



## DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

# Welcome

Dear Colleagues

This is the last newsletter I will compile as Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice at Western Sydney University.

To have held this role over the past 12 years has been an enormous honour and privilege. I am most grateful to have worked with such a committed community of general practice teams, Primary Health Networks and other key partners in delivering what is arguably one of the best undergraduate general practice training experiences in Australia. Certainly our graduate outcomes indicate that, with 30% approximately of Western graduates choosing a career in general practice, we are well ahead of the national average of 16%. I also commend the team in the General Practice Department at Western - their commitment, support, expertise and generosity underpin our program and is widely commented on by both students and partners. Finally the students you have all assisted in their learning and career development do us all proud as they continue the caring ethos they first experienced at university, into their work as GPs across the world and in so many places of need.

I will continue to work on our research, and to assist on occasions with student teaching. Certainly, I will always be a strong supporter and advocate for Western Sydney as well as our rural communities and all who serve them.



This newsletter captures many of the themes I have touched on above with news of GP Supervisor success and generosity, student contributions to our communities and to our research, alumni achievements that will bring tears to your eyes and updates on many of our research activities.

Please welcome Associate Professor Penny Abbott to the role of Acting Head of Department. We are so fortunate that Penny is able to step in whilst the recruitment process for the Head of Department position gets underway. Read about Penny's achievements and interests in our Department update.

Wishing you all the very best and thank you all for your support and friendship over many years.

Warm Regards

Jenny

**Professor Jenny Reath**  
**Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice**

## GP Conjoints

Thank you to all our GP Conjoints. 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](mailto:v.bradley@westernsydney.edu.au) and she will assist you!

Dr Ali Alsamail, Dr Amadeus Klocker, Dr Andrew Knight, Dr Angela Kwok, Dr Atifa Khan, Dr Aziz Zaman, Dr Brian Wallace, Dr Channappa Jayadev, Dr Christine Ahern, Dr Christine Metusela, Dr Clemant Lau, Dr Coralie Wales, Dr David Cosgriff, Dr David Le, Dr Deepa Mahananda, Professor Diana O'Halloran, Dr Fiona Mackintosh, Dr Gardiyaswam Lindamulage Chaminda S De Silva, Dr Jane Burges, Dr Jason Cheng, Dr Jenny James, Dr Joanne Grimsdale, Dr John Houston, Dr Jurriaan Beek, Dr Kenneth McCroary, Dr KunYun Kelvin Hon, Dr Lawrence Tan, Ms Letitia Campbell, Dr Linda Brown, Dr Magdy Girgis, Assoc Professor Matthew Gray, Dr Md Zahidul Haque, Dr Michael Phipps, Dr Michael Tran, Dr Nalayini Sugirthan, Dr Natalie Cochrane, Dr Natalie Lindsay, Dr Nigel Grebert, Dr Oisin Byrne, Dr Olataga Alofiva- Doorbinnia, Dr Pat Romeo, 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 Sandy Xiaotao Yang, Dr Tania Hasib, Dr Tasnuba Perverz, Dr Sithamparapillai Thava Seelan, Dr Tim Senior, Dr Tuan Quang Bui, Dr Varun Nanda, Dr Wally Jammal, Dr Yasin Shahab, Dr Tuan Quang Bui

# Update from the Department of General Practice



Associate Professor Penny Abbott



Dr Shalinie SenerathgeDona

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

### HEALTH CARE IN SECURE SETTINGS CONFERENCE, SYDNEY, JUNE 2022

Penny attended this conference attended by healthcare providers interested in promoting quality healthcare for people in custody. There were great presentations from speakers from Australia and New Zealand, including on ways to promote health and wellbeing while working within the many constraints of our patients' situations. The importance of quality primary care both inside and outside prison cannot be overstated given the high burden of poor health and previous trauma and disadvantage in this population.

### INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON QUALITY AND SAFETY IN HEALTHCARE, SYDNEY JULY 2022

In a first for a number of years Jenny attended this face to face conference at Darling Harbour in July. Whilst most of the presentations were focussed on hospital care, it was inspiring to hear about health systems such as those in the United Kingdom and New Zealand that demonstrated how primary and secondary/ tertiary healthcare sectors worked together effectively during the Covid pandemic. Many of the lessons on quality improvement processes are relevant in general practice especially as we work towards better integrating our healthcare systems in Australia.

## WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

### INTRODUCING DR PENNY ABBOTT – ACTING HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

We are indeed fortunate that with Jenny's retirement we have an outstanding GP academic who will lead the Department through this transition time. Penny has provided a brief introduction.

Thanks Jenny! I have been working in an academic role at the Department since 2011. My main role has been within our research activities, including the clinical trials on ear disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Other activities have been supervising and collaborating with multiple researchers including academic GP researchers and GPs working in community practice who have their own research projects going. In addition to my university role, I worked as a GP at the Aboriginal Medical Service in Western Sydney for many years, and continue as a visiting GP in women's prisons in Greater Western Sydney. I have met many of our GP Supervisors in these roles! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or advice you want to pass on to me as I try to step into Jenny's very big shoes!

### WELCOME TO DR SHALINIE SENERATHGEDONA

As we advised at the beginning of the year we are also fortunate to have Dr Shalinie SenerathgeDona working with us this year. Shalinie introduces herself below.

I am a passionate Medical Professional from Sri Lanka and am joining the Department of General Practice, Western Sydney University for the next 12 months as a Visiting Academic Fellow.

I graduated with an MBBS from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo followed by MD Family Medicine from the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine Colombo with first in merit order. I have been working as a Primary Care Physician in several Government Health Institutions and as a part time General Practitioner in the Private Health Sector in Sri Lanka for over a decade. During my training as a Registrar and a Senior Registrar in Family Medicine, I had been actively involved in teaching both medical undergraduates and postgraduates in two academic departments in Sri Lanka.

My primary research interest lies in Primary Care medication adherence and I investigated the adherence to oral antibiotics among adults presenting to both state primary care and general practice settings in a region of Sri Lanka in my MD dissertation.

I am highly motivated to improve my knowledge and skills in clinical care, teaching and research, working in collaboration with the staff of DGP, WSU to earn the qualification to practice as a specialist in Family Medicine in Sri Lanka and look forward to a fruitful stay at Western.

# Update from the Department of General Practice

## RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL UPDATES

Jenny enjoyed final visits to the Rural Clinical Schools before her retirement in July and was joined by Penny in the Northern Rivers. Many thanks to those who hosted our visits and to our rural colleagues for all they do to support our students, many of whom have never previously lived away from home. It was particularly pleasing to see Lismore finding its feet again after the devastating floods and to hear of our students' involvement in the relief efforts (see below under Student news).



Lismore students with Penny and Jenny



Dr Corbett-Jones from Loxley House with Jenny and Dr Kam Wong



Jenny's visit to George St Medical Practice – Drs Kam Wong, Sean Howlett, Tracey Duddek (Practice Manager), Dr Debbie McClure, Jenny

## GP Supervisor/ Practice Manager News

### 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

July – October, 2022      February – May, 2022

##### Year 3 MiC Students: Metro

MiC 5: 18 July – 19 August, 2022

MiC 6: 22 August – 23 September, 2022

MiC 7: 26 September – 28 October, 2022

##### Year 5 GP Students: Metro

Metro 5: 25 July – 26 August, 2022

Metro 6: 12 September – 14 October, 2022

Metro 7: 17 October – 18 November, 2022

#### 2023 Metro Placement Dates

##### Year 2

February – May, 2023

##### Year 3 MiC Students: Metro

MiC 1: 23 January – 24 February, 2023

MiC 2: 27 February – 31 March, 2023

MiC 3: 17 April – 19 May, 2023

MiC 4: 22 May – 23 June, 2023

##### Year 5 GP Students: Metro

Metro 1: 30 January – 3 March, 2023

Metro 2: 6 March – 7 April, 2023

Metro 3: 10 April – 12 May, 2023

Metro 4: 19 June – 21 July, 2023

# GP Supervisor/ Practice Manager News

## WESTERN SYDNEY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM (WDEP)

This on-line course is designed is available to conjoints of Western Sydney University and through SWS PHN. It aims to promote competences in diabetes clinical care and support of people living with diabetes.

