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NT General Practice Education Ltd

# New Executive Director takes up the challenge

**T**he recruitment and retention of young doctors to undertake GPR training in the Territory, is the key challenge facing the new Executive Director of Northern Territory General Practice Education Limited (NTGPE), Dr Michael Wilson. Dr Wilson said the Territory was a unique and challenging environment for doctors, but also very rewarding. "Part of our brief is to recruit to training positions throughout the Territory, then get young doctors to consider a career here," he said. "The other part of our job is ensuring professional development is easily accessible to practitioners across the Territory, so they can deliver high quality medical care," Dr Wilson said. Just as important as attracting doctors to the Territory is the challenge of convincing medical students to consider the specialisation of General Practice, he said. "I hope to raise the profile of General Practice as a rewarding profession," he said.

**N**TGPE is a not-for-profit company formed by a consortium of partners including Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT Inc, Charles Darwin and Flinders Universities, the GP Divisions of the NT, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. It is based at Charles Darwin University. NTGPE has responsibility for placing General Practice Registrars (undergoing three-year specialist GP training in the Territory), coordinating medical education, undergraduate placements from Australian medical schools, and

junior doctor placements during their internships in Territory hospitals. One of the challenges facing NTGPE is the national shortage of General Practitioners, which makes it harder to recruit to regional positions, Dr Wilson said. "The first thing I will be doing is talking to the health and medical bodies in the Territory to get a full understanding of the issues and how they might best be addressed," he said.



Dr Michael Wilson aims to raise the profile of general practice

**D**r Wilson has an extensive background in health positions. Originally from Far North Queensland, he has worked as senior health consultant for the Victorian Healthcare Association Global mainly in the Middle East and India. He has also worked with health and educational programs in Uganda, China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bhutan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Norway and Sweden. His last appointment in Australia was as the Director of Nursing, Southern Health, Women's and Children's



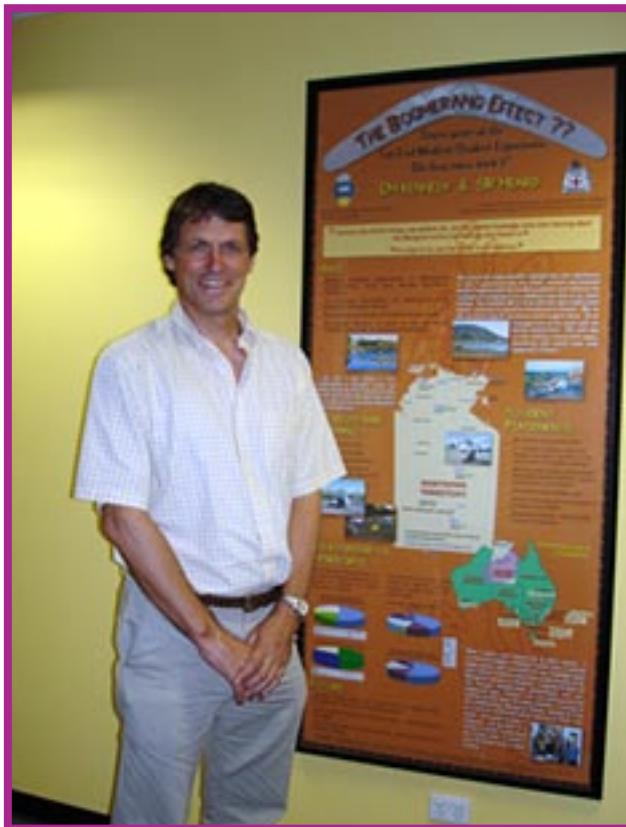
Program and concurrently as the Director of Nursing Education and Research, Southern Health Victoria. He has held senior academic appointments at La Trobe, Deakin and Monash Universities and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, in Victoria. Dr Wilson has an extensive background in senior management, teaching and learning, curriculum development and evaluation, as well as the use of simulation for improving clinical skills and reducing clinical risk. He has been a member of several state government advisory groups with briefs ranging from the review of statewide paediatric services to workforce planning and education preparation of beginning practitioners. He has published in the areas of international health education, the use of simulation in health care education, and healthcare, regulatory frameworks for health care services, strategic health care services planning and addressing the educational needs of health care workers.

