



## FINKE – A PLACE OF CONTRASTS

Brendan Mulcahy, Monash University  
medical student, shares his experience

### Also inside this issue:

NT registrars awarded for excellence  
at RACGP fellowship exam awards



NTGPE welcomes  
new Director  
Medical and  
Cultural Education



A candid interview with outgoing  
DMCE Dr Hung The Nguyen



Reflections on Six Weeks in Gove by Annabel Ingham,  
medical student, Adelaide University

Enter our fun photography competition!

[www.ntgpe.org](http://www.ntgpe.org)

## Welcome

Welcome! to the 3rd Quarter 2011 edition of Down the Track – NTGPE’s external stakeholder newsletter, designed to keep you abreast of news and happenings in the world of general practice education and training in the Territory.

It’s been a while since our last edition and to make up we will be producing a quarterly edition to keep you informed.

We welcome feedback and contributions and invite our readers to email us at [marketing@ntgpe.org](mailto:marketing@ntgpe.org)



## Want to show off your Amateur Photography Skills?



JD Brad Martin enjoying Nguuu Beach

NTGPE needs current photos that depict life in NT communities and clinics and Territory life in general to promote the NT as a desirable place for GP training. So we are starting a fun competition to get YOU involved in promoting your community, clinic or the NT. Your photo can be of people, places, events, animals, natural phenomena, anything.

The best photos will appear in future editions of Down The Track and be considered for our website and promotional materials ... so get snapping!

### Directions

1. If there are people in the photo, we need written permission from each person for NTGPE to use their picture by getting them to sign the Talent Release Form provided at the back of this newsletter.
2. Write a caption that describes the scene in the photo with any relevant details such as dates and names.
3. Send your photos, captions and any completed Talent Release Forms to:  
[marketing@ntgpe.org](mailto:marketing@ntgpe.org)

The next edition of Down The Track will be late October 2011.



## NT Registrars awarded for Excellence at RACGP Fellowship Exam Awards

It is with much pleasure that NTGPE extends its congratulations to two NT registrars who performed exceptionally well in the recent 2011.1 RACGP fellowship exam awards.

Dr Nicole Carter was awarded the David Game Prize SA & NT for being the GP candidate in SA & NT Faculty who received the highest pass score in each examination on their first attempt.

Nicole is a 2007 cohort GPR and undertook all her training with NTGPE. She was also one of NTGPE's first PGPPP participants. Nicole said she was honoured to receive the award and that the opportunity to work in Indigenous health in the NT was great exposure.

"I am very honoured to received the David Game Prize for the 2011.1 exams, and somewhat surprised," said Nicole.

"It is gratifying to be rewarded for the time spent studying and working over the last several years. In particular, the opportunity to work in Indigenous health in the Northern Territory has provided me with exposure to a wide range of health conditions and greatly broadened my knowledge and clinical skills in managing both acute illness and complex medical problems. I am grateful for this opportunity, and to the educators and staff at NTGPE who have supported and facilitated me through the training program over the last few years."

Nicole has successfully completed all three components of the exam and is eligible to apply for fellowship.

Dr Claire Toohey received the Outstanding SA/NT Key Feature Problem (KFP) Achievement, achieving the highest KFP score in 2011.1 – Secondary Award.

Award winners and criteria are listed at: [www.racgp.org.au/assessment/examination/results](http://www.racgp.org.au/assessment/examination/results).

Claire transferred to NTGPE in August 2010, commencing in her GPT3 term. Claire said she was honoured to receive the RACGP recognition and that Darwin was a great place to experience the breadth of clinical practice in the Territory.

"It's an honour to be recognised in the examination awards," said Claire. "Darwin has been a great place to complete my training - the breadth of clinical practice in the Territory helped my study and the opportunity to work in Indigenous Health has been an excellent learning experience."

Claire also attributes her success to being lucky enough to have some 'wonderful personal mentors'.

Claire has successfully completed all three components of the exam and has applied for fellowship.

Dr Nicole Carter,  
awarded RACGP's David Game Prize SA&NT  
for being the GP candidate in SA&NT Faculty who received the highest pass score in each examination on their first attempt



Dr Claire Toohey,  
achieved the highest score in the SA/NT Key Feature Problem at the RACGP exams for 2011.1



Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

## Kishan wins NT Medical Educator of the Year

NTGPE medical educator, Dr Kishan Pandithage, was named the NT Medical Educator of the Year with the award presented at the Prevocational Medical Education Forum in Melbourne in November 2010.

CEO Dr Michael Wilson commended Dr Pandithage for achieving this recognition. "It is a fantastic achievement for one of our dedicated Medical Education staff to be recognised for his strengths and passion for medical education," said Dr Wilson.

Outgoing Director of Medical and Cultural Education, Dr Hung The Nguyen, said "Kishan has been a passionate educator and supporter in the Prevocational General Practice Placements Program and it is fitting for the NT to honour him in this way."

Award nominees are nominated by junior doctors in recognition of the contribution of individual educators to their education and training. The state award was a precursor to the National Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils' (CPMEC) Clinical Educator of the Year Award, which was won by Dr Richard Tarala from Western Australia.

For more information about CPMEC Awards: <http://www.cpmecc.org.au/Page/cpmecc-awards>



Dr Kishan Pandithage, NT's Medical Educator of the Year, in action with a JD group during orientation.

## New National Campaign to attract more workers to Indigenous Health

A new federal government campaign of 'Attracting more people to work in Indigenous Health' was launched on Sunday 24 July 2011.

The campaign is produced through the Department of Health and Ageing and consists of a series of television and radio commercials and print advertisements depicting real life stories of five health workers, dubbed 'health heroes'.

