

*NTGPE is the innovative provider of quality General Practice training and a collaborator in the provision of general medical education in Australia's Northern Territory*

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# Quality Assurance and Accreditation

## NTGPE GP training program quality assurance audit, June 14-16<sup>th</sup> 2005.

We are in the midst of preparing for an audit as part of an organisational wide quality assurance process. This is an important set of goals and tasks for the organisation and an opportunity to receive feedback about our program. The QA visit will focus on the GP registrar training program and the parameters are set by GPET (General Practice Education and Training) with reference to the RACGP standards for training posts and trainers.

### **The audit visit**

The pre audit visit in early March provided some guidance on the process. There will be 7 visitors in total - 2 representatives each from GPET and the RACGP, a CEO and a medical educator from another RTP, and a representative from ACRRM. They will plan their program to visit as many areas of the NT and speak to as many GP registrars and supervisors as possible over 3 days. They will be accompanied by at least one NTGPE employee to all visits and in most situations this will be a medical and when possible cultural educator. In each teaching location-practice or Aboriginal Medical Service or hospital-they will be hoping to arrange meetings for approx 20 mins with the supervisor, registrar and practice manager. In the remote community visits we expect that they will visit with enough time to meet the appropriate community and clinic people. They will also spend time in each of NTGPE offices inspecting files and records and talking with staff.

### **The preparation for audit visit**

We have taken this opportunity to set up a mind map tool to structure the organisational processes including location of all our files and documents. We are collating the evidence for all our processes including the way these assist us to deliver the program with the principles set out in our mission, and business and strategic plans. We will present a self assessment of our program delivery to GPET and the accreditation team in early May. This will be a realistic assessment about the strengths and weaknesses of the program across a wide range of areas.

### **Communication about the quality assurance process**

The imminent visit is only one part of the quality assurance process and we will continue the important cycles of review beyond this visit. The visits we make to you for teaching and support are critical in our communication. Also the newsletter and website will have updates on new initiatives and events. Communication of the information about the audit visit will be through a variety of means. The GPS and GPR liaison officers, Nigel Gray and Peter Silberberg respectively, are actively involved in the preparation for the audit, and contributing invaluable to the policies and procedures that support the program delivery. We will be in contact with the people and teaching sites that GPET hope to visit and invite you to contact us if you have questions or any comments.

## GP Training Update

Due to constraints on NTGPE staff caused by preparing for accreditation, the 'Roadshow GPR Workshop' has been put on hold for this year. Therefore the 2005.1 GPR Workshop will be held in Alice Springs (at the Convention Centre and the Desert Wildlife Park) on Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 April. Those GPRs in B and A terms have been invited. Other GPRs are welcome to attend if interested and able to arrange to take leave - please contact me. We're looking forward to catching up with you all in Alice Springs.

The selection process for the 2006 intake into the program commences nationally on 4 June ([www.agpt.com.au](http://www.agpt.com.au)).

If you are aware of any doctors interested in joining the training program, would you please flag this with them? We trust you will be happy to tell them that training in the NT is worthwhile! I would be only too pleased to send out information packages if you let me know of a friend who may be interested.

*Kathy Jannis  
Program Manager  
GP Training*

## Junior Doctor Wellbeing Project

This 12-month project aims to improve the wellbeing and self-care practices of junior hospital doctors in the Territory. The first few years in the hospital system can offer significant stressors in addition to the swag of challenges a doctor otherwise faces. Doctors have notoriously poor health statistics in certain areas including self-care. If young doctors start their careers with an awareness of the importance of their own wellbeing, positive effects should be seen in the wellbeing of the doctors, their families, their patients and the medical workforce in terms of retention. The Wellbeing project is trialling two workshops and evaluating whether junior doctors find them useful. The first workshop was held on 12 March 2005 and despite the approaching

cyclone possibly reducing attendance, was thoroughly enjoyed by a group of interns and RMOs from Darwin, Alice Springs and Nhulunbuy! A second workshop is planned for June and will follow on from the first, with the doctors directing the style and content they would like. A short DVD/video is being produced which will stimulate thought on the topic and can be used in future junior doctor education on wellbeing.