Dr Wilson said he was attracted to the Territory position as it allowed him to utilise his varied experience. "I also really enjoy working with groups of people such as General Practitioners and Aboriginal people, and I have a passion for primary health," he said.

## Electronic Health Record guru appointed to Chair of NTGPE Board

**A**t the Board meeting of the 11th April Dr Sam Heard was appointed as the new chair. Dr. Sam Heard (MBBS, MRCGP, FRACGP, FACHI) is a general practitioner and has been a Senior Lecturer in General Practice, first with London University and until 2002 with Flinders University. Sam grew up in Naracoorte in South Australia, went to boarding school in Adelaide, studied medicine at Adelaide University and was an intern at Flinders Medical Centre.

**A**fter 9 months on a motorbike with his wife in Asia he began his General Practice training in London at St Bartholomew's Hospital. He then became a lecturer in General Practice at London University and took on an inner city General Practice where he worked for 9 years. The practice provided full



Dr Sam Heard

obstetric care including home birth and 24-hour cover for 6000 patients. Sam returned to Darwin in 1992 with his wife and 4 children and worked in General Practice at Malak and Menzies School of Health Research. Later he worked with the RACGP and then Flinders University - as Director of the GP Training Program and Undergraduate Program here in the NT for 9 years to 2002. He developed a GP clinical system in London in the mid 80's, which is still in use and was a co-author of the original Good European Health Record Project funded by the European Commission.

Sam has been researching electronic health records for many years and is presently working with a company called Ocean Informatics to realise the potential of communicating personal health records between systems.

Sam has written and presented widely on electronic health records and was the principal author of the background document for the Australian Electronic Health Record Taskforce. He has been the lead on all the GPCG funded GEHR projects and has developed the clinical approach to the groundbreaking archetypes. He was co-chair of the EHR Technical Committee of HL7 International until 2005 (now on the board of HL7 Australia) and remains Chair of the Standards Australia EHR working group. He also has a strong educational background in primary care and has just completed a 3-year term as the Chair of the National Education Committee of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.



# MEDICAL EDUCATION



Des McKenzie - AMSANT and Dr Penny Ramsay - ME NTGPE on a recent site visit to Galiwinku

Your roving Medical Educator Kim here. And in breaking news this issue.....

NTGPE has successfully tendered for continuation of GP training from 2007 onwards. Nationwide there were very few changes except one RTP, Rhedwest, will merge with CCC (City Country Coast).

Meanwhile here at NTGPE things are settling down after the commencement of Michael Wilson as new ED and some ongoing staff turnover. Michael is keen to implement systems that will see NTGPE consolidating its function after a recent period of quite rapid growth. The

newest honorary addition to our staff is baby Will, the son of proud parents Bill Searle and Mary. Another exciting addition is Latisha Pettersen who will be taking on the job of RUSC Medical Educator. Latisha as you know is an Indigenous doctor and with her experience and enthusiasm will bring a breath of fresh air to the role. It is always stimulating for us older jaded educators to be invigorated by new blood.

Plans are afoot for the next Registrar face to face workshop in Darwin at the Airport Resort in June. Ameeta Patel and Christine Lesnikowski are coordinating this and have an initial schedule nutted out already, but if you have any thoughts please contact them. Small group meetings continue on a regional basis and we hope

that they continue to evolve and thrive. Feedback so far seems to be generally quite positive. We rely heavily on your feedback here and the Business Session at the workshop will be a good avenue to air your views and compare experiences.

The Registrar Placement Profiles have been published on our website. These will need to be updated and added to as the situation changes at each profile. The RLO's should be able to coordinate this.

We have also been working on an NTGPE Trainers Manual to complement the manual that GPET provides. The manual will serve as a guide to new trainers and a prompt to remind them about educational, supervision and feedback requirements of the job.

We are once again going to advertise and headhunt for a Director of Medical and Cultural Education position and hopefully can update you on this by the next workshop. In June/July also Kathy Jannis will be sending out requests to registrars for term placements for 2007. Please endeavour to get your requests in on time, and remember that although we make every effort to place everyone at their first

choice this is not always possible, sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances. You are probably well aware that there continues to be a desperate shortage of doctors around the Territory, especially in the smaller communities. This, besides impacting on the health of the people in these communities, makes placement of registrars, medical students and doctors even more complicated.