The five occupations depicted are child health nurse, trainee physiotherapist, dental assistant, medical doctor and paramedic trainee. The commercials point people to the healthheroes website to find out more information about jobs in the healthcare industry, including information on financial support.



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health and Ageing**

NTGPE's Medical Education Consultant, Dr Hung The Nguyen, who was part of the campaign reference group, said the product was well received.

"I thought the product looked really good, but no doubt we will have to evaluate its effectiveness at some stage in the future," said Dr Nguyen.

The campaign is available for viewing in the 'materials' section of the website: [www.australia.gov.au/healthheroes](http://www.australia.gov.au/healthheroes).

Organisations with a Facebook presence are asked to add the TV commercials to their page to help get the campaign message out.

## NTGPE welcomes new Director of Medical and Cultural Education

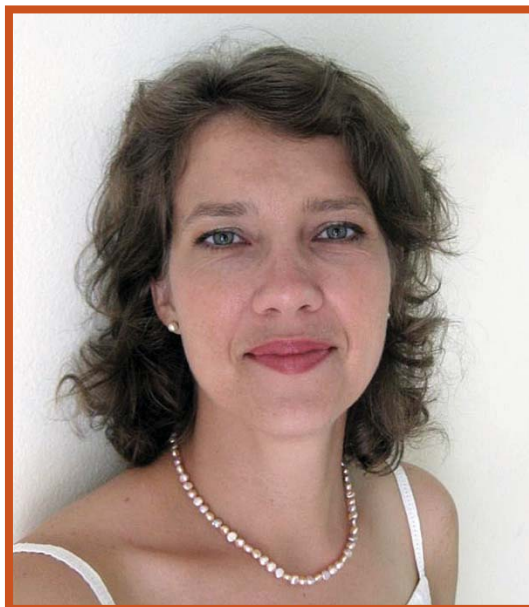
NTGPE has appointed Dr Tamsin Cockayne to the role of Director of Medical and Cultural Education to replace Dr Hung The Nguyen, who has returned to live in Melbourne but will continue working for NTGPE in a new capacity as Medical Education Consultant.

Dr Cockayne is no stranger to the NT. She left the Territory in 2009 and took the opportunity to live, work and study across a range of medical and social environments, including Sydney, Indonesia and most recently the UK, before she was lured back to the NT lifestyle.

“I have missed the warm climate, the warmth and spirituality of remote Aboriginal communities and the challenging yet incredibly exciting world of general practice education and training in the NT,” said Dr Cockayne.

Dr Cockayne said one of her key goals in the new role will be to nurture a robust and unique General Practice medical workforce for the NT. She is also looking forward to using her skills and experience to improve general practice education and training for the Territory.

“My NT training, together with my overseas experiences and my ongoing studies in public health and health management will help to facilitate training in the NT that I hope will be



New NTGPE DMCE, Dr Tamsin Cockayne

innovative, exciting and stimulating to all those involved,” she said.

Dr Cockayne completed her General Practice (GP) medical training in the NT in 1998 as a medical intern at Royal Darwin Hospital whilst a student at the University of Sydney. She continued her GP training in the NT with stints at Nhulunbuy and Bathurst Island until her fellowship with the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) in 2005. She then practiced in Katherine and Gove and became the Director of Medical Services at Gove District Hospital from 2007 to 2009.

Dr Cockayne is a Fellow in Advanced Rural General Practice with RACGP. She is also an accredited GP trainer and has held various advisory positions in the NT, including with the NT Hospitals Network and the NT Rural Clinical School Advisory Committee (Gove region).

NTGPE Executive Director, Dr Michael Wilson, welcomed the addition of Dr Cockayne to his team. “Dr Cockayne’s breadth and depth of knowledge and experience is a wonderful addition to the dedicated team of medical and cultural educators within NTGPE,” he said.



Dr Tamsin Cockayne singing with rural GP band, The GPettes, in Alice Springs in September last year.

*Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity*

## A candid interview with outgoing DMCE Dr Hung The Nguyen

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

After nearly five years in the role as NTGPE's Director Medical and Cultural Education (DMCE), Dr Hung The Nguyen has resigned from the position due to family commitments. He has returned to Melbourne to be closer to extended family and to consider the educational needs of his growing children.

We speak to Hung about his time at NTGPE and his thoughts on the challenges ahead for medical and cultural education in the NT.

### How do you feel about leaving your full-time position as DMCE after nearly 5 years in the job?

Relieved that there is someone to continue on the work - new blood with different ways of doing things to benefit the organisation, someone on the ground to support the staff in administration, coordination and education. A bit of sadness that there are a lot of ideas not yet progressed or complete, but hopefully others will take those on. Also sad that I am leaving an interesting and professionally challenging environment.

### What will you miss the most?

NTGPE is quite a unique organisation with a small group of people that are close knit – I will miss working in that team and the collaborative approach we use. We understand our context very well and we investigate and analyse how to solve problems well. I will miss the team support I got from the role.

### What will you miss the least?

The call for a lot of travel. It is needed of course, because you need to see situations firsthand in

order to solve problems, and Darwin being isolated from the rest of Australia means the need to travel interstate is high and this places a lot of pressure to be away from family.

### You've been on many trips and attended many events as DMCE, what stands out for you the most?

NTGPE being noticed for doing great work in Indigenous Health Training (IHT) stands out. I've participated in many forums for IHT and it is something I never say 'no' to because it is part of our corporate identity and is a core nature of our work.

