



GPET reviews GP Training in the NT

NNTGPE recently completed a busy accreditation visit by an audit team from General Practice Education Training (GPET). Preparations were exhaustive and comprehensive and included the completion of a compliance statement covering the various review topics and pre-audit visits to training posts across the NT.

Upon their arrival in Territory the review team split into two groups - one operating in Central Australia and the other in the Top End. A demanding schedule followed allowing the team to experience the unique and varied training contexts in which NTGPE operates. Over the 4-day visit they traveled around 5000 km's visiting Darwin, Alice Springs, Titjikala, Nguiu, Galiwinku, Nhulunbuy and Katherine. Accompanying the GPET review team was Kevin Parriman, Kim Manias, Ada

Parry, Christine Lesnikowski, Penny Ramsay, Dana Fitzsimmons Nigel Gray and Graham Carey.

Some of the highlights and interesting moments were Dana Fitzsimmons (ME) getting mauled by sand flies at Nguiu airport, and learning a few Tiwi words. Dana was also very excited to hear that the council at Nguiu would like to see Aboriginal Doctors give talks to school students about becoming GPs.

The review has been useful not only for the accreditation purpose but to consolidate our collective corporate knowledge. The compliance statement will be useful for all staff, new and current and to gain a better understanding of the policies, procedures and operations of our GP Training Program.

So how well did we do? Please see the letter from Robert Hale - Manager Review & Accreditation, on page 2.

Audit team cruises through Central Australia

The first stop on their 4-day visit, Alice Springs, will be a destination the review team will remember for a while. They were presented with a "tight" schedule, allowing only for meals on the run.

After a successful morning in the office which included interviews and a video conference with Darwin they split into two groups to cover the rest of the Alice region. One team visited the community of Titjikala (Maryvale) 100km's to the south and the other visited Central Clinic and Mall Medical Centre, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and the Alice Springs Hospital. They were accompanied by Kevin Parriman, Nigel Gray, Christine Lesnikowski and Graham Carey. Completing this schedule at 7.00pm, they then departed for a 2 hr flight to Darwin.

The trip, on all accounts was successful and a very productive day. The team was extremely appreciative of clinics' time and the welcome they received.



So how well did we do?

Hi Doug,

I am just writing to thank you and the NTGPE staff for all of the effort and hard work that went into preparing the review program.

The members of the review team appreciated this along with the warm welcome extended to us by your Chair, the staff and of course by you.

The members of the team have also asked me to specifically acknowledge the efforts made by the various 'outside' organisations and communities and individuals who took the time to share their experiences with us and provided the team with valuable insights into the workings of the various stakeholder groups in your training region. People gave generously of their time and there is no doubt that this made our job much easier when it came to completing our review.

We would also ask that you pass on a special thanks to the MEs, the RLO, the SLO and the various doctors, practices and associated organisations around the regions that participate in the review process.

In particular, we would ask that you especially thank the registrars and supervisors who

willingly participated in the review and were prepared to share information with the team.

Their input was particularly useful and helped the review team to gain a good focus on the nature and workings of the NT training program.

Finally, we have a number of other commitments at this stage, but we would expect that a draft of the Accreditation Recommendation would be with you for checking, in mid July, and at this stage, the recommendations are scheduled to go to the GPET board meeting on 9 September 2005. In the event that the GPET board confirms an August meeting (perhaps at the GPET Convention) then I will endeavour to move the recommendations forward. I will confirm this with you as the board dates become clearer.

Again, our sincere thanks to you all, it was an excellent effort.

Best wishes to you all.

Regards,

Robert D. Hale
Manager Review & Accreditation
General Practice Education and Training



Ada Parry - Co-ordinator Cultural Mentor Project , Prof Michael Kidd - President RACGP , Lindsay Hayhood - GPET and Dr Penny Ramsay - Medical Educator enroute across the Top End.

EDUCATION NEWS

In May Penny Ramsay and myself attended the GPET Medical Educators workshop in Melbourne, a high light of the workshop was networking with other RTP Medical Educators, sharing thoughts and initiatives, which we envisage will lead to better education opportunities for registrars and trainers. Contact me for a copy of my full report on the workshop.

