

MY TIME IN THE SUN
Prevocational Doctor Michael Ryan shares the magic of Oenpelli

2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Registrations
are now open for 2012
Full conference details inside

Alice Springs Convention Centre
30 - 31 March 2012

Also inside this issue:



Medical Simulation Training

The latest training pilot program providing training to health professionals

New Resource Laptop for Danila Dilba Health Centre

NTGPE congratulates Danila Dilba on 20 years of community health services



Welcome

Welcome to the 4th 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.

This issue focuses on our 2012 Health Professional Teaching and Learning Conference, to be held in magical Alice Springs on 30 - 31 March 2012. With topics centering on current themes of performance and professionalism, this conference, now in its fourth year, is a great opportunity to learn and network

with industry leaders and peers.

There's information on the new medical simulation training pilot project run by NTGPE - SimMan 3G – which trains Medical Educators, GP Registrars and Remote Area Nurses to deliver effective training to medical staff working in remote communities.

We present a captivating review by prevocational doctor Michael Ryan on his recent placement in Oenpelli, West Arnhem Land, Northern Territory plus lots more - Enjoy your read!

We welcome feedback and contributions and invite our readers to email us at marketing@ntgpe.org



Prevocational Doctor Michael Ryan taking time out to enjoy the NT outdoors.

2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Register online
at **ntgpe.org**

Alice Springs Convention Centre
30 - 31 March 2012

Registrations now open
Call for Abstracts now open - closing 28 November

True colours

- Performance and Professionalism in Health Professional Education

Location

Alice Springs Convention Centre,
Alice Springs, Northern Territory

Conference Dates

30 & 31 March 2012

The conference will start with a welcome lunch on 30 March and concludes at the end of the day on 31 March. Pre-conference workshops on the 30th will be available for delegates.

Target Audience

The conference target audience includes:

- All health professionals – hospital and community based; allied health, medical specialists, general practitioners, nurses (including practice nurses and remote area nurses), midwives, Aboriginal health workers, paramedics
- Academics and researchers involved in health education
- Staff involved in education and training – clinical, medical and cultural educators, supervisors, preceptors, mentors, trainers



Located in the heart of the Red Centre, Alice Springs is a vibrant modern town with a thriving population of 28,000 people. Made famous by the Neville Shute 1950s novel 'A town like Alice', Alice Springs is an iconic travel destination.

Also not far from the modern comforts of town is the spectacular, ancient scenery of the Red Centre - the famous Uluru, the Olgas (*pictured below, photo courtesy of Tourism NT*), The East and West MacDonnell Ranges, the Kata Tjuta National Park, the Kings Canyon and the Simpson Desert, plus many more attractions.



Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Alice Springs Convention Centre
30 - 31 March 2012

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

Introduction

The Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference is in its fourth year. The conference recognises the importance of dynamic, well trained health professionals and in particular the benefits of learning within inter-professional teams. With this in mind, you are invited to develop your skill set with local and national leaders in health education.

The title of the 2012 conference is **True Colours – Performance and Professionalism in Health Education**. As it is held in Alice Springs the title reflects the dramatic colours and hues of this Central Australian landscape – the changing colours of the sky from dawn till dusk reflecting off rocks, boulders, gorges, desert sands and ranges.

Key Dates

Call for abstracts

- opens 16 September 2011
- closes 28 November 2011

- Conference Registration
 - opens 7 November 2011

Notification of abstract acceptance
– 16 December 2011

Early bird registration end
- 6 February 2012

Measuring performance and teaching professionalism are hot topics in health education and this conference will provide the space to explore the various issues, thinking and developments so far around these important topics in health professional teaching and learning.

Theme Overview

Professionalism is emerging once again as an important element in all health professional teaching and learning.

Professionalism's core values place the interests of the patient and the community to the fore. Health professionals suggest these core values include excellence, respect for others, ethical and moral standards, accountability, duty and advocacy, honour, service, integrity and altruism. But can these values be taught in the health context? Can altruism exist in the age of individualism? How might the professions and the universities approach the teaching and learning of professionalism? Can one measure professionalism and professional acts in the clinical and work place setting?

