

FAR WEST NSW REGIONAL TRAINING HUB

Newsletter

March 2020

Welcome to our First Newsletter

The Far West NSW Regional Training Hub (FWNSWRTH) is an Australian Government funded unit that is hosted here in Broken Hill by the University Department of Rural Health. Regional Training Hubs have been established as a component of the Integrated Rural Training Pipeline for Medicine (IRTP) and have been implemented through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT) program.

We aim to:

- ◆ Improve the coordination of the stages of medical training to enable students intending to practice rurally to complete as much of their medical training as possible within regional and rural areas;
- ◆ Identify students with an interest in practicing rurally and facilitate access to networked rural training opportunities at an early stage in their careers;
- ◆ Develop regional training capacity by supporting current supervisors of clinical training, assisting health services in obtaining accreditation for new training positions, and supporting local medical practitioners to become clinical supervisors;
- ◆ Strengthen existing, and develop new, connections with key stakeholders to improve the continuity of training for medical students / trainees within their region; and
- ◆ Identify regional medical workforce needs and use this information to prioritise activity

The Hub collaborates with local health service organisations and training bodies to promote rural medicine and enhance the training and employment opportunities for doctors in our region.

Our goal is to create a sustainable medical workforce that includes rural generalist medicine, to meet the needs of remote NSW

We are here to assist:



Meet the Far West NSW Regional Training Hub team

Hollie Day (*Strategic Director*) - 08 8080 1234
hollie.day@health.nsw.gov.au

Germana Nel (*Project Officer*) - 08 8080 1213
germana.nel@health.nsw.gov.au

Linda Goodman (*Project Officer*) - 08 8080 1232
linda.goodman@health.nsw.gov.au

The aim of this newsletter is to inform, provide opportunities, enhance experiences and to create a network of medical professionals who reside or are interested in Broken Hill and the region.

If you have any news or information that you would like to share with fellow medical professionals within our region, please feel free to contact the Far West NSW Regional Training Hub staff.

Upcoming Hub Networking Events

The Far West NSW Regional Training Hub hosts Networking Events every two months. These events are open to all medical, dental and pharmacy students as well as any medical professional within the Broken Hill community, whether a visitor to the community or a long standing 'local'.

These evenings continue to be a popular get together and networking event known for their informality and fun. Food and refreshments are provided during the evening with a mix of entertaining medical and non-medical trivia questions jovially delivered by our resident Quiz Master.

These events are scheduled to fit in with the arrival of the Junior Medical workforce. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Networking event to be held in April has been postponed with the new date yet to be advised.

If you think you have what it takes to compete and are ready to hold the prestigious title of 'Trivia Champion', the RTH staff look forward to seeing you at our next event.

'Health in the Hill' Initiative

The Royal Flying Doctor Service SE, the Far West Local Health District and the Far West NSW Regional Training Hub committed to jointly hosting an exhibition booth at the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) conference (RMA19). The theme for RMA19 was 'Riding the Wave of Change'. The Regional Development Australia Far West also joined the working party to support with the promotion of the region. This group used the conference on the Gold Coast from 24 - 26 October 2019 to launch the 'Health in the Hill' initiative.

The RMA conference attracts a diverse audience of junior doctors, students, educators, academics and medical practitioners with an interest in generalist medicine in rural and remote communities. This conference attracts over 700 delegates. The 'Health in the Hill' booth focused on promoting medical careers in Broken Hill.

Local RFDS medical staff, Dr Justin Gladman, Dr Sundar Thavapalasundaram and Dr Maria Capoluongo presented papers at RMA19 and were available at the 'Health in the Hill' booth to assist in the promotion of health positions in Broken Hill, answering many queries from potential new medical staff and students.

RMA20 - we will be there

The 'Health in the Hill' initiative will once again have representation at the RMA20 conference to be held in the Hunter Valley from 29 - 31 October 2020.



RMA19 - Riding the Wave of Change



'Health in the Hill' representatives

REGIONAL TRAINING HUBS

DESTINATION MEDICINE

Do You Listen to Podcasts?

The Far West NSW Regional Training Hub in collaboration with Riverina, Western and Northern NSW RTH's have produced a podcast series called '*Destination Medicine*'.

The opportunities for a successful medical career in rural Australia are immense. The '*Destination Medicine*' podcast library has been created to assist anyone who has thought about a career as a rural doctor to make informed decisions and navigate with greater confidence a rural medical pathway.

With so many specialties, fields of speciality practice and speciality titles, making career decisions can seem overwhelming for medical students and junior doctors. For some it is an easy decision, having always known the area in which they want to work and where, however, for others, the plethora of information and complex selection and admission criteria for training is daunting.

Each episode of '*Destination Medicine*' brings the story of a doctor and their journey into rural medicine. It hasn't been a straight highway for many; there have been a few bumps, U-turns and bends along the way.