Three Cultural Educators, a Medical Educator and a GP registrar were fortunate enough to recently attend the Cultural Safety Training workshop run by the West Australian consortium. The feedback from this workshop was very enthusiastic and we will endeavour to use this expertise to educate other staff, trainers and registrars in coming months. Most of you will be aware that negotiations are under way to modify the existing structure of weekly teleconferences to include

more regional workshops and longer or more frequent Territory-wide workshops.

We hope to have this up and running as soon as possible, in a format that will be logistically and financially viable for NTGPE but suit the needs of registrars as well. It will no doubt be an evolving process.

For those registrars in their hospital terms, Peter Silberberg in Alice Springs, and Danielle Esler in Darwin are working with medical educators to increase and improve our input into the GP education that you receive while you are hospital based. We should be able to implement this in the second half of the year.

Another innovation we plan to introduce soon is whole-of-practice ECT visits, in which a Medical Educator, sometimes accompanied by a Cultural Educator, will meet with as many of the staff in a clinic as possible.

Our aim is to improve feedback between staff and NTGPE about working with registrars, and how we can better support you and the staff involved.

As you know the next registrar workshop in September is timed to overlap with the Annual Scientific Convention. This promises to be an exciting event and NTGPE hopes to have a number of abstracts accepted for presentation.



Kim Manias, Medical Educator

Communication Specialist Workshops

Dr Frank Meumann will be visiting from Tasmania in July for 10 days and then again end of September for 2 weeks. He is CEO and medical educator with General Practice Training Tasmania (GPTT). His medical education work dates from 1984 when he was a GP supervisor. He became a medical educator and State Director with the RACGP Training Program in 1994 and continued in that job until the RACGP lost the Training Program in 2001. He subsequently took on the job as CEO and medical educator with GPTT.

Frank has a special interest in doctor-patient communication. He teaches communication, consulting and counselling skills for medical students and GP registrars. He delivers workshops for medical educators and GP trainers on feedback and enhanced feedback on observed consultations. Frank has expertise in the assessment of GP registrars in difficulty and who require special learning interventions.

Frank will be able to provide workshops entitled 'Planning

a Teaching Session', 'Small Group Learning', 'Feedback and Enhanced Feedback on Observed Consultations' for medical educators and GP trainers. He could also deliver workshops on consultation skills, negotiation skills and video review sessions for GP registrars.

He is an experienced GP who has worked in Aboriginal communities in the East Arnhem Region and Central Australia. He was also Doctor in Charge of the Aboriginal Child Health Unit in Alice Springs and was on call for Flying Doctor work. His general practice experience extends to rural practice in New Zealand, Community Health Centre and Prison work. Currently he works part-time in suburban general practice in Hobart.

Medical educators along with RLOs and TLO (Nigel Gray) will be planning the education sessions Frank will provide to GP registrars, trainers and educators during his visits.

For more Information please contact Dana Fitzsimmons ME on

dana.fitzsimmons@ntgpe.org .



Introducing the new RLOs



Introducing the NTGPE RLO team (from left to right): Oscar Whitehead, Nicolette De Zoete, Danielle Esler and Peter Silberberg, pictured at the Registrar Workshop in Alice Springs this April

Registrars voted for Oscar, Nicolette and Danielle at the workshop, joining Peter who has been a RLO since January. Oscar has a particular interest in training in Aboriginal health, Nicolette in developing a resource for registrars detailing practice information and Danielle in supporting both registrars interested in research and

hospital based trainees. The new RLOs have broadened the experience and geographical location of the team. Nicolette and Oscar currently are based in Gove, Peter in Alice Springs and Danielle in Darwin. Registrars and hospital trainees are encouraged to contact any of the RLOs with concerns or queries regarding training.

Student numbers on the rise

Student placements in Central Australia have increased by 70% this year, from 30 placements in 2004 to 51 placements in 2005 during the same six-month period. This is indicative of efforts made by program staff in 2004 to promote the program, and ensure that clinical placements in Central Australia had positive outcomes for all Medical Students passing through. The figures also mark a return to placement numbers experienced prior to NTGPE taking over the management of the program in 2003.