2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Alice Springs Convention Centre
30 - 31 March 2012

Conference Themes

The conference themes include:

- Clinical supervision
- Vertical integration
- E-learning
- Inter-professional education (IPE)
- Work place assessment
- Reflective teaching and learning
- Teaching in rural and remote contexts
- Teaching in the Indigenous context

Conference Objectives

Conference objectives are to:

- Provide a professional development opportunity for all health professionals
- Highlight inter-professional education synergies in an interactive and professionally engaging forum
- Provide collegial, collaborative, team based approaches to professional development
- Promote teaching and learning models in the cross-cultural context
- Enable delegates to gain self directed learning skills to improve their clinical practice and quality of patient care
- Bring nationally recognised educators and presenters with the latest evidence based methods to the Northern Territory

Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

There are sponsorship and exhibition opportunities for most associated organisations and industries. For more information and a prospectus, please contact Wendy McCallum on wendy.mccallum@ntgpe.org

Key Note Speakers

NTGPE is pleased to announce the following Keynote Speakers at the 2012 conference:

Professor Jill Thistlethwaite

Professor Lambert Schuwirth

Professor Ngjare Brown

For more information on the key note speakers and their key note addresses, visit ntgpe.org

To register and for more information, including program details, the conference dinner (a sumptuous Territory flavours BBQ under the stars) and Alice Springs social activities please visit ntgpe.org

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2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Alice Springs Convention Centre
30 - 31 March 2012

Call for Abstracts Now Open

The organising committee for the 2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference is seeking abstracts related to the conference themes listed on the previous page.

Abstracts may be submitted for the following presentation formats:

Workshop (2 hours)

A workshop provides the space and tools for participants to engage in intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject.

Interactive Seminar (1 hour)

An interactive seminar allows for an in-depth presentation and interactive discussion on a educational topic in line with conference themes.

Knowledge Café (1 or 2 hours)

A knowledge cafe brings together a group of people to have an open, creative conversation on a topic of mutual interest to explore their collective knowledge, to share ideas and insights and to gain a deeper understanding of the subject and the issues involved. Authors should nominate a topic of mutual interest to the conference audience and be prepared to facilitate the session. Only the background to the topic is required as teaching and learning objectives and key take home messages are dependent on the conversation.

'Really good stuff' paper presentation (10 minutes)

An avenue for concise, fast-paced and engaging paper presentations that allows educators and learners to meet, present their work, exchange ideas and network.

Poster

Posters are displayed for the duration of the conference.

Abstracts are due by **28 Nov 2011**
and can be submitted online at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/abstract2012>

Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstract submissions must address the objectives and intentions of the conference outlined broadly above and must identify the following Information:

- Presenter's name(s) and contact details
- A brief (100 words max) biography of the presenter(s)
- Presentation type (i.e. workshop, seminar etc.)
- Title
- Context
- Objectives
- The key messages
- Presentation requirements

Word Limit: maximum 500 words

Acceptance of an abstract is conditional upon the presenter's registration for the Conference by 30 December 2011.

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2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference

Alice Springs Convention Centre
30 - 31 March 2012

NTGPE's 10th Birthday Alumni Dinner

NTGPE is celebrating 10 years of medical and cultural training in the NT next year and as part of their celebrations all registered full conference attendees are invited to attend a special Alumni Dinner, to be held on the evening of Saturday 31 March upon the completion of the 2012 Teaching and Learning Conference, at an Alice Springs venue to be confirmed shortly.

Should you wish to stay on after the conference and celebrate their ten year milestone with NTGPE, please indicate when you complete your on-line registration.

Please note this special invitation is extended to conference attendees who register for the full conference prior to 6 February 2012, so take advantage of the early bird registration rates!