It remains our philosophy that by doing our utmost to continue these programs, and place as many medical officers in remote/rural areas as possible, that we can have some effect on the workplace issue. A proposal is being developed to research the effect of these placements on the NT workforce, looking especially at how many doctors continue to work in the Territory after their training.



## From the programs manager...

Cyclone Monica finished off our record Wet season by side-swiping Gove, then causing severe damage to Elcho Island, Maningrida, Oenpelli and Jabiru, but thankfully fading to a tropical low by the time it reached Darwin. There were GP Registrars and students in Gove, Oenpelli and Jabiru who all remained on site to weather the storm. We are really grateful there were no injuries, but the preparations (battening down) and then the resultant clean up, is never much fun.

The first GP Registrar Workshop for 2006 ("Dreaming by the Sea") is fast approaching – 5 to 7 June. The venue for the workshop will be the Darwin Airport Resort due to unavailability of a suitable venue at Charles Darwin Uni campus. I doubt that any of the participants will mind, though! We look forward to introducing you to our new Executive Director, Dr Michael Wilson, who brings a wealth of experience to his role with us. The workshop dinner will be held at the Trailer Boat Club, Conagher Street, Fannie Bay on Tuesday 6 June 6.30pm – all Darwin based GPRs and their families are welcome – please rsvp to Loraine Dalwood-Mason (88952 3518) so we can ensure we cater sufficiently. The GPR Private Business session will be held on the beach with a picnic lunch – more details closer to the workshop dates!

The 2007 intake selection process will commence with online applications opening on 3 June via the GPET website. Would you please encourage any interested doctors to

look out for the advertisements in the national and local newspapers on 3 June? NTGPE has an allocation of 20 placements for 2007 – 12 of these in the Rural Pathway.

Recently NTGPE staff have been actively raising our profile nationally and promoting our programs interstate with highly positive responses. We will keep you informed re developments and outcomes about our assertive marketing strategies! See you at the workshop,

*Kathy Jannis - Programs Manager*



*Michael Wilson and Kevin Parriman fly across the Top End*

# Trainers Tracks

Trainer Liasion Officer Update

The evolving strength of the Trainer Network was borne out by the attendance at our recent teleconference. Thanks to all who dialled in and, especially, to Loraine from our Alice office whose organisation and persistence undoubtedly helped swell the numbers. ( Sometimes a little whip cracking goes a long way ! )

After nearly 2 years in the job – some people need to know when to take their hand down, let alone not to put it up in the first place – I reckon I finally now know all of our Trainers. If anyone doesn't know me, I'd love to know ! As a result I hope I have managed to send out to everyone a resource package containing copies of the RACGP's Trainers' Manual, its recent Standards for Trainers and a list of useful links and resources amongst other goodies. If anyone has missed out, please pester me ( [nigel.gray@ntgpe.org](mailto:nigel.gray@ntgpe.org) / 0427 003805 ). Can I also refer you all to the Supervisors' secure area on the NTGPE website ([http://www.ntgpe.org/htm/Supervisors/Secure/gps\\_secure.htm](http://www.ntgpe.org/htm/Supervisors/Secure/gps_secure.htm)); for those of you who may not have previously accessed the area, please contact me for a username and password.

We are also very close to distributing the first edition of NTGPE's Trainers' manual which may well supercede many of the resources recently compiled and hopefully become somewhat of a bible for us as Trainers. Watch this space ! On a more personal level, now that I've got a handle on each Trainer's level of experience and confidence, I'm starting to put together a number of suggestions for supportive mentoring relationships between fellow Trainers. I shall continue to contact you

all over the coming weeks, but please shout loud if there are particular colleagues with whom you may or may not have had any history which might impact on such a relationship, or any with whom a liaison is preferred !

For those of you who were unable to attend the teleconference, we are steadily collating sessions and presenters for the October 15 – 16 Trainers' Workshop to be held in Alice Springs. On day 1 Andrew Took, in-house counsel of UMP, is to lead on analysing the insurance aspects and liability of a Trainer, including that potentially most thorny subject, vicarious liability. We are also still confident of securing the services of an external resource to guide us more efficiently through the maze of electronically available Evidence Based Medicine to allow us in turn to inform our Registrars more fully ( and to keep us up to speed too of course ! )

And in response to a number of requests and suggestions, there will be an interactive session on new Trainer induction and orientation utilising and sharing the knowledge and experience we have all built up over the varying times we have bee teachers. The administrative wheels are beginning to turn as I write, so expect an invitation soon; but please don't hesitate to contact me if you don't receive one and think you should have !