Following an inspiring National Rural Health Conference held in Alice Springs in March 2005, program staff have been collaborating with Allied Health Placement Coordinators in an attempt to slowly introduce coordinated inter-professional placements, whereby Medical and Pharmacy Students complete an inter-professional placement during the same period at the same placement location. This

is an initiative that is being built on the premise that, colleagues across health disciplines have a lot to learn from and teach each other, and that current models of professional isolation are not as beneficial to patients as holistic Primary Health Care approaches could be and Inter-professional liaisons are central to this. Though no collaborated placements have taken place as yet – watch this space!

NTGPE and the Central Australian RUSC program staff would like to thank Dr Jim Thurley for his dedication to the Medical Student Program spanning five and a half years. Jim has resigned from the Medical Educators position with the CA RUSC Program, to dedicate more time to an ever-increasing workload in GP Recruitment and Retention for General Practice and Primary Health Care Northern Territory (GPPHCNT). Jim's professional experience as a Paediatrician, Senior District Medical Officer, General Practitioner, and in RFDS Retrievals, Lecturing and

representation of the program at a number of national forums has been a great strength of the program and his interactions with students, program staff and countless others have been punctuated by his quick, dry sense of humour, common sense approach and fantastic ability to inspire lively discussion. Jim has undoubtedly left an enormous pair of shoes to fill and we wish him well in his current and future pursuits.

Fifty students were placed through the Top End RUSC program for the first half of this year. Feedback has been positive about students' experiences, both medically and culturally.

The NTGPE website has also been in focus over the last couple of months, with Vanessa and Nicole assisting in reviewing web content. If anyone has any feedback about the website or would like to see additional information, please contact Vanessa on 8946 7079.

Trainers on Track

by Nigel Gray Trainers Liaison Officer

Firstly I'd like to pass on the request from GPET for specific and particular thanks to be extended to all GP Trainers and their staff who were involved in the recent accreditation visit by members of their team and the Colleges. They report that they were made to feel most welcome and that they gained an enormous amount of insight and information as a result of everyone's co-operation.

I would suggest that it is in everyone's interests that NTGPE continues to provide (and improve on) its ongoing excellent service of and support to GPR training in the Territory and hopefully Trainers' recent contributions can only help to facilitate such an outcome. Congratulations!

By the time this piece is circulated many of us will have, I'm sure, benefited from the experience of Dr. Hilton Koppe, a Medical Educator from North Coast Training in NSW, who is scheduled to lead a day's workshop covering areas such as the implementation of learning plans in the Training Location environment and the identification and management of crisis situations such as we may encounter in connection with our role as Trainers. Resources arising from the workshop will be available thereafter, particularly for the benefit of those unable to attend, and will be advertised accordingly.

In response to discussions and requests at recent teleconferences and at Cultural And Medical Educator gatherings NTGPE will soon be initiating a mentoring network for GPTs, particularly those in their first 12 months of Training. Many newer Trainers have specifically identified more experienced peers as a preferred cohort of mentors. Therefore they and I are particularly looking for Trainers who have more than a few years experience to share to put their hands up for what should not be

an onerous role in terms of time commitment, but which will help to further the skill of being a GPT and share the load somewhat. I do have some names in mind and will be making approaches in the near future. Thank you!

I also have one final call for expressions of interest, in addition to the GPT mentor network above and the RACGP Curriculum Review process soon to begin and recently advertised. NGPSA, the national GP Trainers Supervisors representative body dealing largely with industrial issues, have been lobbying for some time to secure support from GPET for developing and maintaining a dedicated website. This appears finally to have come to fruition and accordingly interest and skills in design, development and maintenance would be very welcome.



48th ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION
September 29 - October 2 2005

If there are any of you out there who fancy getting involved and sharing a little knowledge for the benefit of Trainers and Training nationally, please get in touch with me via the Alice Springs office (8952 3518) or at nigel.gray@ntgpe.org.