With the increasing prevalence of diabetes worldwide, every health professional in every health care context provides care to people with diabetes. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, blindness and lower limb amputations. Good diabetes clinical practice and appropriate support in self-management for people living with diabetes can improve health outcomes, the risk of complications and the quality of life.

Access at <https://westernx.edu.au/courses/wdep-main/?cl=1>



Dr Kean-Seng Lim and Dr Omar Khorshid

## GP SUPERVISOR AWARDS

One of our long-standing GP Supervisors in Western Sydney, Dr Kean-Seng Lim, was awarded the 2022 AMA Excellence in Healthcare award at the recent AMA National Conference. This award recognises “an AMA member who has made an outstanding contribution to leadership and advocacy in the delivery of high standard health care”. Dr Lim is the co-founder and clinical lead of CareMonitor. This is a shared care, real-time remote monitoring and population health management platform which also has telehealth capability. CareMonitor has been used during the COVID pandemic to monitor patients, including as part of the COVID Kids program, led by WentWest and the Children’s Hospital at Westmead during the Delta outbreak in NSW in 2021.

Congratulations to Dr Lim – how wonderful for our students to learn their general practice skills in such an innovative environment!

## DR JAYADEV DONATION

We are enormously grateful to Dr Jayadev who has made a second very generous donation to advance student engagement in general practice research. You will read of the contribution students made to our research with Dr Jayadev’s initial donation below. We are looking forward to planning how best we can engage students into the future with this most generous donation.

If any other Supervisor is interested in contributing to a PhD scholarship for an aspiring GP we would love to be able to offer support in this way – please contact Associate Professor Penny Abbott to discuss!

## 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 (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 is available for accredited practices. Please contact Sharon at [S.Lawrence@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:S.Lawrence@westernsydney.edu.au) if you or a colleague is interested in finding out more and she will be pleased to provide more information.

# Student News

## NICK COLLINS AWARD

Thanks to all those who have donated to this award in memory of our dear colleague and friend Dr Nick Collins. We now have sufficient balance in the account to seed both the 2021 winner (Rahul Mitra) and a 2022 student to the RACGP Annual Conference in Melbourne in November.

Students are always greatly excited by the opportunity to learn more about general practice as well as to meet and greet many of the greats in Australian General Practice. 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 into the future.

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

## STUDENT NEWS FROM LISMORE (Natalie Lindsay and Meera Vasanthanathan)

The effects of the catastrophic flooding in the Northern Rivers continues to impact many communities within our region. Last week the Northern Rivers Doctor Network hosted a 'FloodDocs Recovery' event where seven local health professionals presented their personal stories from the recent floods. It was interesting listening to the stories of devastation and the prolonged process of recovery. It was great to hear a few mentions of the assistance provided by the Western Sydney medical students at the evacuation centre during this unprecedented event – it certainly was a GP term not to forget! Below is a reflection from one of our students Meera Vasanthanathan, on her time assisting at the evacuation centre during her general practice term.

As medical students volunteering at evacuation centres during the time of Lismore Floods, like many others, we hoped to help with the coordination of the medical centre at the facility. Although we were initially sceptical of our limitations as 'just students', these days at the evacuation centres forced us to think more broadly about the challenges of disaster medicine.

Looking back, a highlight of our time at the centre were the moments we would return home from a shift and discuss amongst ourselves about our day and the patients we saw. It was like an informal handover that gave us the opportunity to debrief about overwhelming moments and helped keep us grounded. Together we helped develop a direct dosing system that constantly adapted to the growing needs of the patients at the evacuation centre. However, these nightly recaps of our day were what made it easy to stay up to date for our next shift.