### Looking back, what achievements have you been proudest of in your role as DMCE?

- Stabilising the team – forming the team and developing team culture is the most important thing. It is a continuous process and you can never rest, especially in the NT, because of the high turnover of staff. We have enjoyed some good stability in the education staff over the years.
- Developing a structured approach to medical education in the NT through the development of the NTGPE curriculum or at least consolidation with the ACRRM curriculum when it came on board, and to be able to map it to our NTGPE context.
- Establishment of IHT modules for GP Registrars
- Developing innovative education tools such as the cultural immersion camp, Indigenous consultation DVD and the use of social networking technology for medical students in remote communities.
- Development of the IMG (International Medical Graduate) education support program.



Hung as a young GPR on a GPR workshop in Daly River, with NTGPE Senior Cultural Educator, Ada Parry



At the 1st National Indigenous Health Workforce forum in Perth, with well known & medically qualified journalist Dr Norman Swan



Catching up with reading during a light plane flight to East Arnhem in 2007

- Development of the Teaching and Learning Conference.
- Review of professional development for GP trainers in the NT. For example, the Teaching and Learning Conference, regional roadshows and scholarships for the Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Education.

#### What do you think are the major challenges that face the NT in medical and cultural education, going forward?

- Workforce challenges - having a stable staff of medical educators and getting some younger new blood coming on board with cultural education
- Increasing the number of training posts available in the NT to meet the increasing medical student numbers in Australia. Not having enough training posts would limit the expansion of student numbers in the NT.
- Ability to continue to engage, support, mentor and train supervisors to provide quality supervision, mentoring and training to trainees is an acute challenge for the NT because supervisors change constantly, making continuous support and engagement a challenge – a continuing hurdle we can never be complacent about.

#### What are the main lessons you take away with you from your experience in the role?

A lot of the work is about community and stakeholder engagement and balancing the needs of the different stakeholder groups including GP trainers, learners and staff needs. Coming up with solutions that satisfy everyone is a skill that I have developed from this role. It's really about dealing with the limitations in the role.

#### What advice do you have for the new DMCE, Dr Tamsin Cockayne?

Just reflecting back on how I started, the important thing is not to assume anything and to listen to people and get the first hand experience - hearing from the horses' mouth, so to speak, before acting or making decisions because people have views which are valid because of the context they are working in. Listen and get to know the culture of the NT, the different organisations in the NT and gain an understanding of what is important.

#### Is there anything else you wish to say?

Just that I am extremely grateful to all the staff at NTGPE – old and new - for supporting the DMCE role when it was first developed and I was appointed to it. I am grateful for the support that enabled me to develop the role and I am extremely grateful for the hard work of the GP supervisors and clinic staff to our learners in the NT.



Training International Medical Graduates



With fellow colleague, Bill Searle, during the trip to UK and USA in 2008

Dr Hung The Nguyen's new role with NTGPE is in the capacity of Medical Education Consultant (0.5 FTE). His role will include providing support to the DMCE, playing a lead role in IHT developments, IMG training and e-learning.

NTGPE Executive Director, Dr Michael Wilson, said Dr Nguyen had made substantial and innovative changes to the way NTGPE conducted its business.

"I would like to express my gratitude to Hung for his leadership, collegiality and friendship over the last five years," said Dr Wilson. "I am deeply indebted to him for his support and guidance over the last few years and I am sure we will continue to see his magic at work in his new capacity with NTGPE."

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

## Finke – a place of contrasts

By Brendan Mulcahy, medical student, Monash University

The town of Finke (also known as Aputula) is located south of Alice Springs, 159 km east of the Stuart Highway, near the South Australia and Northern Territory borders. It has a population of about 250, mainly from the Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, Luritja and Lower Southern Arrernte peoples. It recently hosted a medical student from Monash University, Brendan Mulcahy, for a six week medical placement from May to July 2011. Brendan provided the following account of his experience in Finke.

The town of Finke is a very different placement from those that I have experienced before – within the remote health clinic there is no major radiology department downstairs and the whole emergency department (with plastering tools, cardiac monitoring and intubation equipment) exists in one room. The number of permanent medical staff can be counted on the hand of a man who has had three fingers amputated in a workplace accident.

The nearest major hospital is over 200 kilometres away and the local ambulance is four-wheel drive.

These were exactly the reasons why I was so keen to come to Central Australia on a remote rural placement. I mean, where else could you find a ratio of one medical student per 200 square kilometres?

Within Finke's remote health clinic I have been able to work on the forefront of



One of the more than 500 bikes (along with 70 buggies) at the Finke Desert Race in June speeding through bumpy, dusty tracks that provided many casualties for the community clinic.

The visiting doctors are seen face to face about as often as a dermatologist in an emergency department, and when they arrive, it is by light aircraft rather than expensive car.

primary healthcare and disease prevention with two experienced Remote Area Nurses (RANs). I have been challenged by finding myself in the minority in a community that is 95% Indigenous and 5% Caucasian,

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

all while within my own country. I have learnt to work in an environment where having a yarn over a cup of tea will achieve better compliance with medications than a wall full of academic awards. I have offered what little I can towards improving Indigenous health in Australia.

In addition to experiencing the relaxing, easy-going side of rural life, I had the added bonus of seeing the town at its most lively. Over the Queen's Birthday weekend, the normally peaceful sleepy community came alive with the roar of V8 engines and plumes of red dust. The Finke Desert Race had arrived. The arrival and later departure of the buggies and bikes is a much anticipated spectacle, with both the locals and visiting spectators lining the track down as far as the big table-top jump just outside of town.

With about 70 buggies and more than 500 bikers travelling an average of 120km per hour on a dusty bumpy track, there were bound to be casualties. So the day before the race began, reinforcements arrived to the clinic in the form of the St John's Ambulance crew ready to manage track-side first aid, additional RANs from headquarters in Alice Springs and a team of doctors from the Alice Springs Hospital Emergency department.

