

STURT FLEURIEU NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2007

We are already 4 weeks into the registrar training year and so far it seems things are generally progressing well with a few teething problems as expected. We hope supervisors and registrars and other practice staff members have been taking the opportunity to get to know each other and understand backgrounds and expectations. We also expect that basic term registrars have been taking the chance to really start strongly on their GP-Start modules and have been sharing their key clinical activities with their supervisors.

Remember GP-Start is not designed to limit knowledge but as a base from which to expand knowledge (for both registrars and supervisors). Please do not feel restrained or confined by the topics.

PRACTICE MANAGER MEETING 16/02/2007

As flagged in the last newsletter the annual meeting of Sturt Fleurieu practice managers was held on Friday 16th Feb and on this occasion the venue was Monarto Zoo Conference Centre. This interesting venue was challenged by the severe heat of the day as were all those present. Nevertheless it was an interesting day and a chance for PMs to catch up and compare notes (and of course to compare registrars and supervisors).

We were pleased to welcome 2 practice managers new to Sturt Fleurieu Mark Foster from Hyde & Partners at Gawler and Sandra Merx from Kapunda.

We were also delighted that the following were able to attend representing 3 of our divisional partners: Ian Dobbie from the Barossa Division, Dawn Gunn from Murray-Mallee and Dianne Millard from Adelaide Hills. We are always keen to increase our ties with divisions and are grateful that these busy people were able to take the time to attend and contribute as they did.

The formal program consisted of a brief SF program overview from Bruce Mugford, followed by some detail from Peter Clements about progress and feedback from registrars, supervisors and PMs about GP-Start, GP Advanced and Pro-Start Anaesthetics and an introduction to new clinical attachments such as Diabetes at Noarlunga and sexual abuse and domestic violence at Yarrow Place as well as updating the group about the dermatology attachments at Flinders Medical Centre Dermatology OPD.

The group split into 2 with one receiving details of new claim forms. This generated much discussion and seemed to be well received by PMs. The other "half" gave feedback to us about registrars generally and Sturt Fleurieu's role.

The afternoon involved a quiz which proved revealing. Those scoring >8/20 were allowed to leave. The bulk may still be at Monarto!

More seriously small group work enabled a discussion about how to deal with difficult registrar situations and this proved lively and informative with many worthwhile suggestions being offered by the group.

A number of other issues were addressed throughout the day and several pearls of wisdom were offered. We feel sure there are many others on offer but will attempt to elicit these over time.

Thanks to all who attended. Evaluation forms have now been sent out.

Further thoughts:

Accept that some days you are the pigeon, and some days you are the statue.

REGISTRAR RELEASE DAYS

The next educational release days for basic and advanced registrars will be held on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd March at the Weintal in Tanunda. Presenters on day 1 morning will be Dr Simon Carney an ENT specialist who will present on ENT issues in general practice and will be given by Danny Byrne, one of our very experienced medical educators, on cancer screening.

The afternoon will see Dr Lesley Shorne from Yarrow Place and Tracey Sloan from WCH talking on sexual abuse and domestic violence with particular emphasis on adult survivors of childhood abuse, something which many of us will recognise sadly as being astonishingly common for general practitioners to be confronted with. The final session will see Dr Ray Goodwin, who is a GP at Angaston, present on mental health issues in general practice and case scenarios will be used to illustrate many of the issues raised. Ray will be helped by Sturt Fleurieu regional medical educators.

The following day will be devoted to registrar well being and self care. This will again be presented by 2 well known psychologists, Maria Gardiner and Hugh Kearns who are experts in this area. They presented this workshop to our registrars last year and it was received very well by all.

Accommodation will be provided at the Weintal for those registrars requiring it and during dinner there will be a fun and educational session presented by another of our medical educators Dr Anke Doley.

Office Wisdom:

Process and Procedure are the last hiding place of people without the wit and wisdom to do their job properly.

SUPERVISOR WORKSHOP

The next supervisor workshop will also be held at the Weintal with dinner and accommodation and we hope for a very large attendance. These are always good days and supervisors get the chance to mix and swap stories.

The initial part of the 1st day (23rd March) will be some fun activities followed by a session on learning styles and how this relates to different teaching possibilities. This will be run by Ian McCombe and Peter Clements and all attending supervisors will have had the chance to complete a KOLB learning style inventory/questionnaire on line prior to the day and to receive their results for group discussion.

The evening will be some fellowship and a presentation by a local winemaker which we hope will be interesting and informative.

The bulk of the workshop will be held the following day and will be largely small group work to look at ways of approaching difficult registrar situations, the use of video recording in practice for teaching and learning, ways to get best value out of GP-Start and GP-Advanced and a few teaching tips.

We are very interested in teaching “pearls of wisdom” so ask that our attending supervisors come prepared to share. Other activities will be developed.

We very much look forward to seeing all our supervisors there. Underline it in the calendar and see if you can get there as early as possible for a game of golf (or other thoughts are welcomed) before the program begins in earnest at 3 pm on Friday 23rd March.

REGIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATORS

Our 4 RMEs met with Sturt Fleurieu at our city offices on 14th February and presented their 2006 programs, outlining what went well and would be repeated and what was less successful and would be either heavily modified or abandoned. It was interesting to see the amount of good work which had been done and excellent for RMEs to share ideas and consider ways of pooling resources.

Program plans for 2007 were presented and as expected this is much advanced on the same stage last year when the concept was quite embryonic.

We are grateful to our RMEs for their hard work and innovative ideas and look forward to an exciting year with them in 2007. Program dates are largely organised although occasional variations may be required.

We ask PMs and supervisors to lock these dates in and, of course, registrars are expected to attend. Occasionally we get registrar feedback indicating they are “booked out” and so cannot attend. ***This is a reminder to all that the registrar priority at this stage is to the training and they are expected to attend all events or for part timers to attend them on a pro-rata basis.***

SIMULATION IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

A reminder that the simulation program commences soon and that this is a mandatory component of the registrar training program at Sturt Fleurieu. Each registrar attends 2 full days in simulation at Flinders and these dates have been set and should be known by all. They are a great learning opportunity for registrars and the feedback is almost universally very positive and encouraging to us.

GP-Start SUPERVISOR “SIGN-OFF”

There has been some slight and isolated confusion amongst supervisors about the “missing” form for supervisor assessment of a registrar’s GP-Start key clinical activities. Please remember that this year it is all to be done on line through the gp-start website www.gpstart.com.au . If you have problems, please contact Kimberley Martinsen or Peter Clements if your registrar is not able to answer the question.

STAFF PROFILE

Ken Redford

Joined Sturt Fleurieu in January 2003.

Prior to this, I worked for CSIRO (29 years) in a number of different locations including Melbourne, Perth and Canberra.

Between January 1999 and October 2002 I worked with a government funded organisation known as the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing.

My background is in management, finance and business development.

I live in Victor Harbor where we have recently built a house. Some of my interests include traveling (recently been to Canada (2005) and will be shortly heading off to New Zealand (no jokes)), collecting and drinking wine (probably more drinking). I have continued to maintain a strong interest in most sports and more recently become involved in number of heritage projects and community activities in Victor.

*Final thought for the day:
Never do today that which will become someone else's
responsibility tomorrow.*