It's hard to forget that feeling of solace during those days at the centre. The 'pet room' featured a wide variety of beloved animals who were displaced from their homes and had to learn to live with each other. One might expect the natural chaos that occurs when dogs, cats and birds co-exist, however this was not the case. Thanks to the volunteer veterinarians the animals were settled and well-supported. Our time during the Lismore floods was an incredibly confronting experience and the consequences of these floods are still being felt heavily. The moments spent at the SCU evacuation centre will stay with us as a reminder of a community that has experienced unbelievable loss and has survived.

We are incredibly proud of the students for stepping forward and assisting during the community's time of need. Your assistance in the community was much appreciated!

Our new cohort of students from WSU have arrived and settled into their new region and clinical terms.

Apart from some unfortunate contact with COVID, the term has proceeded well. Up here we are aware that the community is well and truly done with COVID. But COVID appears not yet to be done with us!

Fortunately for us, on the other hand, the rain has moved to other parts of the state for now.

Our campus seems to be brimming with medical students from our three universities (USYD and UOW as well as WSU), as well as allied health students from a variety of others, all making the most of the learning opportunities provided.

This year we have welcomed a new Senior Lecturer to the General Practice Unit, Dr Rosie Hamilton, who brings with her an interest in research as well as a natural aptitude and passion for teaching. Together with Drs Natalie Lindsay and Dave Glendinning, we now have a mostly young (yours truly excluded) and dynamic team, which bodes well for the future of GP training in this region.

# Student News

## STUDENT RESEARCH

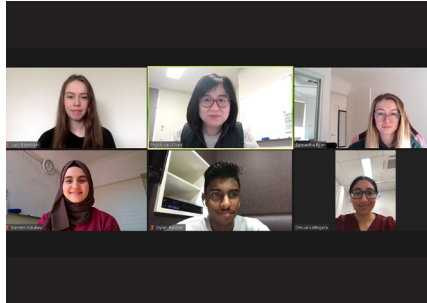
### Quest PHC Student researchers

**Dhruvi Lathigara** was awarded the Summer Scholarship to work on QUEST PHC from December 2021 to February 2022. Dhruvi assisted the team to complete its systematic review of patient-reported measures (PRMs), data extraction for literature review of indicators used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Justice Health sectors, and preliminary quantitative analysis of the Delphi rounds 1 and 2 surveys to establish consensus of the QUEST PHC indicators amongst practice and industry experts. Even though Dhruvi has now completed her summer scholarship placement, she has returned to assist the QUEST team to analyse the Delphi qualitative data and will be co-presenting with the team at the upcoming Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Annual Research Conference in August 2022.

Both **Lucy Bannister** and **Baneen Alrubayi** have been awarded the Jayadev Scholarships to work with the QUEST PHC team in 2022. They are currently assisting the team to conduct a full analysis of the Delphi rounds 1,2 and 3 survey data, compiling of a compendium of PRMs reviewed and will assist with the conduct and qualitative analysis of up to 4 focus groups with consumers and stakeholders. The two students will also be co-presenting with the team at the upcoming AAAPC conference in August 2022.

### Meet Lucy Bannister

I am Lucy Bannister, a 3rd year MD student at Western Sydney University working on the QUEST PHC project as a recipient of the Jayadev Scholarship. I was excited to be involved in the project after discovering a passion for patient care through my general practice placements and clinical medicine tutorials. The project has encouraged me to pursue research as I have witnessed the potential of research to create positive change for patients and the broader health care system. It has also allowed me to reflect on what I can do as a future health professional to provide effective, high-quality care and improve the patient experience. The supportive and productive team environment provided by Dr Phyllis Lau and Samantha Ryan has equipped me with valuable skills for my future in general practice and medical research. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the QUEST PHC team thus far and am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity.