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity



*celebrating 10 years
of medical and cultural education
in the NT*

NORTHERN
TERRITORY
General Practice Education

Dear Conference Delegate

You are invited to attend our special

10th Birthday Alumni Dinner

*to be held in Alice Springs (venue to be confirmed)
following the Teaching and Learning Conference*

Saturday 31 March 2012

closing date
for acceptance:
06 February 2012

www.ntgpe.org

Medical Simulation Training Pilot

In July NTGPE signed a funding agreement with GPET to develop and implement a pilot project - Enhancing Vertical Integration in General Practice training using High Fidelity Patient Simulation (HFPS) in Northern Territory. The pilot project will consist of the establishment and use of a simulated learning environment (SLE) and a HFPS program. Using the latest simulation technology – SimMan 3G – the program will train Medical Educators, GP Registrars and Remote Area Nurses to provide training to medical staff working in remote communities.



NTGPE's Director Medical and Cultural Education, Tamsin Cockayne demonstrates medical technique

The project aims to:

- start addressing the limited clinical training infrastructure in remote areas
- address limited opportunities for health-care professionals to access training and continual professional development
- promote collaboration between higher education providers, acute care and remote primary health services
- realise the potential to have a positive impact on GPR workforce retention and recruitment

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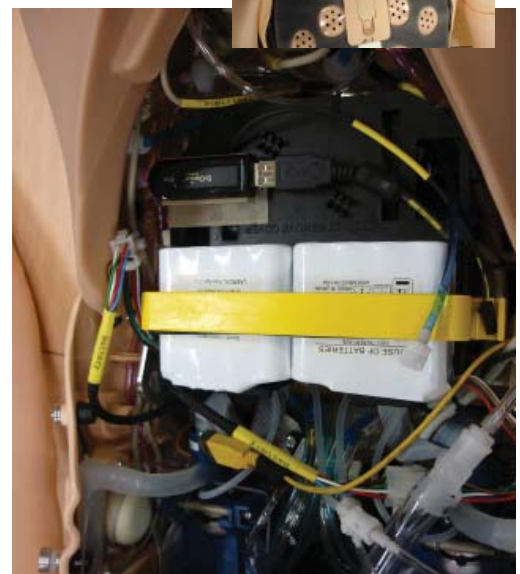
**Help name
the latest
NTGPE
team
member!**



A mystery prize awaits the person who comes up with the name best liked by the NTPGE crew - Our new recruit can be male or female to suit, so it does need to be name amenable to both sexes !

Email your suggestions to marketing@ntgpe.org by 02 December

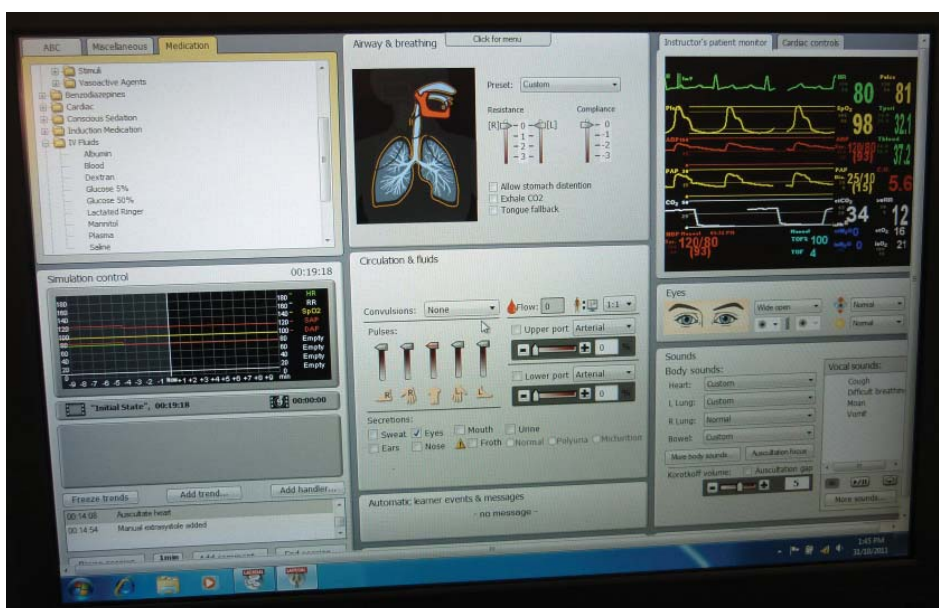
The elaborate electronic interior of SimMan 3G



continued

The first scheduled high fidelity simulation training programs have just taken place on 31 October and 1 November (in between the ACCRRM conference and the GPR conference) and on 5 and 6 November after the GPR conference. Both were held in Alice Springs.

