

Sturt Fleurieu Newsletter January 2007

Seasons Greetings to all and we hope you had a wonderful Christmas and that 2007 will be a year to remember for all the right reasons. Many of you will have managed a break while some will have been on duty over this time. We hope you were not too busy and still had the chance to spend quality time with your families and friends.

First Semester 2007

The 1st semester begins on 31/01 with a 2 day *Sturt Fleurieu Orientation* program and we attach the program. Registrars will be orientated to the program overall with particular emphasis on GP-Start and its requirements. They will be introduced to our staff and their roles and in particular will meet all the regional medical educators and the supervisor and registrar liaison officers. Each small group will meet their RME and begin planning the mini-release programs which commence early in the term. A number of presentations will be given by experienced supervisors as well as Katrina Allen on prescribing the OCP and representatives of SADI and RDWA to explain their role and function at this early stage of the registrar career. Importantly a full session will be devoted to the use of Medical Director. This is a vital session even for those registrars whose practices have changed to another computerised medical record system. Registrars will start at their new practices on Friday 02/02 unless other arrangements have been agreed to. The first 3 days is dedicated as *practice orientation* and practices are reminded that this is not a time for registrars to be seeing numbers of patients. GP-Start indicates the sorts of activities which are recommended. It is a chance for registrars to spend time with practice staff, practice manager and medical staff and to sit and observe supervisors consulting as well as being observed by supervisors. It is expected that the early modules of GP-Start should be completed in this time.

Please remember that most information you require as registrars, supervisors and practice managers is available on the Sturt Fleurieu website www.sfgpet.com.au

Learning Plans

A learning plan should be developed by each registrar at the commencement of each semester. This should be done in conjunction with the supervisors at your practice and submitted to Sturt Fleurieu. This is a mandatory component of the training program and registrars are encouraged to make these plans relevant and useful.

Riverland Orientation Meeting

On the evening of 16th January a meeting was held at the Renmark Country Club for supervisors and practice managers and a presentation given by *Peter Clements, Ken Redford and Kimberley Martinsen* about the expectations for the new group of registrars and some advice on how to approach them and particularly an orientation to the requirements of GP-Start given that 5 of the 6 registrars starting in the Riverland will be doing their basic term. This is an important year and the first time each Riverland town has had a registrar at the same time. It is an exciting opportunity for the region and one which we hope will be successful, thereby encouraging more registrars to the Riverland in the future. The meeting was well attended with representatives of all practices present as well as *Donna Lehmann* from the *Riverland Division* who agreed to present to the meeting on how the division is

intending to help registrars and practices tackle many of the issues which have caused difficulties in the past. The important role of the division was further emphasised by its new chair **Dr Grant Baker**. Thanks to **Marilyn Hahn and Aspasia Papazaharias** for sharing their practices' experiences with GP-Start in 2006. We were most appreciative of the opportunity to get together with all of you and we believe the evening was a great success. Perhaps these events should happen more often and in more areas.

Practice Managers Meeting

We can confirm that the practice managers meeting will be held on Friday 16th February at Monarto. This unusual venue should prove very interesting although we can't yet confirm feeding times for PMs. We are trying to arrange a short tour at the end of the meeting. Please put this in your calendars and bring along your queries, concerns, thoughts etc. It is always informative and we think good fun, so we are again looking forward to this day.

Supervisor Workshop # 1

The first workshop for the year is to be held over 2 days on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 March at the Weintal in Tanunda. This is a busy time of the year in Adelaide with many events meaning venue bookings are heavy. The Weintal looks a good venue and has adequate accommodation. We hope to have some serious work done with teaching tips but we also expect some relaxation and fun and importantly the chance for supervisors to share ideas on clinical medicine, registrar management, teaching and life generally. There will be no paper plane building this time but watch out for a replacement activity.