*Dr Danielle Stewart,  
Project Officer.*



## New RLO for 2005

I am the new Registrar Liaison Officer (RLO) for 2005.

I am currently working at Congress Medical Centre in Alice Springs. Among other things, my role is to act as a conduit between registrars and NTGPE. There are many new exciting and topical issues facing GP registrar training at present.

If you have any problems that you would like the

registrar body to discuss, or if you have queries about registrar training generated from the GP Registrar Association (GPRA) please feel free to contact me.

I look forward to fulfilling this position over the coming twelve months and hopefully meeting you in person.

*Peter Silberberg*



*Rob Dominguez and Peter Silberberg GPR Workshop November 2005*

## RACGP NT Exam

The Pre Exam Seminar was held on Sunday March 6 at the Top End Division. Ten candidates attended and learnt about the RACGP Fellowship exam, including undertaking a mock clinical examination. Thanks to Sam Heard, Barbara Allen, Marten Muis, Paul Money and Catriona Arnold-Nott for acting as examiners, and to Hazel Isaacs at the SA/NT Faculty for organising the day. The written exam is on April 9 and the clinical on May 22. As in previous years, the NT will not hold a clinical examination in the first half of this year.

Important dates for the second 2005 examination are listed below.

- Closing date for enrolment 22/7/2005
- NT Pre exam seminar
- NT Mini Fellowship Preparation Program
- Written 17/9/2005
- Clinical 22/10/2005
- Results 25/11/2005

For further information see the RACGP website at <http://www.racgp.org.au/routes/>

*Simon Morgan -NT Exam Panel Chair*

# Annual Scientific Convention heads to Darwin...

For the first time ever, the Annual Scientific Convention of the RACGP will be held in tropical Darwin, hosted by the SA and NT faculty in conjunction with the National Rural Faculty.

The Aboriginal Health context, our Asia Pacific neighbourhood, health care in rural and remote areas, and sustainable models that support good health care, are priorities for discussion.

Abstracts are now sought for a range of presentations:

- Papers
- New ideas
- Posters
- Workshops



The Scientific program committee has SA and NT members working industriously to prepare a conference we hope is appealing to NT health professionals and attractive to interstate and overseas visitors who will learn what happens here.

I encourage you to gather your questions from your context to share with the conference participants. You can do this through submission of an abstract to the scientific committee for consideration for a presentation, or by coming to the conference as a participant. The conference will cater for families too. We aim to provide a relaxed opportunity to have fun while meeting other GPs, health professionals and their families.

See the RACGP website for more details  
[www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)

The conference will coincide with the GPR and GPS workshops to enable attendance at some or all of the meeting.

*Emma Kennedy, Chair Scientific committee*

## Supervisor News

As some of you may or may not be aware from being interrupted during consultations or pestered at morning tea (remember that dinosaur of a bygone age ?) your friendly SLO is after opinions - YOURS !

Now this isn't just Minimum Terms & Conditions squabbling or give-us-your-money GPTA begging ! This is about what we do (or what we're supposed to do) and how well we're able to do it.

Over the next few months I hope to interview each and every one of you, mostly face to face, to get your opinions on what bits of the curriculum (and in particular the domains of learning) the GPRs cover best in your particular context of practice.

I'll prime you with appropriate material well ahead of time and then arrange to meet up to hear your thoughts. I will also bring the flak jacket of course. Oh, and you will be paid for your time. EXPECT THAT CALL !!

On Thursday 29th March the GP Trainers met for our quarterly teleconference. Amongst other issues, we talked about how the impending accreditation of NTGPE Ltd will improve our lot and how much better at supervision we'll have to prove we are. As well we covered Trainer orientation and induction and a program of mentoring.

Finally 2 lucky GP Supervisors have the opportunity to win a trip to Surfers Paradise in May to attend the annual RACGP national workshop for GP Trainers, all expenses paid (I think !). I have previously sent an electronic flyer round, but if anyone is interested enough to want further details, you know where to find me!

[nigel.gray@ntgpe.org](mailto:nigel.gray@ntgpe.org)

The catch? You might have to tell us all what a good time you had at the GPS workshop in October!