Two training programs are proposed to take place in Darwin in March and May 2012. MEs or GPRs interested in attending the Darwin training programs should contact Dr Tamsin Cockayne on 08 8946 6727 or tamsin.cockayne@ntgpe.org.



comprehensive electronic data is displayed throughout the simulation training

High Fidelity Simulation Training

TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Darwin, March and May 2012

Will you be ready to use Simulation to deliver education in primary care health care training?

Simulation is rapidly being recognised as an increasingly important part of teaching and learning in the health environment. This Train the Trainer program will provide information and hands-on activities, group work and exercises to explore how you can make a difference using the power of simulation in training.

NTGPE invites you to become part of this new and innovative teaching and learning method.

For more information or to book a place at the March or May 2012 Training Programs please send an email to Tamsin Cockayne at tamsin.cockayne@ntgpe.org

Training dates will be posted on our website once confirmed

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News in Brief

New Resource Laptop Presented to Danila Dilba Medical Centre as part of their 20 year Celebrations

Danila Dilba Medical Centre received their new resource laptop from NTGPE this week in conjunction with their 20 year celebrations. This laptop is one of 33 currently being handed to remote and rural clinics as the result of a successful funding application to AGPT (via GPET) to provide clinics with a useful teaching and learning tool.

The laptop will be used to provide support to supervisors and doctors in training with the latest clinic e-books, ready access to online clinical teaching and learning materials.



Danila Dilba's Kane Ellis receives the new resource laptop from NTGPE representative Wendy McCallum

NTGPE staff are visiting clinics to personally deliver the laptop and provide an orientation to the hardware, software and e-tools it contains. Deliveries will continue throughout November and December.

National appointments to the RACGP Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

RACGP is committed to raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs and has formed the RACGP National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

The faculty board oversees a number of education and advocacy initiatives and two NTGPE staff members have joined to lend their support:

- ◆ Medical Education Consultant Dr Hung the Nguyen is now Censor for the faculty
- ◆ NTGPE Director Medical and Cultural Education Dr Tamsin Cockayne has joined as the new NT Board Member.

Those interested in joining the faculty should visit www.racgp.org.au/aboriginalhealth/membership. Membership is free.

Simon and the GPettes Make Sweet Music

The only all GP band in Australia, The GPettes know how to achieve a great work/life balance by getting together to have fun and rock out the crowds, be it at a health conference dinner event or a public venue.

The band comprises an impressive 13 GPs who have all worked or trained in the NT, with Tamsin Cockayne, Sam Heard, Emma Kennedy, Anne Kleinitz, Richard Hosking currently working in the territory.

Keep a look out for them appearing at a venue near you!



My Time in the Sun

Dr Michael Ryan reflects on his amazing Prevocational Doctor placement in Oenpelli, West Arnhem Land, during July and August this year.



“Oenpelli - oh that’s beautiful country!”

Having arrived in Darwin for my three day orientation with NTGPE before heading out to my placement, this was the standard response I received when I told people I was going out to Oenpelli, in West Arnhem Land. Coming from the beautiful green countryside of Ireland I was dubious about how beautiful the landscape could be in comparison, but I am now in no doubt as to why everyone told me this, because Oenpelli is just as they say.



Michael’s bird’s eye view of a meandering Kakadu river

Oenpelli is located about 15km into West Arnhem Land, just over the East Alligator river on the north eastern border of Kakadu National Park. It is inaccessible by land for 5-6 months of the year during the Wet Season, and one must have a permit and a vehicle that will cross the tidal East Alligator river to get there during the other six months.