Nigel Gray GP Training Liaison Officer

Outstanding Results in the RACGP Exam

We are pleased to congratulate Roslyn MacKenzie, Tanya Casey and Agnes Ocampo on their success at the RACGP exams recently. Roslyn, who has been training at Kintore Clinic in Katherine for the past 12 months gained the highest score in the SA/NT contingent, and gained third place nationally. We also congratulate Patrick Mutandwa at Anyinginyi Congress on his success at passing the exams. The next SA/NT RACGP written examination will be held on the 17th September



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What's on July - September

When	What	Where
July 25th	TERM 3 Commences	Territory wide
Aug 5th - 8th	GARMA Festival	Gove Peninsula NE Arnhem Land
Aug 19th-20th	Mini FPP & Pre Exam Seminar including CPR (2005.2)	NT
Aug 24th-25th	GPET Annual Convention	Bondi NSW
Sept 13th-28th	Frank Muemann Visit	Territory wide
Sept 16th	Medical Educators Face-Face Meeting	Darwin
Sept 17th	RACGP Written Exam (2005.2)	SA / NT
Sept 27th-28th	NTGPE GP Registrar Workshop	Darwin
Sept 29th-Oct 2nd	RACGP Annual Scientific Convention Commences	Darwin
Oct 2nd-3rd	GP Trainers Workshop	Darwin

For more information please contact ntgpe, email admin@ntgpe.org or phone 08 8946 7077

STAFF News & views

Over the last few months NTGPE has seen several staff changes. Long term Medical Educators Simon Morgan and Emma Kennedy are on leave until 2006. Simon and family packed up and left the Territory to spend a few months in Ireland. Emma Kennedy has taken maternity leave and is glowing in her new role as mum to adopted son William. NTGPE would like to wish both Simon and Emma all the best in the leave of absence and thank them for their most extraordinary contributions to Medical Education in the NT.

One of our longest serving staff members Andrew Green (Finance Manager) recently left to take up a position with Horwath Chartered Accountants. Andrew was instrumental in establishing the financial systems for NTGPE and provided key advice and support to our Board. We wish Andrew all the best in his new position and hope that he remains in contact with us in his new role.

We would also like to thank Dr Jim Thurley for his dedication to the Medical Student Program over the last five and a half years. Jim has resigned from the Medical Educators position with the Central Australian RUSC Program, to dedicate more time to an ever-increasing workload in GP recruitment and retention for GPPHCNT. We wish Jim all the best in his endeavors.

Joining NTGPE are Diana Longmire, Seda Ertuna and Felipe Serra-Esteva. Diana and Felipe complete the Finance team after restructuring the position to provide accountancy services, board secretariat and financial management. Diana will be providing accountancy services and has recently moved to Darwin. Previously Diana has worked as a Chartered Accountant, Contract Tax Accountant, Property Accountant and Finance Manager. Felipe will commence as our Finance Manager in July. Felipe has an extensive background in finance

management and accounting, including presently with the Red Cross in the NT and previously providing services to the Arnhemland Progress Association.

Seda was appointed to the recently advertised position of Executive Officer to the Board. This new position will provide secretariat services to the Board. Seda comes well qualified to carry out the roles, including for providing higher-level secretariat services. She has qualifications in Management Information Systems (Masters) and Business Administration (Degree and Masters)

We welcome Diana, Seda and Felipe to NTGPE and look forward to their contributions.

Finally, we have recently appointed two new Medical Educators and a Cultural Educator / Cultural Mentor. Dr Ameeta Patel will commence work in July as the Medical Educator providing education and training for students in the Central Australian program. She has considerable experience in Aboriginal health and Aboriginal women's health as a result of her present appointment in Alukura clinic.

Dr Brad Gray, presently a GP at Wurli Wurlinjang in Katherine will commence as a Medical Educator in July. His main duties will be to support Registrars in the Katherine region, but with other NT-wide contributions through the Medical Educators network.

Ms May Rosas, a community Elder in and from Katherine will commence Cultural Educator and Cultural Mentor work with us in the next few weeks. She is presently the Deputy Director of Wurli Wurlinjang Health Service. May's intimate knowledge of Aboriginal culture, connections with community and country, and inspirational approaches to helping us understand our cultures will be welcome. Her main work will be in providing cultural orientations and mentorship for students, junior doctors and Registrars working in the Katherine locations.

Welcome Ameeta, Brad and May, we look forward to working together.

