ SPORT

Academic Title Holders are eligible to join the University's sports club - UQ SPORT. Members have access to over 40 sporting clubs and receive discounts at a number of St Lucia campus facilities.

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

VISIT US
www.som.uq.edu.au/about/academic-disciplines/general-practice.aspx
 or contact Dr Nancy Sturman: n.sturman1@uq.edu.au



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