It was at the start of the dry season that I was lucky enough to be placed at Oenpelli and I set off from Darwin on a four hour bus ride followed by a magnificent 20 minute light aircraft flight over the most sensational landscape imaginable. My breath was taken away by the lush green, waterlogged plains that I flew over, with wildlife teeming from every creek, waterfalls plunging side by side along the escarpment on every side.

Before arriving in Darwin I had no experience of the Northern Territory or of outback Australia at all. My view of Australia was the city living that I have been used to since I arrived in Melbourne a year ago after completing my intern year in Ireland. I had decided to apply for the NTGPE rotation without really knowing what I was getting myself in for, but I knew deep down that it would be an adventure of a lifetime and a chance to see part of the world that is completely unique. This expectation was certainly realised.

The orientation in Darwin was a very good introduction to life in a community. It was incredibly organised and gave me a great insight in to what to expect both culturally and professionally over the coming weeks. It is certainly an essential component of the programme and I thought it was done very well by NTGPE.

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The clinic in Oenpelli is larger than I had expected, and is very well run by a team of Remote Area Nurses, a single Aboriginal Health Worker, a Community Worker, a full-time GP, a clinic driver, and receptionist. For the first three weeks that I was there, there was also a GP registrar who had previously spent a year of her GP training working in the clinic.

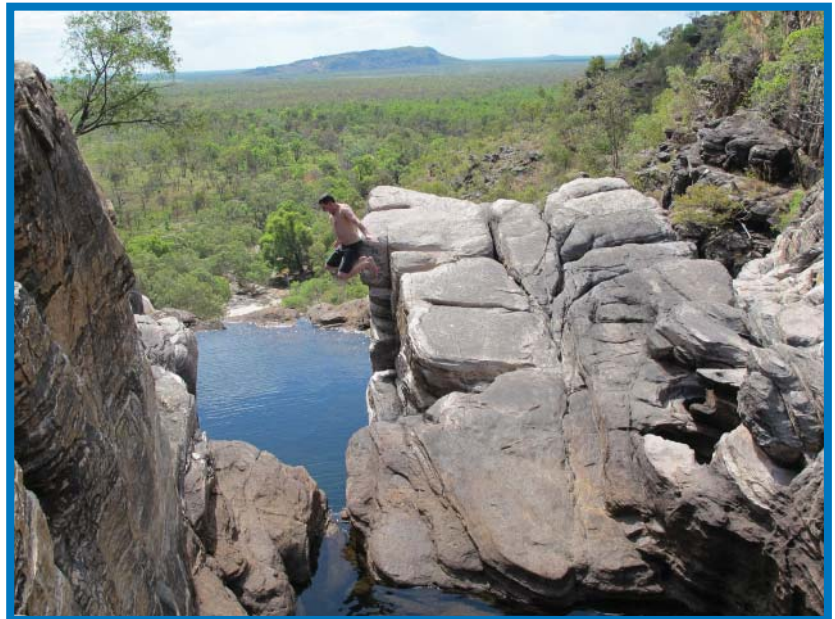
I was welcomed wholeheartedly by everyone and was shown around the clinic on my first afternoon. The clinic was in full swing and on my first afternoon I was accompanying two patients out to the airstrip to be evacuated by air to Darwin.

My role in the clinic became apparent over the coming days and I was always comfortable and felt supported in my duties, taking on more as I felt comfortable. I think everyone's fear is that they will be left completely unsupported in a strange place in which they have little experience of the culture or the language, but I can assure people that this is not the case.

I enjoyed the autonomy of seeing my own patients in the GP setting, working them up from the start, and trying to make a difference, however small and seemingly insignificant. This is a far cry from the hospital setting where HMOs are largely left to carry out treatment plans as formulated by senior colleagues. This gave me a huge amount of confidence in my own ability, and in a way confirmed to me again why I chose this career pathway. I began to get used to the responsibility of managing often very poorly controlled chronic disease, prescribing and trying to communicate the importance of taking control of one's own

health. I also tended to play a significant role in managing more serious emergencies, stabilizing patients while urgent transfer could be arranged. I also very much enjoyed the paediatric presentations and my previous rotation in paediatrics certainly helped in that regard. I worked closely with the Aboriginal Health worker, doctor and remote area nurses, and when we were still not sure, there was always the option of communicating with a specialist in Darwin.