While Sunday started with much of the medical team track-side watching the incoming buggies, our duties soon called us back to the clinic where riders with fractures, vision problems and hearing loss filled the two consultation rooms, the emergency room and both waiting rooms throughout the afternoon.

It was a fabulous experience to work as part of what quickly became a well organised, efficient and hard-working team. Even my own skills of examination and assessment were utilised and my knowledge of

wound and fracture management improved immensely with observation and supervised practice throughout the event.

At one point on Sunday afternoon, I went from fascinated bystander to first-aid-trained medical student when one of the riders I had

**"I have been challenged by finding myself in the minority in a community that is 95% Indigenous and 5% Caucasian."**

been watching gracefully sailed over the large table-top jump, half tipped in the air, fell over his handlebars and landed heavily head over heels on his left side.

I jumped the fence (avoiding oncoming bikes) and ensuring the rider was breathing, conscious and responding. I then helped him get back to his feet, remount his bike and ride the final 200 metres to the finish line - passing the ambulance that was coming down to lend assistance. This left me to trudge through the scrub on the side of the track to meet him up at the first-aid tent in order to return his dislodged helmet camera. He was one of two riders later flown out to Alice Springs Hospital that Sunday night.

Over the last few weeks I have seen remote rural practice at its busiest and action-packed, as well as at its most quiet and peaceful - and it has not disappointed me. This placement has given me the unique opportunity to draw on and expand my clinical skills, whilst engaging not just with the patients who present to the clinic, but with the community as a whole. The experience has been so different to the inner city private hospital I left behind in Melbourne, but all those differences are the reasons why the experience is so rich and why overcoming the challenges is so rewarding. It will be an encounter I will always remember with fondness and hopefully one that will inspire me to further rural and remote practice in my future career.



**NTGPE's Central Australia office located in Alice Springs has seen some changes since the last edition of Down the Track.**

Glen Wallace, a long term employee of NTGPE, was farewelled at the beginning of 2011 to move to Victoria with his family. Glen is now working for Bendigo Health.

In May, Brad Bowman was appointed to the position of Central Australia Operations Manager with responsibility for NTGPE Program support coordination in Alice Springs, stakeholder relations and housing. Brad is supported by Angela Percival (Marketing and Administrative Assistant) and a Program Officer, soon to be appointed.

Medical Educators Dr Christine Lesnikowski and Dr Zizi Saude, Cultural Educator Ken Lechleitner and Clinical Trainer Mollie Kennedy also provide support to the medical students, junior doctors and registrars located in Central Australia from the Alice Springs office.

A major aim for NTGPE in Central Australia is to provide GP registrar (GPR) services to Tennant Creek.

NTGPE is part of the stakeholder committee that includes the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Anyinginyi Aboriginal Health Service, Tennant Creek Hospital and Barkly Shire that is working towards getting GPRs to Tennant Creek.

Over the coming months, Alice Springs staff will be meeting with health centres across Central Australia to discuss the student placement program and to check on and identify housing needs for placements.

July also saw the completion of the new student accommodation at Yuendumu (pictured). The construction was managed by ANU who received funding from the Department of Health and Ageing. NTGPE will be managing the student placements to Yuendumu.



## News in Brief

### Laptop Rollout to NT Clinics for In-Practice Teaching and Learning

NTGPE will be delivering laptops to selected NT clinics as part of an in-practice education and training project.

The project has been made possible through a successful funding application to AGPT (via GPET) to provide a fully equipped laptop to clinics for teaching and learning purposes.

The laptop will be used to provide support to supervisors and doctors in training with ready access to online clinical teaching and learning materials, videoconferencing capability and for research purposes.



NTGPE staff will start visiting clinics in August to personally deliver the laptop, explain the conditions of receiving the laptop and provide an orientation to the hardware, software and e-tools it contains.

Clinics will receive a letter advising them of this offer in due course, and they will be contacted regarding a suitable time for our visit.

### Date announced for 2012 Health Professionals Teaching & Learning Conference

Please diarise! NTGPE's 2012 Health Professionals Teaching & Learning Conference will be held Friday to Saturday, 30-31 March 2012 in Alice Springs. Further information will be forthcoming. If you have not attended this conference before and would like to be included on the mailing list for this event, please email: [marketing@ntgpe.org](mailto:marketing@ntgpe.org) with the subject line: 'TLC mailing list'.

### NTGPE is Updating its Website

Remember to regularly check the NTGPE website for current news and information at: [www.ntgpe.org](http://www.ntgpe.org). News feed on our website is set up to for blogging so you can leave comments if you wish. NTGPE also welcomes contributions in the way of news, stories, photos and feedback from our readers and stakeholders that can be considered for publication. Simply drop an email to: [marketing@ntgpe.org](mailto:marketing@ntgpe.org)

### GP Ambassador to be Appointed for NT in 2012

General Practice Registrars Association (GPRA) have announced their intention to appoint a General Practice Ambassador for the NT for 2012, as part of their nationwide Going Places Network (GP Network).

The GP Network is a peer-to-peer program, mainly hospital-based, designed to encourage more prevocational doctors to consider general practice as a specialty, through fostering a greater awareness of this field of practice.

The ambassador will be Darwin based and NTGPE will be assisting GPRA in seeking suitable applicants to be considered for the position.

For further information on the GP Network, visit: <http://www.gpra.org.au/going-places-network>

### Trainer Liaison Officer

Dr Nigel Gray has relinquished the role of Trainer Liaison Officer at NTGPE. News and information regarding training from NTGPE will be delivered in future with programs information.

*Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity*

## Reflections on Six Weeks in Gove

By Annabel Ingham, Medical Student, Adelaide University

**Annabel Ingham undertook her medical student placement in Gove (also known as Nhulunbuy) in May/June 2011. She shares her outback experience with us.**

As I flew into Gove, I felt the warm humid air hit my face as soon as I stepped out of the plane. Smiling, I knew I had left the increasingly arctic temperatures of Adelaide behind for the tropics of the Northern Territory. It was not only the beautiful weather that I had to look forward to, but also the exciting challenges of tropical and Indigenous Health of the remote Top End.

Over the next few weeks, I was touched by the kindness of the health care professionals at the hospital. Staying in the staff quarters was a very social experience, and I quickly found myself involved in the Gove Runners Club and watching 'Gove Idol' (a highly attended karaoke competition) at the Arnhem Club. Gove differs from the typical country town vibe in that the mining population is highly transient, so everyone is willing to get to know you regardless of how long you are likely to stick around.

The medicine was exciting and varied. Most of the hospital inpatients are indigenous, often flying in from the surrounding communities and outstations and often with little English.

At the hospital, I saw the best examples of Indigenous Health - amazing Aboriginal Health Workers who were often trilingual; daily access to a Yolngu translator and access to public health

materials printed in the Yolngu language. One of the most useful experiences was a visit from a group of health care workers from Darwin who had put together a DVD in ten different Indigenous languages to show to Indigenous patients who were due to have surgery. Also in the series was a DVD for health care workers that showed a non-Indigenous patient going into a hospital completely staffed by Indigenous doctors and nurses who were all speaking Yolngu and asking the patient to sign consent forms in Yolngu. This was a highly useful presentation to watch and it made me reflect on how I would find a foreign hospital difficult.

I was lucky enough to sit in with many specialists when they visited. The scarce availability of specialists for consults made me respect the GPs working at the hospital even more. They had to be very adept at managing the specialist's treatment until



The main street of Gapuwiyak, one of the Aboriginal communities Annabel visited during her placement in Gove

they returned – more so than urban GPs. However, it was good to see that each GP had their own pseudo-specialty (i.e. in paediatrics, obstetrics or anaesthetics).

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

One of the biggest challenges I faced on the ward of the hospital was the higher level judgement calls of when to send a patient to Darwin. Often in the bigger city hospitals you can simply call for a consult, but in rural practise you must know your patient extremely well so you can assist the city specialist with making that call over the phone.

This has been a very positive and rewarding experience for me and I highly recommend my peers to undertake a similar placement. Gaining skills in treating Indigenous patients and also in operating within a rural hospital is an experience I hope to carry through my whole medical career.

Annabel with Mr Marika, who won an OAM for his work at Yirrkala Clinic



## New Pilot Program Better Prepares Registrars for NT Training

An innovative new pilot program has been developed to better prepare registrars for general practice training in the NT.

The AGPT-NTGPE Co-Badging Pilot, available to 2012 applicants, allows GP Registrars to undertake the first 18 months of their GP training (12 months hospital and 6 months GPT1 term) with Central and Southern Queensland Training Consortium (CSQTC) before moving to the Northern Territory to complete the remainder of their training (GPT 2 and 3 and Extended Skills) with NTGPE.

This means registrars gain further experience and skills that better prepares them for general practice training in the NT.

NTGPE Executive Director, Dr Michael Wilson, said that the NT had always been an exciting and different place to do general practice training, however, due to the challenging nature of medicine in the Territory, GPT1s may require greater support in a more controlled environment.

“From our experience, we find that some GPT1s require a bit more preparation before taking the Territory plunge,” said Dr Wilson. “This Co-Badging Pilot will provide that preparation and once they are here, they realise the tremendous support they receive and the challenging medicine that they are exposed to can make for one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of their professional lives.”

Further details on NTGPE’s GPR program and the Co-Badging Pilot is available at: <http://ntgpe.org/index.php/gp-registrars/>

*Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity*



## PGPPP Program Update

In the last year, the Prevocational GP Placement Program (PGPPP) in the NT has expanded from 624 training weeks to 1440. This increase has enabled us to not only expand the program to clinics that have not normally taken our junior doctors, but also to include new feeder hospitals around the country.

If your clinic is not yet taking prevocational doctors for a training placement, you may want to consider this option, as there are many benefits.

The program provides funding for weekly accommodation rental, supervision payments and clinic incentive funding which can be used to assist with the hosting of a program participant. The Medicare income generated by the prevocational doctor goes towards the participant's salary, but any surplus remains with the clinic.

Prevocational doctors coming to the Territory have a passion for remote Indigenous health and self select to come here to experience a remote Aboriginal community placement, rather than being sent with no choice by their hospital, which is the case in some states.

To be eligible to take junior doctors, you must have a full-time general practitioner who is willing to be a supervisor and guide the junior doctor through their 10 to 12 week placement. The supervisor and clinic must be an accredited training post, or be willing to obtain accreditation, through one of the two colleges – RACGP or ACRRM. They must also have fully self-contained accommodation that can be used by the program participant and have a passion for teaching the next generation of GP workforce participants.

The Prevocational General Practice Placement Program (PGPPP) has been operating since January 2005. This highly successful program is aimed at providing hospital-based prevocational doctors a taste of general practice in a safe and supervised working environment. NTGPE are the leaders in Indigenous health placements in the country.