How did a city slicker end up living on a farm in the Riverina of NSW? And what happened to the young doctor who had a life changing moment on an isolated highway in the Northern Territory? Well, you will have to listen to find out....

After a successful first series of the podcast series, production of series 2 has recently commenced opening the invitation to other RTH's within Australia to join. The ultimate aim is that '*Destination Medicine*', will be a multiple series of podcasts about all aspects of medicine capturing perspectives and interviews from doctors nationwide.

If you have an interesting story to tell and would like to be a part of the '*Destination Medicine*' podcast series, feel free to contact the Far West NSW Regional Training Hub to discuss further.

You can listen to
'Destination Medicine'
on any of your
favourite podcast
apps...

- ◆ Apple Podcasts
- ◆ Spotify
- ◆ Google Podcasts

www.destinationmedicine.com.au

'Destination Medicine' - Series 1

'Throw your hat in the ring' - Dr Justin Gladman (Broken Hill)

'A General Paediatrician's perfect career choice' - Dr Theresa Pitts (Wagga Wagga)

'Lights, action, and far reaching places - a mega-directional career in medicine' - Dr Tim Duncan (Mt Isa / Melbourne)

'The Rural Generalist path to professional and lifestyle fulfilment' - Dr Teena Downton (Cowra)

'Go where the disease is - for a meaningful impact in your career' - Dr Joel Riley (Dubbo)

'Taking emergency medicine around the world and back' - Dr Tim Baker (Warnambool)

'Being brave' - Dr Sarah McLain (Orange)

'Sally takes Surgical career off the beaten track' - Dr Sally Butchers (Lismore)

'Destination Medicine' - Series 2

'The conversation of a sceptic' - Dr Sean Hogan (Wagga Wagga)

'From championship rowing to emergency medicine - Dr Daniel Stewart's circuitous journey to Dubbo' - Dr Daniel Stewart (Dubbo)

'Talking SKIN - and the demand for dermatologists in rural Australia' - Dr Michelle McRae (Orange)



Far West NSW Regional Training Hub Noticeboard



THE HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Providing scholarships and bursaries to help health professionals in rural and remote Australia retain and enhance their skills, capacity and scope of practice. An initiative of the Department of Health and administered by the NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN).

Scholarships: a payment of up to \$10,000 per year, for up to two years, toward costs of completing a postgraduate course

Bursaries: a payment of up to \$10,000 in one year for professional development, upskilling course fees and associated accommodation and travel related expenses.

Applicant guidelines can be accessed by contacting NSW RDN on (02) 4924 8000 or are available at:

https://www.nswrdn.com.au/client_images/2114817.pdf

The HWSP can be used for courses such as the **Rural Emergency Skills Training (REST)** - a two day course that is run several times a year in a variety of states, cities and regional centres. Check the website for dates and locations

www.acrrm.org.au/continuing-development/courses/rest

WEBINARS

GP Synergy is running a series of webinars on GP training in the coming weeks. The webinars will focus on:

- ◆ How the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program works
- ◆ RACGP and ACRRM fellowship training pathways
- ◆ Where you can train in NSW and ACT
- ◆ How you can apply
- ◆ Plus common FACs such as RPL, mandatory terms, leave and more

Registration for these webinars can be accessed at:

https://gpsynergy.com.au/start-your-gp-career/about-agpt/information-sessions/?utm_campaign=Marketing%20webinars&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=84891386&hsenc=p2ANqtz--86ODpeva8gi3QAuf4o3Vrh4Ww9SA-1ygrHzFFg5yBJNkQDmJVCS_oS-hom3qOliFX1-69CzEw14CTbbQkpljvcS1hrA&_hsmi=84891386

Visit the RACGP and ACRRM website for additional webinars about the application and selection process

GRANTS

GP Synergy

Relocation subsidies, education / course subsidies such as STAPMS, ALS REST course and Rural Generalist / procedural course subsidies. For further information refer to:

<https://gpsynergy.com.au/explore-gp/rural-incentives-support/supports-and-subsidies/>

RACGP - Rural Procedural Grants Program (RPGP)

Do not have to be an RACGP member to register. \$2,000 per day for up to 10 days of training per financial year for procedural GPs and up to 3 days for GPs

<https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/awards-and-grants/racgp-grants/training-grants>

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR WORKFORCE INCENTIVE PAYMENT?

The Workforce Incentive Payment (WIP) , formerly known as the General Practice Rural Incentives Program payment (GPRIP) provides targeted financial incentives to encourage doctors to deliver services in rural and remote areas.

Doctors in MMM 3-7 areas qualify for a yearly incentive payment from their 2nd year onwards in these areas.

Payments for MMM 3 (Broken Hill) start at \$4,500 and increase to up to \$12,000 in the 5th year. Calculation of payment is based on services provided within eligible locations and the length of time a doctor has been on the program.

For more information contact RDN or call (02) 4924 8000.