The range of presentations coming in to the clinic is truly amazing and I treated advanced pathology that I have not encountered before. In the remote setting, it is often a case of doing the best you can with the tools that you have. It is important to be able to adapt to each different scenario, and to manage everything on its own individual merits. Often, an illness that might be managed in hospital in Melbourne will be managed in this small clinic, using the limited instruments and resources available, in line with the cultural expectations and consent of the patient. In this regard, it brought me to question and to reassess how I feel about how resources are spent in hospitals and how healthcare is delivered in the advanced technological world, where



Enjoying the beauty and diversity of the Top End

people have a very different values and expectations about their healthcare.

My favourite part of my working experience were my trips to the Outstations. The outstations are small communities outside of the main town of Oenpelli. I was lucky enough to travel up to the Cobourg Peninsula, a huge national park where only a handful of people live. We set up our clinic on a makeshift table (an old bed with a sheet of wood across the top) on the sand in front of the two houses where two families live. We saw all 20 or so of the inhabitants, delivering

fail to mention the amazing wildlife, that is abundant right across the Top End, the countless birds and the celebrated crocodile! My camera is full of pictures of all these things, as well as the unforgettable sunsets that are free to view every evening.

Coming home to Melbourne has been a welcome change, but I have not forgotten about my experience. I plan to do the GP training in Victoria, in the rural setting, but my appetite has been whetted to return to a remote setting and do at least part of my training there. It has opened my eyes to

It has opened my eyes to a different part of Australia that I am sure most people have not seen, broadened my opinions and brought in to question my lifestyle choices and career options.

medications, doing chronic disease check-ups as well as dealing with any acute problems. On another trip, I travelled with a school screening group from Darwin and saw all the kids in two small communities, carrying out age-specific check-ups. We camped under the stars and cooked on the open fire in a truly remarkable setting.

Of course, it was not all work and no play! I was lucky to meet a wide variety of people both through the clinic and outside, and quickly found myself integrating in to Northern Territory style life. My first weekend I found myself climbing up to waterfalls, and I learnt fishing and hunting skills also that do not fit in to my average weekend in Melbourne! I also managed to go Darwin for a couple of weekends, as well as frequent trips in to Kakadu National Park where I managed to visit Jim Jim and Twin Falls, as well as spectacular evening tours around Yellow Waters Wetlands. I could not

a different part of Australia that I am sure most people have not seen, broadened my opinions, and brought in to question my lifestyle choices and career options.

I am very grateful to NTGPE for providing me with this opportunity, and I would wholeheartedly recommend this to any prevocational doctor, whether or not they have an interest in doing general practice.



Michael captures another stunning outback sunset on his camera

Challenge, Adventure, Opportunity, Diversity

GPET Conference, 6 - 9 September 2011, Sydney

NTGPE was well represented at the 2011 GPET 'Measures of Success' Conference in Canberra in September, with 18 NTGPE delegates in attendance.

The conference events commenced the evening before with The Great Debate - In GP Training, Size Does Matter, with NTGPE Executive Director Dr Michael Wilson as a speaker for the negative.



With this year's conference theme being Measures of Success, six NTGPE staff presented a total of eight abstracts and workshops on a variety of topics including the importance of cultural orientation for doctors in

training prior to their placements in the community.



NTGPE Cultural Educator Kevin Parriman explaining the basics of the Aboriginal kinship system

The conference was considered a resounding success in terms of knowledge imparted and knowledge gained.



Delegates enjoying bush tucker jams during an NTGPE cultural awareness workshop

GPR Conference, 2 - 4 November, Alice Springs

NTGPE's November 2011 GPR Conference provided an informative and educational program with opportunities to relax in the evenings and catch up with the network of GP registrars, medical practitioners, specialists and NTGPE staff.

