



DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE TEACHING NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2013

WELCOME to this edition of the Discipline of General Practice Teaching Newsletter.

The end of the academic year is approaching and our students are enjoying their last rotation in year 3. Many of them will have a much better idea of what general practice offers and appreciate the challenges, complexities and inspiring rewards of caring for patients in the community. Thank you for being such great role models!

In this newsletter you can read more about our longitudinal program in general practice for second year students. Its success is an inspiration for the development of a curriculum for the MD (Masters level qualification) program that is planned to replace the current MBBS starting with the 2015 intake cohort. We will keep you posted.

Equally exciting is the involvement of our discipline in the development and delivery of the medicine in society, community medicine and global health courses. These courses offer a wonderful opportunity to prepare students for the community and global context that is such an integral part of caring for our patients.

The team at the Discipline of General Practice is keen to create and strengthen partnerships with our teachers in primary care. We welcome and value your thoughts and look forward to continuing to work with you to teach and mentor a next generation of colleagues.

Thank you and I hope to meet you at the GP Teacher Workshop.

Prof Mieke van Driel, Head of Discipline

PRACTICE MANAGER & PRACTICE NURSE TIPS

Practice nurses and practice managers have been playing a role in the teaching of medical students within the practice setting for a long time and there is increasing recognition of the importance of these roles. Their expertise includes teaching about specific skill areas as well as relieving the GP supervisor of administrative tasks and helping the medical students feel part of the practice.

We would like to thank the practice managers and nurses at Doctors Grand Plaza Browns Plains, Sunnybank Hills Medical Centre and Salisbury Medical Centre who have provided their tips for facilitating medical student teaching which we will publish in this and future newsletters.

Continued overleaf.....

FEATURED PROFILE: GENERAL PRACTICE STUDENTS' NETWORK

UQ's Executive Team (from left to right): Patrina Liu, Rozanne Visvalingam, David Arpon, Sam Yuan, Johnson Huang and Emily Shao.



The General Practice Students Network (GPSN) is a student-run general practice interest group whose primary goal is to promote the benefits of a life and career as a general practitioner to medical students in all years of study. It is a national network with a club operating in every medical school in Australia. It is an initiative of General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) and receives funding from General Practice Education and Training (GPET).

GPSN at UQ runs several events throughout the year including Clinical Skills Workshops, a Careers Information Evening and the GP4ME Symposium held in collaboration with Bond and Griffith universities.

The clinical events allow students to learn procedural skills commonly used in a general practice setting such as suturing, injection technique and skin biopsy.

The academic events aim to inspire students and to provide insight into what a career in general practice involves, where it can take them and how they can get onto the path of becoming a GP. These events aim to get students thinking about general practice, to foster interest in the specialty and to facilitate networking opportunities for students to interact with GPs and GP registrars.

This year, GPSN was run by Patrina Liu and Rozanne Visvalingam (pictured above) who shared the role of Student Ambassador. The club has seen an explosion in new members and a growing enthusiasm for general practice that is sure to continue next year with Johnson Huang (also pictured above) taking over leadership of the club in 2014.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND GP TEACHER WORKSHOP

Wednesday, 6th November 2013, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Level 8 Health Sciences Building,
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston.

Attendance will contribute to the educational component of the RACGP Teaching Medical Students Active Learning Module (40 category 1 points).

For more details, email Heather McMaster h.mcmaster@uq.edu.au

INVOLVE students in all aspects of the surgery and introduce them to every staff member so they feel comfortable learning about reception, management, nursing and medicine.

ENSURE students understand that doctors do enjoy teaching - doctors teach because they 'want to' rather than because they 'have to'.

GO BACK TO BASICS by allowing the student time in the treatment room shadowing the RN. Students need to learn basics e.g. taking ECG tracings, giving injections, preparing and assisting with minor ops, using a BSL machine, using anebuliser and taking basic observations.

The things I liked most:

- Spending time with all doctors at the practice, giving me a good exposure to different styles of patient management
- Knowledgeable and welcoming clinical teacher - good role model! Lots of chances for individual interactions with patients
- Drs SC and JX are excellent teachers and role models. They were flexible and supportive of students. I felt very welcome and respected. They have inspired me to become a GP.

URBAN LINCC PROJECT by Dr Margie Henderson

Longitudinal clinical placements are attracting more interest both in Australia and overseas. The literature suggests that benefits include the development of a mentoring relationship, increased opportunities for students to experience continuity of patient care, and viewing the complexities of patients with multiple problems through a holistic, rather than a discipline-focused, lens.

Historically most of these have been based in rural areas but recent interest has led to the commencement of a number of projects based in urban settings.

For the past 2 years a select group of medical students from UQ have been participating in the Urban Longitudinal Integrated Community Care project (Urban LInCC). Funded by Health Workforce Australia, the project has allowed students to spend between 3 to 6 months based in one of our teaching general practices.

In 2012 nine year 3 students spent ½ to 1 day per week in general practice during each of their clinical rotations, as well as completing their hospital-based learning. Some also managed to attend sessions at private specialist rooms and community organisations.

While the students gained some useful learning and insights, the logistics of year 3 proved challenging for both students and GPs. Despite this, two Year 3 students are participating enthusiastically in 2013 and gaining a tremendous amount from their experiences.

The project was extended to 31 Year 2 students this year. Each student is attached to a practice for ½ day per week (for up to 26 weeks) and spends the time with the GP and other practice staff, learning clinical skills and developing an understanding of health care in the community.

Feedback from GPs and students has been very positive. One student who has spent 26 weeks in one practice said

"An important part of the experience was the opportunity to get to know patients over multiple consultations and see their progression over the year with a huge range of medical issues.

I think the project was appropriately placed in 2nd Year because it allowed me to see first-hand the patients' experience of some of the huge variety of pathologies we learn in 2nd Year.

I had an excellent experience with my preceptor, a great GP who was highly respected by all of his patients and who took time out to teach me about new clinical skills and his personal experience in General Practice."

We are extremely grateful to all the participating practices for providing such wonderful experiences for the students. We hope to be able to continue these placements next year.

For more information, please contact Jocelyn Selwood (j.selwood@uq.edu.au)

ACADEMIC TITLE HOLDERS FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONER TEACHERS

The Faculty of Health Sciences proudly acknowledges the dedicated work of its many externally-funded health professionals, including our general practitioner teachers.

Benefits of a University of Queensland Academic Title include: UQ library access; access to UQ's excellent research support network; discounted books at the University Bookshop; eligibility to join UQ's sports club and all Academic Title Holders receive a UQ email account, internet and staff web portal access.

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

FOR YOUR CALENDARS

THIRD YEAR GP ROTATION DATES 2014

Monday 13th January - Friday 7th March

Monday 17th March - Friday 9th May

Monday 19th May - Friday 11th July

Monday 21st July - Friday 12th September

Monday 22nd September - Friday 14th November

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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