*Nigel Gray  
Supervisor Liasion Officer*



# Pre-Vocational General Practice Placement Program...

January 2005 saw NTGPE obtain ongoing funding for the new Prevocational General Practice Placements Program. This new program is to replace the old RRAP program, which has been running on the sniff of an oily rag for the past four years.

We now have sufficient funding to place up to 20 Junior Doctors out in rural and remote communities for a period of 8 to 12 weeks. Clinics will now be paid an infrastructure fee to assist with items that may inhibit the placement of a junior doctor ie desk, chair, extra software and phones. Accommodation and travel expenses are also included in our new budget.

One of the high priorities in our new program is to make sure that

all Junior Doctors are given an extensive orientation prior to their placement. This orientation will include visits with the Renal Unit in Nightcliff, Remote Medicine, Chronic Disease, Paediatrics, HIC, DMO Service, Westerns Pathology, Remote Area Nurses, TB Clinic, STI Clinic, Commonwealth Care Link and our Medical and Cultural Educator.

We will also be providing them with several manuals and pamphlets to assist them with their learning journey.

Our first junior doctor went to Nguiu and will return at the end of April and I am sure the experience she will have will be a positive one. NTGPE has also applied to run the same program within the urban and

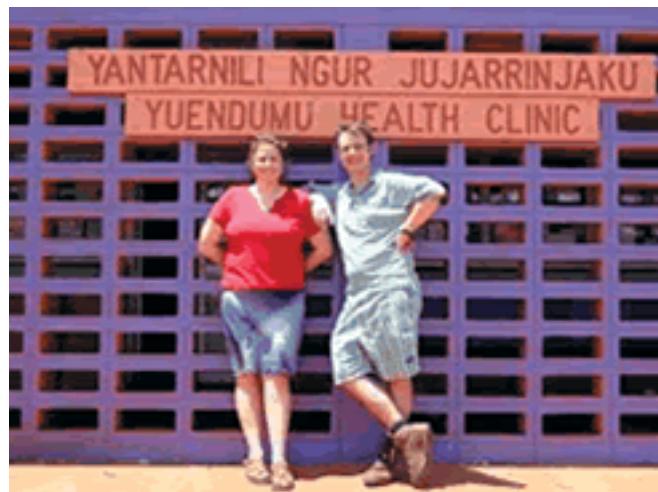
outer metropolitan areas of Darwin. We should hear the outcome of this funding within the next month or so, with the program due to commence on 1 July 2005.

If you would like more information on any of these programs and how your practice, community clinic and you personally can benefit call Nicole Lamb, 89467079 or email [nicole.lamb@ntgpe.org](mailto:nicole.lamb@ntgpe.org). Or you can contact Kim Manias; Medical Educator or Maria Pyro; Cultural Educator.

**Nicole Lamb**  
**Prevocational General Practice Placement Coordinator**

## Medical Student News

2004 was the first full year NTGPE have coordinated Territory-wide medical student placement activities. The substantial focus on remote and Aboriginal health training is special in and for the NT program and its communities. NTGPE is delighted that so many students are keen to experience these settings, and express a keenness and commitment to return to make a difference.



Medical Students on location at Yuendumu

A snapshot of the NTGPE RUSC program in 2004

- 211 placements for students from 12 universities,
- 96% of placements were in RRMA 6&7,
- 48% of students have had no prior Indigenous experience,
- 73% have future work intentions in RRMA 3-7,
- feedback from students was excellent for each of the medical training, cultural education and administrative components of the program,

- all students received medical preparation and cultural safety training prior to work in the community setting, and were supported continuously while on location.

NTGPE is deeply thankful to the communities and their clinics, including students' supervisors, for their continued commitment to and positive responses to students' placements.

**Doug Lloyd - Executive Director**

## From the NTGPE Board Room

The Board of Directors will soon hold one of its two annual face-to-face meetings, this one in Alice Springs in April. It will focus on our annual review of NTGPE's strategic directions and policies. The outcome will be a fine-tuned Strategic Plan for the coming five-year period, and subsequently a revised triennial Business Plan.

