

An Australian Government Initiative

Rural Pathways to Post-Graduate Medical Training

WAGGA WAGGA
GRIFFITH
RIVERINA



We can:

- Give you the information you need about rural medical training pathways
- Help navigate a rural medical training pathway for your career
- Connect you to career advice from rural specialists

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**RURAL STUDY RURAL TRAINING
RURAL CAREER**

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TRAINING HUB'S NIMBLE RESPONSE

We held our breath, but it worked...from face to face to virtual workshoping!

Like so many organisations during the pandemic, the Riverina Regional Training Hub (RRTH) has significantly altered the way it has been providing support to medical students, junior doctors, their supervisors and mentors during the last couple of months.

The first weekend in May, Wagga Wagga and our region, was to have hosted medical students and junior doctors from across the state and interstate to provide information to them about rural medical training and careers in NSW. This was quickly switched to an on-line event. Over eighty students and junior doctors from around Australia registered to attend virtually. Medical students were welcomed from eight different universities and junior doctors from regional NSW hospitals. This seminar, held in collaboration with the NSW Rural Doctors Network and other organisations including NSW Health (HETI), GP Synergy and AdvanceMed, provided information on applying for training positions in hospitals around NSW, particularly regional Hospitals. Senior clinicians and staff from the Australian College and Rural and Remote Medicine, the Royal Australian College of GPs and Murrumbidgee Local Health District shared their experiences as rural doctors. In a first for the region an independent medical careers advisor provided advice on preparing applications for jobs in medicine and undertaking interviews. The full feedback from those who attended is being evaluated but initially the results indicate that it appears to have been most successful in helping these young doctors and students in understanding their future rural career options.

On a separate and important local initiative when every bit helps, a small local team has been involved in the development and printing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for use by frontline health care workers (HCW). The RRTH 3D printer instead of producing anatomical models for teaching has been used temporarily to produce PPE. Dr Digby Allen, a junior doctor from Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and Ms Indianna Chant a year five medical student from the UNSW Rural Clinical School also here in Wagga Wagga have volunteered their time. Their persistence with problem solving has enabled a small but welcome contribution to ameliorating the local impact of COVID-19 on local health care workers.

Staff wearing face masks for long periods were finding them very uncomfortable. The solution has been to print a toggle (that suits all head sizes) to which the elastic earpieces can be attached and which sit across the back of the head. This has taken a bit of trial and error but to date just under 200 toggles have been produced and are in use locally. Production continues so that these can be shared further.

As well as producing toggles, work continues toward making headbands to hold face shields. This has been a more challenging project ensuring face foils fit to headbands and we continue to work on producing this PPE at a time when every bit helps! ■

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