See you then !

*Nigel Gray - Trainer Liasion Officer*

## GPET AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are now open for the 3rd Annual GPET Awards, to be presented at the GPET Convention in Hobart in August. The awards are designed to honour significant contributions from people involved in general practice education and training, including registrars, supervisors, educators and RTP staff. Nominations close on 29 May 2006. There are six GPET Awards:

- GPET Medical Observer GP Registrar of the Year
- GPET Medical Observer GP Supervisor of the Year
- GPET Medical Educator of the Year
- RTP Staff Excellence Award
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Training Award
- RTP Innovation Award

The awards will be judged by a panel of four judges including a registrar, a supervisor, a GPET Board member and a senior medical practitioner nominated by the Convention's host RTP (General Practice Training Tasmania this year). For more details and nomination forms go to the GPET Awards section on this site.

All those involved in general practice education and training can make nominations in all six categories, excluding the four judges and GPET staff. Each award attracts a prize of \$2,500 to be used for professional development or RTP project funding

# What's on May - July

When	What	Where
May 11th-12th	GP Supervisor Liason Officer Network Meeting	Melbourne
May 12th	AGPT - Medical Educators Face-Face meeting	
May 13th	Aust Society for HIV Medicine (HIV HEP B + HEP C Workshop)	Alice Springs
May 15-16th	Aust Society for HIV Medicine Workshop	Darwin
May 21st	RACGP Clinical Exam (2006.1)	Darwin
May 25-26th	GPET- GP Registrars Research Workshop	
May 26-28th	AMA National Conference	Adelaide
May 26-28th	General Practitioner Conference & Exhibition	Sydney
May 27th	Emergency Management of Severe Burns Course	RDH - Darwin
June 5-7th	GP Registrar Workshop "Dreaming by the Sea"	Darwin
June 23rd	RACGP Exam results ratified	National
June 30th	RACGP Exam results published	National
July 17th	RACGP Exam requests for review close	National
July 21st	RACGP Exam close of enrolments	National
July 23rd	GP Registrar Term 1 concludes	NT
July 24th	GP Registrar Term 2 commences	NT
April 28-30th	Advanced Paediatric Life Support Course	RDH - Darwin

For more information please contact ntgpe, email [admin@ntgpe.org](mailto:admin@ntgpe.org) or phone 08 8946 7077

## Staffing news & views

As you would have read on the previous pages we have appointed a new Executive Director and a new Chair of the Board. By now some of you would have met Michael during the hand-over from Doug Lloyd and most should be familiar with Sam. Welcome Michael and Sam we look forward to working together.

Joining the medical student team in the Top End is Latisha Petterson. Latisha will be providing medical education and support to students on placements in the Top End. Latisha is currently completing her GP training with NTGPE with placements at Moil Medical

Centre and Nightcliff. Latisha replaces Dana Fitzsimons who recently tendered her resignation. Dana will remain a Training Advisor to some GP Registrars and will provide External Clinical Teaching Visits for NTGPE. We wish Dana all the best for the future and would like to thank her for her wonderful contributions to NTGPE. Another departure from the team is Seda Ertuna who has been providing executive support to the NTGPE Board. Seda is joining her partner in Melbourne and has tendered her resignation; she will remain in the position until a suitable person can be found to replace her. We would like to wish Seda all the best in the south and thank her for her support of the Board. Joining our Finance section in Darwin office is Hamdi Balci. Hamdi will be supporting our Finance Manager as the senior accountant in the preparation of financial reports, tender submissions and grant acquittals.

In other news the Alice Springs staff are getting excited about the move to their new building at the Centre for Remote Health. The building will be home for NTGPE, the Central Australian Division of Primary Health Care and General Practice and Primary Health Care NT. Located at the corner of Skinner and Simpson Street in the Alice Springs Health Precinct the building is due for completion mid-May with the tenants moving in around the 19<sup>th</sup> June.



First look at Alice Springs new office