Quest Working Group with students

### Meet Baneen Alrubayi

I am Baneen Alrubayi, a 4th year MD student and have been fortunate enough to work with Dr Phyllis Lau, Samantha Ryan, and Lucy Bannister as part of the QUEST PHC project through the Jayadev Scholarship. As a student who aspires to become a Rural Generalist with advanced skills in Obstetrics, learning about patient Reported Measures (PRMs) and their potential to be used as a way to provide direct, timely feedback about a patient's health-related experiences has been very fascinating and I believe the PRM compendium has the potential to be used to drive improvements in primary healthcare across Australia. Furthermore, the collaborative and supportive nature of the QUEST PHC team has allowed me to develop a vast array of research skills and knowledge and encouraged me to continue pursuing a career in general practice. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work and contribute to QUEST PHC's work and look forward to the rest of my involvement!

**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 between July and September. They will assist with the full analysis of the Delphi surveys and the qualitative analysis of the focus groups with stakeholders.

## OTHER STUDENT RESEARCH

**Astha Malik** has completed her investigation of the Western Sydney Integrated Care Program interview data (sub-analysis) for her project: Understanding the factors that influence Australian general practices to participate in an integrated care approach: A thematic analysis. She has been invited to present this research at GP22. She is currently refining the thematic analysis for her MBBS Honours dissertation and potentially a publication.



GPSN at Orientation week

**Emily Woods** is undertaking her MD project with Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network. Her project involves surveying people with opioid use disorders in prison as to their experiences of release and whether they have been able to access the treatment they need inside and outside prison. This will be used by the Network to improve their Drug & Alcohol service delivery. It is nice to see that Emily is being supervised by **Dr Dena Attala**, who spent a year with us as an academic GP Registrar in 2016.

## GP STUDENT NETWORK ACTIVITIES (Amanda Gonzalez Pegorer - Year 5)

In 2022, WSU GPSN held an orientation session for Year 1 medical students, which included giving information on the work of GPs, advertising our Facebook page to stay up to date with events, giving out merchandise, and teaching them blood pressure measurement, auscultation skills and reflex eliciting techniques with a tendon hammer.

We had participated in GP First Steps, a state-wide event in which the WSU GPSN team very proudly ran the otoscopy and ophthalmology workshops. Some of our team members also assisted with running the suturing workshop with other students and GP registrars. WSU GPSN also organised a Clinical Skills Night in conjunction with RHWs, which included airway management, suturing and use of ophthalmoscopes and otoscopes. In September, WSU GPSN is planning on holding an online careers night, as many of our students are spread across NSW. We have many students attending our events and participating. We hope to continue seeing this level of enthusiasm in the future.

# Alumni News

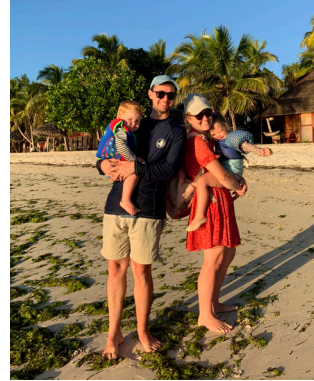
Please pass this newsletter onto GP alumni you know and ask them please to drop Jenny a quick email at [j.reath@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:j.reath@westernsydney.edu.au) so we can add them to our contact list!



SCLS team photo (Left to right - Alex, Deepa, Naomi, Natasha, Jo)



Jerome, Husband and Florence



Brendan, Shannon, Willow and Josiah



Olivia with Florence

## ALUMNI SURVEY RESULTS (Yasin Shahab)

We are always excited to hear where our graduates end up in the world of General Practice. Recently we sent out the third WSU GP alumni survey to document their training pathways, and we have so far received a total of 32 responses. Most respondents were from the Class of 2015 (n=7), with respondents coming from most of the other year groups.

Of the total respondents, 9 graduates (29%) had completed placements at either of our Rural Clinical Schools at Bathurst and Lismore, and 23 (74.2%) graduates reported that they had worked in rural areas since graduating. After graduation, all of the respondents had completed their internship in hospitals in Inner Sydney, south west Sydney and western Sydney. Nine respondents (29%) have worked at or are currently working with an Aboriginal Medical Service or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.