If you would like to become part of this fantastic program, we would love to hear from you. For more information call or email the PGPP Program Coordinator, Nicole Lamb on [07 3820 7063](tel:0738207063) or [nicole.lamb@ntgpe.org](mailto:nicole.lamb@ntgpe.org)

## RUSC Program Coordination

The move is underway for both the PGPPP and the RUSC programs to come under the responsibility of one Coordinator. Nicole Lamb (currently PGPPP Program Coordinator) will take on this responsibility aimed at achieving greater synergy and efficiency between the student doctor and junior doctor placement program.

Belle Allison, who has recently returned to NTGPE on a casual basis (initially two days per week) will be assisting with RUSC program administration and educator support.

Shanthi Bandara will continue her great work as PGPPP Program Assistant. Administrative support to PGPPP/RUSC and other programs generally will be further boosted by the appointment of a Program Officer (Central Australia), recruitment to which is currently being finalised.

## GPR Conference Review - June 2011, Darwin

NTGPE's GPR Conference attracted a larger than usual group of GPRs, with 20 registrars attending the conference in Darwin held from 1 - 3 June 2011.



The overall conference evaluation was rated as very good to excellent, with registrars pleased with the clinical relevance and usefulness of the program, the great speakers and the opportunities to interact with other registrars.

The most popular sessions were the two modules on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) delivered by Dr Greg Perry of Kidney Health Australia, which focused on CKD in the Indigenous population and the issues for GPs, and the two modules on Rehabilitation Medicine for the General Practitioner delivered by Howard Flavell, which focused on the management of spinal and traumatic brain injury, diabetes foot management, prosthetics and orthotics.



The next GPR Conference will be held on 2 - 4 November 2011 in Alice Springs.

[This page:](#) the NTGPE GPR conference in action, including inspirational speakers, practical modules and team interaction



## GP Trainers Professional Development Program 2011

Teleconference	Wed 10 August
Alice Springs Roadshow	Fri 26 August
Katherine Roadshow	Wed 12 October
Teleconference	Wed 16 November
Darwin Roadshow	Fri 18 November (pm)
Trainer Orientation Darwin/Alice Springs	Wed 7 December

For further information on the GP Trainers professional development program, contact Samantha Gilbert on [08 8946 6745](tel:089466745).

## AMSA Global Health Conference Review - June 2011, Sydney

The 2011 Australian Medical Student Association (AMSA) Global Health conference was held in Sydney from 30 June to 3 July 2011 at the University of New South Wales. Kevin Parriman (Cultural Educator) and Nicole Lamb (PGPPP Program Coordinator) from NTGPE attended the conference where an information booth was set up to market the RUSC Program of student placements within the Northern Territory. Although the focus is on medical student placement, this was also a good opportunity for students nearing their final year of training to be aware that NTGPE also has the Junior Doctor placement program and the GPR training program.

Once again the Northern Territory proved to be a favourite hot spot for medical student placements as they flocked around the booth inquiring about how they could get a placement with NTGPE or to let us know that they already have a placement with us and cannot wait to get up here. Students from Canada, New Zealand, Indonesia and of course universities in Australia have shown great interest in a RUSC placement in the NT. NTGPE has an intake of 220 placements a year and with the growing interest, students need to apply 12 months in advance. The 2012 Global Health conference will be held in Cairns.



The NTGPE RUSC Program booth

Nicole discussing the NT's exciting placement opportunities with interested students



## Ochre Cards mandatory for NT vocational placements

From 1 July 2011, it is mandatory for medical students, junior doctors and registrars to have an Ochre Card in order to undertake their vocational placements in the NT.

New legislation means that anyone who will be working or volunteering in 'child-related' work in the NT, where they will have contact or potential contact with children, will require a proof of identity card called an Ochre Card. Not having an Ochre Card is an offence that will attract heavy penalties.

NTGPE will not allow any program participants to undertake their placement without an Ochre Card. All program participants are sent detailed information on how to apply for an



Ochre Card before their placement, giving them ample time to obtain their cards.

To obtain an Ochre Card participants need to complete the 'Working with Children' Clearance form.

Below is a list of often asked questions about the Ochre Card from the NT Government's 'Working with Children' website.

#### What is 'child-related' work?

The Care and Protection of Children Act and Regulations set out the list of activities that are 'child-related' work. If you have additional questions, contact 1800 SAFE NT (1800 72 33 68).

#### If I have had a Police Criminal History Check do I still need a Working with Children Clearance?

Yes, it is still compulsory to apply for a Working with Children Clearance even if you have had a police check.

#### What is a Clearance Notice?

A Clearance Notice is provided to you after successfully applying for a Working with Children Clearance.

#### What is an Ochre Card?

An Ochre Card is the photo identification card that will be issued to you once you have received a Clearance Notice. You should keep it in your wallet as proof that you are cleared to work or volunteer in 'child-related' work.

#### How much will it cost?

The cost of a Working with Children Clearance (including the Ochre Card) is \$50.00 for employees and \$5.00 for volunteers.

#### What if I don't apply?

If you have not applied for a Working with Children Clearance it will be against the law for you to work or volunteer in 'child-related' work. A penalty of up to \$65,000 can be issued to an individual if you are found to be in breach of this law. It is also an offence for your employer or volunteer organisation to involve you in 'child-related' work.

#### What does the Working with Children Clearance screen for?

A Working with Children Clearance screening is a criminal and employment record check which ensures there is nothing in the candidate's history which may constitute a serious risk of harm to children.

#### How is Working with Children Clearance Screening different to a Police Criminal History Check?

A Police Criminal History Check examines a person's criminal history at a fixed point in time. The Working with Children Clearance offers certification to engage in 'child-related' work for a period of time and offers ongoing monitoring of a candidate's suitability. This means if a relevant criminal offence is committed during the period of certification, SAFE NT can inform employers, impose conditions on the clearance notice or withdraw the certification.