Around the Board meeting there will also be an external review of the Board's work. This is an important three-year review which will complement the annual internal reviews. The Reviewer is Professor David James, AO, an eminent consultant to education institutions, business and industry in Australia and internationally. We will be interested in his recommendations on how the Board processes might be improved for NTGPE's next phase of development.

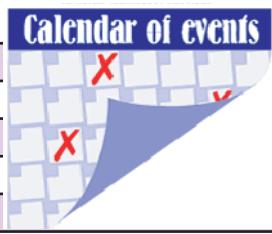
### **Policies & Procedures**

A reminder that NTGPE policies and procedures can be viewed on the web at [www.ntgpe.org](http://www.ntgpe.org). Click the Publications button and follow the link to the policies webpage.

**Doug Lloyd - Executive Director**

# What's On April - June

When	What	Where
April 9th	RACGP 2005:1 - Written Exam	Darwin
April 13th	NTGPE Board Meeting (face-to-face)	Alice Springs
April 19th	Medical Educator Meeting (face-to-face)	Alice Springs
April 20-22nd	Australian Womens Health 5th Conference	Melbourne
April 20-22nd	NTGPE GP Registrar Workshop	Alice Springs
April 26th	NTGPE TERM 2 Commences	NT Wide
April 28-29th	Ass for the Welfare of Childrens Health 10th National Conference	Sydney
May 6th	GPET - Medical Educators Meeting	Sydney
May 20-22nd	GPCE - General Practitioner Conference & Exhibition	Sydney
May 21st	RACGP 2005:1 - Clinical Exam	Multiple venues - Australia Wide
May 27-29th	AMA - National Conference	Holiday Inn - Darwin
June 13-17th	GPET - Accreditation Review NTGPE	NT Wide



## Staffing News and Updates

Since our last issue we have seen several staff changes at NTGPE. We welcome the appointment of Dr Penny Ramsay as a Medical Educator. Penny has broad and deep connections with the NT for the past 15 years, including a medical student placement in Central Australia, RMO work at RDH and GP registrar training in the NT, gaining FRACGP in 1999. Penny has practised at a number of clinics in Darwin and most recently at Ngalkanbuy clinic in Galiwin'ku.

Caroline Britton joins our Darwin staff as the Office Manager. Caroline comes from an extensive period as the Office Manager with O'Donnell Griffin in the NT. Ngari Matthews accompanies her in the administration team as an admin assistant. Ngari was previously employed by the NT Department of Health in the Office Services division.

Dr Danielle Stewart joins NTGPE working on the Junior Doctor Wellbeing Project. Danielle was a GP Registrar in the NT Training program, including a placement on Elcho Island.

Dr Danielle Esler has commenced as the Academic GP Registrar. Danielle joined the GP Training program in 2004 and is currently practising at Danila Dilba Aboriginal Medical Service in Darwin.

In Alice Springs we welcome the appointment of Paula Rolfe to the team in Central Australia, Paula takes on the role of admin assistant and supporting the Medical Student program.

Maria Pyro joins Nicole Lamb supporting the Pre-Vocational General Practice Placement Program as the Cultural Educator in Darwin. Maria will take junior doctors for orientation prior to their community placement.

Kim Manias has also joined NTGPE as the Medical Educator with the Junior Doctor Program, as well as providing direction and support to the Curriculum Review Group and Quality Assurance process. Kim is a previous medical student and Registrar in the NT and is a GP at Stuart Park Surgery.

Jeni Wie left NTGPE as the Top End RUSC Coordinator and the beginning of year and is now re-employed with us working to develop marketing and promotional materials. We would like to thank Jeni for her contributions to the medical student program and welcome Nicole Prudames as the new medical student coordinator in the Top End.

Nicole has most recently been a Public Consultation Officer with the QLD Department of Main Roads and was earlier the Cultural Heritage and Native Title Liaison Officer with that Department. Joining Nicole as her assistant and supporting Quality Assurance is Vanessa Bauman. Vanessa comes from her previous job with the Court Recording Services in Darwin and was prior to that a Printer and Publisher with the Albany Advertiser in WA.

We welcome all new staff to NTGPE and wish all staff that have moved on thanks and good luck.

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