The program included topical areas for the Northern Territory, presented by specialists in their field. Dr Anuja Kulatunga and Dr Jen Dilema delivered a session on Sexual Health, Dr Tim Henderson

gave a session on Ophthalmology, Mr Andrew Took, National Manager - Medico-Legal Advisory Services from Avant Law Pty Ltd delivered a session on Medical Defence, NTGPE Medical Educators provided sessions on Procedural Skills and Mock Exams, and Dr Christine Lesnikowski and NTGPE cultural educators delivered a module on Indigenous Health Training.

For more information on the GPR training program, contact Christine Heatherington-Tait, Program Coordinator GP Registrars, 8946 6748 E: christine.heatherington-tait@ntgpe.org

practical sessions during the GPR Conference



GP Trainers Professional Development Program 2011

The topic for 2011 GP Trainers Roadshow is 'Teaching the Professional & Ethical Domain', followed by a relaxed dinner get together.

UPCOMING GP TRAINER EVENTS	
Katherine Roadshow	Wed 16 Nov
Darwin Roadshow	Fri 18 Nov (pm)
Trainer Orientation Darwin/Alice Springs	Wed 7 Dec

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

DPP Cross Cultural Training Program

NTGPE has been selected by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutors to provide cultural awareness training to Prosecutors and members of the DPP's Witness Assistance Service. NTGPE will deliver the training to staff in Darwin and Alice Springs over the next 12 months. The training will provide DPP staff with cultural awareness training and advice on engaging with and interviewing Aboriginal people involved in investigations.

Australian General Practice Training

Applications will open on 8 November for the second intake of the 2012 AGPT program, for doctors who wish to specialise in a career in general practice and/or rural and remote medicine.

What is AGPT?

AGPT is a vocational training program delivered regionally across Australia. Training is undertaken in hospitals, urban and rural practices, and provides opportunities for a variety of learning experiences under quality supervision. Financial incentives are available for eligible registrars. Successful completion of the AGPT program leads to Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and/or the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Applications will be welcomed from new and current 2012 AGPT applicants.

How to Apply

Visit www.agpt.com.au to obtain the AGPT Applicant Guide 2012 and begin your online application from 8 November.

For Further Information

Email: selection@gpet.com.au or phone AGPT Selection on 02 6263 6776.

Doctors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin are encouraged to apply.

Applications

Open 8 November and close 9:00am AEDT Monday 21 November.

New NTGPE Staff

John Togno has joined NTGPE as Medical Educator – he has vast experience in Medical Education from Victoria and will be joining us this month to work on a number of projects. He has a particular interest in elearning and the interface between IT and medical education so will be focusing on this area, beginning with a review of our current elearning tools.

Amalie Andropov is starting as Practice Liaison Officer. This is a new position taking on the old Training Liaison Officer role (previously done by Nigel Gray), but now revamped in recognition of the importance of the whole practice team in the supervision and teaching of our medical students, prevocational doctors and registrars. She will be helping improve the communication between practices and NTGPE.

NTGPE Staff Contact List

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Calendar of Events 2011 / 2012

NTGPE Events

When	What	Where
2-4 November 11	GP Registrar Conference	Alice Springs
16 November 11	GP Trainer Roadshow	Katherine
18 November 11 (pm)	GP Trainer Roadshow	Darwin
7 December 11	GP Trainer Orientation	TBC (Darwin/Alice Spr)
30 - 31 March 12	Health Professionals Teaching & Learning Conference	Alice Springs
March and May 2012	Medical Simulation Training	Darwin

Partner Organisation Events

When	What	Where
6-9 November 2011	Prevoc ME Forum	Auckland, NZ

For further information please contact NTGPE email 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
7-9 Sept:	GPET Conference, Canberra
6-8 Oct:	RACGP Conference - GP11, Hobart
22-23 Oct:	AIDA Symposium, Broome
28-30 Oct:	RMA/ACRRM Conference, Alice Springs
6-9 Nov:	Prevoc. ME Forum, Auckland, New Zealand

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Wendy McCallum

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