#### How long is the Working with Children Clearance valid for?

A Working with Children Clearance is valid for two years from the date of issue (unless revoked). If a person wishes to continue to work or volunteer with children after this time they will need to apply again.

Further information is available from the website:

<http://www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au>

or from Safe NT:

Email: [safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au)

Phone: 1800 SAFE NT (1800 72 33 68)

Address:

PO Box 39764,

Winnellie

NT 0821



*Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity*

## Enjoying the Sunrise in Katherine

by Boriana Grozev, Junior Doctor recently placed in Katherine for her second rotation in the NT.

Before my GP placement in Katherine I had thought that it was going to be pretty much the same as the first placement I had undertaken in the NT, which was in Tennant Creek in 2009, but the following ten weeks proved me wrong.

I was based at Katherine's Sunrise Health Service from April to June this year and had to travel regularly to seven different Aboriginal communities. The closest one was Mataranka which is about 100 km away but other communities like Ngukurr are 300km away and accessible only by plane at that time of the year.



Some of the spectacular scenery Boriana witnessed as part of her placement



I think the key difference was the word rural versus remote. For instance in Tennant Creek there is a small hospital but in some of the Katherine region communities, the nearest hospital could be 300km away.

In Katherine, I was working almost as the most senior person in a mini Emergency Department setting and got my first experience in flying out a patient on a light aircraft. I had never flown in a light plane before that, soaring over small communities and large billabongs, nor driven in the outback, avoiding kangaroos and other wildlife on the roads. Nor had I ever seen geckos fighting in my motel room ...it was all challenging, fascinating, inspiring but never boring.

The charming smiles of the Aboriginal children and their parents and the respect they showed toward me being a doctor are still in front of my eyes and are unforgettable. The people there were so warm and friendly.

Now I feel much more confident in taking on clinical decisions and doing a lot of small things which you don't routinely do as a hospital doctor.

I lived in a Junior Doctor house in Katherine with other junior doctors and we visited beautiful places together like Katherine Gorge and the hot springs (my favourites) and many other places including Kakadu National Park.



The Northern Territory is also called the 'Land of the Never Never' and Mataranka is the 'capital' of the Never Never Land. There are two explanations for the name 'The Land of the Never Never,' either once you go there you never ever want to return or you never ever want to leave it.

In the book, 'We of the Never Never,' the author Jeanie Gunn says that the wizard of the Never Never ties its people with invisible threads to the land of the Never Never when they sleep and they feel so much more connected and attracted by it that they cannot leave it.

I think it is different for different people and it is not for those who want to stay in their comfort zone. For me, it held a powerful attraction.

I felt the same.  
I cannot wait to go back.....

*Out and about. Boriana experiences some of the variety of Katherine*



## NTGPE Staff Contact List

**General Enquiries: 08 8946 7079**

### Darwin Head Office:

Yellow Building 1, Level 3, Charles Darwin University,  
Ellengowan Drive, Casuarina, NT 0810

PO Box U179, Charles Darwin University, NT 0815

### Alice Springs Office:

5 Skinner Street, Alice Springs, NT 0870

PO Box 4829, Alice Springs NT 0871

Executive Team			
Dr Michael Wilson	Executive Director	08 8946 6746	michael.wilson@ntgpe.org
Peter Thompson	Chief Operations Officer	08 8946 6871	peter.thompson@ntgpe.org
Dr Tamsin Cockayne	Director Medical & Cultural Education	08 8946 6727	tamsin.cockayne@ntgpe.org
Belinda Stewart	Executive Assistant for ED & Board Secretariat	08 8946 6746	belinda.stewart@ntgpe.org
HR			
Kerry Ganley	HR Officer	08 8946 7416	kerry.ganley@ntgpe.org
Alex Billeter	Educator Support Manager	08 8946 7667	alex.billeter@ntgpe.org
Vacant	Receptionist	08 8946 7079	tba
Marketing and Projects			
Adelia Mu-Prasad	Marketing and Projects Manager	08 8946 6955	adelia.mu-prasad@ntgpe.org
Wendy McCallum	Marketing and Projects Officer	-	wendy.mccallum@ntgpe.org
Finance, TDS & Housing			
Terry Erickson	Accountant <b>Wed- Fri</b>	08 8946 6240	terry.erickson@ntgpe.org
Sandy (Dan Si)	Accounts Payable Officer	08 8946 6458	dan.si@ntgpe.org
Vacant	Finance Officer Accounts	08 8946 6957	tba
ICT			
Sajjad Bhatti	ICT Project Officer	08 8946 7275	sajjad.bhatti@ntgpe.org
Nick Louloudias	ICT Support Officer	08 8946 7335	nick.louloudias@ntgpe.org
Ana Govan	ICT Project Coordinator Casual	-	anastasia.govan@ntgpe.org