We are proud to see that 27 (84.38%) of these respondents have completed their Fellowship with the RACGP, two of whom have also completed their FARGP. After completing their fellowships, nine alumni (29%) have continued working in areas in Greater Western Sydney.

A number of alumni recalled positive GP role models as an inspiration during their stay in medical school. A majority of the respondents reported that their decision to become a GP was influenced either somewhat or heavily by their GP experience in medical school.

Keep an eye out for a detailed report of the GP alumni survey to be released in the near future.

## Deepa Mahananda: Sydney Low Carb Specialists turns Three

It has always been a medical school dream of mine to create a clinic dedicated to preventative medicine and metabolic health. I'm happy to share that 3 years ago I took the plunge to open a practice, Sydney Low Carb Specialists (SLCS), in Castle Hill. This is a sub-specialty clinic that I co-direct with my husband and fellow GP, Dr Alex Petrushevski. It incorporates our special interest of using evidence based nutritional approaches, including carbohydrate restriction, as a powerful therapeutic option by itself or adjunct to traditional pharmacotherapy.

SLCS has assisted over 900 patients to date by utilising a 'slow medicine' approach towards consultations. Our consultations allow time to identify root causes/s of disease through a comprehensive history, examination, patient education and formulation of individualised management plans. We are fortunate to work alongside 2 experienced Accredited Practising Dietitians - Natasha Fayle and Kate Oetsch - as well as a highly dedicated administrative team led by Naomi Taylor. The dietitians guide patients on the practical implementation of a low carb dietary approach whilst also accommodating dietary preferences and fitting within a patients' lifestyle and food budget.

The burgeoning evidence for low carbohydrate diets means that our clinic is at the forefront of translating this science into clinical practice. I am immensely proud of our clinic as it is a culmination of our combined years of further education and research into this fascinating area of medicine.

To learn more about our clinic please visit our website [www.sydneylowcarb.com.au](http://www.sydneylowcarb.com.au)

## From Jerome Ellison (nee Crouche)

I've settled down permanently in Adelaide with my husband. We recently welcomed our baby girl Amelia Grace Ellison on 21/08/21 born via surrogacy in California, USA. She's absolutely adorable and so cheeky! I currently work for the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide running an outreach clinic for homeless and disadvantaged youth as well as working remotely for Secure Care in Melbourne providing healthcare to children under guardianship of the Minister. This was one of my previous roles in Melbourne. I loved it so much, so I'm doing Telehealth for the kids.

## Brendan and Shannon Petersen

Brendan and I, with our two kids Willow (3) and Josiah (1), moved to Madagascar in November 2021 to work with a medical aid and development program. We live in a town called Mandritsara, located in the north, on the grounds of a hospital that services people within a 200km radius. We are working at the hospital primarily as generalists, with both inpatients and at the outpatient clinics, and Brendan spends part of his time with the community health team while Shannon spends half her time with maternity patients. Madagascar is a very poor country with many health struggles and inequities, which we see in our patients every day. We find the work very challenging but fulfilling, and hope to be living and working in Madagascar for many years to come.

## More Baby News

Dr Sarah O'Brien is taking a break from her rural GP training in Wagga Wagga whilst she enjoys her second baby - welcome to Malosi Samson Ah Lam - brother to Adrian.

Olivia Thorpe welcomes Florence

Shakif Shakur and his wife Nazia have recently welcomed baby Erina to their family - congratulations!

# Research Updates

## ACADEMIC GP REGISTRAR RESEARCH UPDATES

We are fortunate to again have three GP Registrars working with us in 2022.

- Dr Anita Jenkins is exploring “Advanced Care Planning in General Practice – Interpersonal experiences of General Practitioners in Greater Western Sydney”
- Dr Vivianne Xia is conducting research into the “Influence of alcohol use on intentional medication non-adherence in people with chronic disease”
- Dr Cecilia Lee’s research focus is “To better understand the characteristics and impact of consulting in languages other than English on registrars during general practice training”.