Calendars

Sturt Fleurieu calendars are now available to help with year planning and contain the majority of events and dates which will impact on practices for the year. Still to be finalised are mini release dates but these are very close to completion as are GP-Advanced meeting dates. We have tried very hard to avoid school holidays and short weeks but inevitably there will be some clashes. The Riverland group has a clash already with simulation dates and this will be changed. If anyone requires calendars can they contact Taya Peek either by telephone 85365000 or email taya.peek@sfgpet.com.au

Diabetes Attachment

The first registrar to take up the offer of an attachment at Noarlunga at their diabetes clinic has now completed that attachment. Romany Topsfield did this under the supervision of Dr Steve Stranks and Dr David Mills and the attachment was each Monday morning for 11 weeks. Romany has written a piece about her experience and the value of the attachment which follows:

I am happy to recommend the diabetes clinic as I found it so worthwhile. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn through "hands on" experience in a very supportive environment. Both Dr Stranks and Dr Mills were fantastic teachers and role-models and were

always happy to advise, assist and inform. The clinical work was extremely relevant to general practice, and presentations covered the full gambit from newly diagnosed, diet controlled diabetics, through to the elderly patients requiring insulin and the challenging extremely obese and insulin resistant patients with multiple comorbidities. I now feel much more comfortable introducing and managing glitazones and insulin in these patients, something I would not have done previously. I also feel that I am able to provide more thorough and relevant wholistic care to all my diabetic patients."

Romany Topsfield

Nicole Kerr will be beginning the attachment in February. There will be a further 4 diabetes attachments in 2007. The first begins on February 5 and will be attended by subsequent term registrar Nicole Kerr. The remaining 3 attachments will start on the following dates (each running for 11 weeks). Expressions of interest to attend these sessions are now being sought from Subsequent term registrars. Please contact Kimberley Martinsen (Kimberley.martinsen@sfgpet.com.au) to register your interest.

Dates are: 30 April – 9 July
 23 July – 1 October
 15 October – 24 December

Where is the CEO?

Bruce Mugford and family have been out of country for the past week or so in the beautiful setting of Beaver Creek near Vail, Colorado. We wonder if there is a conference there? Apparently while Adelaide sweltered in 40 degree heat, Bruce and Annabel have had to contend with -40°C. "Leave it to Beaver" we say! We look forward to the return of Bruce and to a mountain of snow stories and I guess just stories about anything. Next newsletter may be dominated by the Beaver.

Ian McCombe

Ian who you will recall is a medical educator at Sturt Fleurieu and a GP at Victor Medical Centre (along with his wife *Cherie Price*) has been doing a course for Medical Educators in Boston, Mass. at Harvard called the Program for Educators in the Health Profession. We look forward to hearing from Ian soon about his experiences on this high powered course which we have supported him to undertake as part of his professional development. This same course was done also a couple of years ago by *Mark Miller* and prior to that by our CEO. We expect Ian will have some further ideas about how to improve our educational program and he will update us on this through the next newsletter.

GP-Start Website

The new GP-Start website (www.gpstart.com.au) is being launched and will be ready for use by the start of the new semester. This will be the site where supervisors will provide assessments of their registrars' work on GP-Start and it is important that they are familiar with how to use it. In each supervisors' GP-Start manual is a section on how to use this and it is important that supervisors and practice managers take time become familiar with the process. It is certainly not a difficult "ask" but some old timers (like our Director of Training) may take a while to get used to actually going to

the site at all. New registrars are being orientated and there will be follow-up by our RMEs a few weeks into the term to check progress and help with problem solving if necessary.

Cases on the website – GP-Advanced

Our registrars who have for the past 6 months been doing their GP-Advanced work have all posted the required 6 cases to the website using the proforma which Sturt Fleurieu developed some years ago. Part of GP-Advanced has been for registrars to develop 2 or 3 questions (Key Features Problems) about the case or a related case and to produce the question in FRACGP exam format as well as do the appropriate research and provide answers. The cases are moderated by Peter Clements who tells us that the standard of cases and questions has been exceptional. Congratulations to all on a really top job. There is now a large pool of cases available for exam revision and more importantly a developing number of exam questions written by registrars for registrars. This is an outstanding exam resource. *Check it out.*

BRANCHING OUT