<b>Program Coordinators</b>			
Christine Heatherington-Tait	GPR Program Coordinator	08 8946 6748	christine.heatherington-tait@ntgpe.org
Samantha Gilbert	Program Asst for GPR Admin	08 8946 6745	samantha.gilbert@ntgpe.org
Nicole Lamb	PGPP Program Coordinator (Junior Docs) Training Post Accreditation, CPD Points; RUSC Program Coordinator (Medical Students)	07-38207063	nicole.lamb@ntgpe.org
Shanthi Bandara	Program Asst for PGPPP (Junior Docs) Training Post Accred, CPD Points.	08 8946 7369	shanti.bandara@ntgpe.org
Belle Allison	RUSC program administration and educator support	08 8946 6775	belle.allison@ntgpe.org
<b>Cultural Educators</b>			
Ada Parry	Aboriginal Senior Cultural Educator	08 8946 6808	ada.parry@ntgpe.org
Kevin Parriman	Aboriginal Senior Cultural Educator	08 8946 7348	kevin.parriman@ntgpe.org
Richie Fejo	Aboriginal Cultural Educator	08 8946 7436	richard.fejo@ntgpe.org
<b>Alice Springs</b>			
Brad Bowman	Operations Manager	08 8950 4840	Brad.bowman@ntgpe.org
Vacant	Program Officer	08 8950 4842	
Angela Percival	Marketing & Admin Assistant	08 8950 4844	angela.percival@ntgpe.org
Ken Lechleitner	Aboriginal Cultural Educator	08 8950 4843	ken.lechleitner@ntgpe.org
Dr Christine Lesnikowski	Medical Educator <b>Mon &amp; Thu</b>	08 8950 4845	christine.lesnikowski@ntgpe.org
Dr Zizi Saudie	Medical Educator	-	
<b>Medical Educators</b>			
Dr Hung The Nguyen	Medical Education Consultant <b>(0.5)</b>	-	hung.nguyen@ntgpe.org
Dr Nigel Gray	Medical Educator <b>Wed &amp; Thu</b>	08 8946 7056	nigel.gray@ntgpe.org
Dr Kishan Pandithage	Medical Educator <b>Wed &amp; Thu</b>	08 8946 7341	kishan.pandithage@ntgpe.org
Dr Sarah Cush	Medical Educator <b>Wed pm Thu pm</b>	08 8946 7795	sarah.cush@ntgpe.org
Dr Jo Wood	Medical Educator	-	jo.wood@ntgpe.org
Dr Barbara Gallagher	Medical Educator <b>Wed, Thus, Fri am, Tue</b>	08 8946 7793	barbara.gallagher@ntgpe.org
Dr Cameron Smith	Medical Educator <b>Tue &amp; Thu</b>	-	cameron.smith@ntgpe.org
Dr Anne Kleinitz	Medical Educator <b>Thu</b>	-	anne.kleinitz@ntgpe.org

# Calendar of Events 2011 / 2012

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

## NTGPE Events

When	What	Where
10 August 11	GP Trainer Teleconference	
26 August 11	GP Trainer Alice Springs Roadshow	Alice Springs
12 October 11	GP Trainer Katherine Roadshow	Katherine
2-4 November 11	GP Trainer Conference	Alice Springs
16 November 11	GP Trainer Teleconference	
18 November 11 (pm)	GP Trainer Darwin Roadshow	Darwin
30 - 31 March 12	Health Professionals Teaching & Learning Conference	Alice Springs

## Partner Organisation Events

When	What	Where
7-8 September 11	GPET Conference	Canberra
6-8 October 2011	RACGP 'GP11'	Hobart
22-23 October 11	AIDA Conference	Broome
28-30 October 11	RMA-ACRRM Conference	Alice Springs

For further information please contact NTGPE email [admin@ntgpe.org](mailto:admin@ntgpe.org) or 08 8946 7079

## Conferences and Workshops attended by NTGPE representatives in 2011

24 March :	GPRA 'Breathing New Life' Conference, Canberra
27-10 June:	ANZAHPE Conference, Alice Springs (Australia & NZ Assoc for Health Professional Educators)
30 June-3 July:	AMSA Global Health Conference, Sydney

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### Editors:

Adelia Mu-Prasad  
Wendy McCallum

#### Layout & Design:

Wendy McCallum

#### Contributors:

Adelia Mu-Prasad  
Nicole Lamb  
Brad Bowman  
Samantha Gilbert  
Brendan Mulcahy  
Annabel Ingham  
Boriana Grovez

### DOWN THE TRACK

is the newsletter of NT General Practice Education Ltd. Articles, photographs and any other contributions are always welcome. Please email them to: [marketing@ntgpe.org](mailto:marketing@ntgpe.org)

All rights are reserved. All materials contained in this publication are protected by Australian copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, published or broadcast without the prior written permission of NT General Practice Education Ltd (NTGPE), or in the case of third party materials, the owner of that content. All efforts have been made to ensure that material presented in this publication is correct at the time of publishing. NTGPE does not make any warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of NTGPE.

## Talent Release Form – Photos Only

To be able to use your photograph or image (the 'talent') the Company (NTGPE) needs your permission. Wherever possible, the Company will be considerate of cultural, family and personal sensitivities.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby grant the Company and its representatives, employees, agents and assigns the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use, reproduce and publish the photographs taken of me, including my image and likeness as depicted therein for editorial, trade, advertising or any other purpose and in any manner and medium, to alter the same without restriction. I hereby release the Company and its trustees, officers, employees, agents, legal representatives and assigns from any and all claims, actions and liability relating to its use of said photographs, statements, and testimonials.

**Description of Photograph/Video/Other media for which permission is granted.**

**Please list the circumstances if any, in which you would not want your photograph/image used:**

**Contact Details**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address : \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email : \_\_\_\_\_

---

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*If under 18 years of age signature of parent/guardian required.*

---

Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This is a quality controlled document which may not be current once printed and must not be altered without the approval of the authority.

Developed by:	Date developed: 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2009
Approval: Executive Director	Review date: 24 August 2012
File path: Q:\NTGPE 2009\Man & Admin\090901_frm_TalentReleaseAgreement.doc	
<p><b>This is a quality controlled document, which may not be current once printed.</b> Refer to the file path for current copy. This document may not be altered in any way without the approval of the person/Group listed as the Authority for this document.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">This document is current as at <b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2009</b></p>	