## QUALITY EQUITY AND SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (QUEST PHC)

The QUEST PHC project team recently completed a Delphi study to establish consensus on indicators of high-quality general practice with general practice experts including GPs, practice nurses and primary health network staff. Focus groups were also conducted to explore consumers’ views on existing patient-reported measures that may be suitable for measuring some of these indicators. Further consultations are planned with stakeholders to explore the broader implementation of the QUEST PHC indicators in Australian general practice.

## THE EXPERIENCE OF PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORKS DURING THE 2021 COVID-19 OUTBREAK – CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

The department has just concluded a research project with the 10 NSW PHNs to evaluate the primary care support they provided during COVID-19. This research comprised a scoping literature review, a review of documents provided by the PHNs, in depth interviews with 21 PHN staff (strategic and operational), a survey with primary care providers, and a focus group with the CEOs of the 10 PHNs. The report draft is currently being reviewed by the PHNs and a publication is forthcoming.

# New Publications

1. Campbell L, **Reath J**, Hu W, Gunasekera H, Askew D, Watego C, Kong K, **Walsh R**, Doyle K, Leach A, Tyson C and **Abbott P** (2022). “The socioemotional challenges and consequences for caregivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with otitis media: A qualitative study.” *Health Expectations*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13476>.
2. Maine I, Horvath A, **Lau P**. ‘Touch for Health’ based kinesiology interventions: an innovative qualitative research exploring clients perspectives. *Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice*. (Accepted 17 July 2022.)
3. George A, Poudel P, Kong A, Villarosa A, Calache H, Arora A, Griffith R, Wong V, Gussy M, Martin R, **Lau P**. Developing and pilot testing an oral health screening tool for diabetes care providers. *BMC Primary Care*. (accepted 6 July 2022) Preprint DOI: 10.21203/rs.3.rs-1520497/v1
4. Jia K, Venkateshan H, **Burke M**. Qualitative analysis of the barriers and facilitators influencing uptake of direct-acting antiviral therapy for hepatitis C in a primary healthcare environment. *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. doi:10.1071/PY21180
5. **Rupasinghe M**, **Reath J**, Cvetkovski B, Smith S, Bosnic-Anticevich S, Kritikos V, **Abbott P**. Have we got the right focus in asthma care in general practice? A qualitative study. (2021). *AJGP*. doi: 10.31128/AJGP-03-20-5290
6. **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**. Developing indicators and measures of high-quality for Australian general practice. (2021). *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1071/PY21164>
7. **Ryan S**, Ussher J, Hawkey A. Mapping the abject: Women’s embodied experiences of premenstrual body dissatisfaction through body-mapping. (2022). *Feminism & Psychology* 1–25. DOI: 10.1177/09593535211069290
8. Janamian T, Greco M, **Cosgriff D**, Baker L, Dawda P. Activating people to partner in health and self-care: use of the Patient Activation Measure. (2022). *MJA* <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51535>
9. **Abbott PA**, Hu W. Social inclusion and medical practitioners. In Liamputtong (ed.), *Handbook of Social Inclusion* (2022). *Springer Nature*. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-48277-0\\_126-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-48277-0_126-1)
10. **Lau P**, **Ryan S**, **Abbott P**, Tannous K, **Trankle S**, Peters K, Page A, **Cochrane N**, Usherwood T, **Reath J**. Protocol for a Delphi consensus study to select indicators of high-quality general practice to achieve Quality Equity and Systems Transformation in Primary Health Care (QUEST-PHC) in Australia. (2022) *PLOS ONE*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0268096>
11. **Wong KC**, Nguyen TN, Marschner S, Turnbull S, Burns MJ, Ne JYA, Gopal V, Indrawansa AB, **Trankle SA**, Usherwood T, Kumar S, Lindley RI, Chow CK. Patient-Led Mass Screening for Atrial Fibrillation in the Older Population Using Handheld Electrocardiographic Devices Integrated with a Clinician-Coordinated Remote Central Monitoring System: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial and Process Evaluation. (2022) *JMIR Res Protoc*. 11(2):e34778 doi: 10.2196/34778 <https://www.researchprotocols.org/2022/2/e34778>
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