

## Newsletter 1. 2020

# Riverina Regional Training Hub

### WELCOME ALL TO 2020!

It has been a while since we last provided you with an update so in proper New Year style we are resolved to remedy this! Hopefully you have seen brief news items from us in the MLHD the quarterly Murrumbidgee Matters magazine which you can also find on our webpage.

Regional Training Hubs (RTH) are part of the Integrated Rural Training Pipeline for Medicine (IRTP). This national program is now over two years old. The Riverina Regional Training Hub (RRTH), an integral part of the University of Notre Dame (UNDA) Rural Clinical School, continues to build on the rural training network established through the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training (RHMT)

The aim of the RRTH is to contribute to improved regional health care by increasing support of and training opportunities for, medical students and junior doctors in the Riverina and regional/rural Australia.

The Riverina Rural Training Hub Clinical Leadership team includes:

Prof Michael Brydon	Clinical Director
Dr Emmanuel Jeyarajah	Emergency Medicine Griffith
Dr Barbara Cameron	General Practitioner Gundagai
Dr Igor Lemech	Anaesthetic Consultant Wagga Wagga
Dr Andrew Thompson	General Surgeon Wagga Wagga
Dr Stephen Wood	Director EM Wagga Wagga

Any of these team members would be pleased share information about the RRTH.

### LOOKING BACK

It is rewarding to reflect upon last year which seemed to pass so quickly. We continued explaining the advocacy, bridging and brokering role of the Regional Training Hubs program. We reached out to medical students and junior doctors at 29 events and conferences. The participants ranged from high school students, Pre-Med and medical students, to junior doctors and members of Specialist Colleges.

Teaching on the Run Workshop participants  
More workshops coming in 2020



## Upcoming Events

**Regional Integrated Workforce  
Management Tool User Workshop**  
Mid Feb 2020

**Rural Career Support Workshop**  
2-3 May with NSW RDN & MLHD  
**Medical Students & trainee doctors**

**Teaching On the Run (TOTR)**  
Supporting local clinical teachers &  
supervisors.

## Announcement

**Among the core requirements of Riverina Regional Training Hub (RRTH)** are identifying university-level medical students and junior doctors with an interest in rural practice, and providing them with support including assistance with career planning, placement opportunities and access to mentoring and also to identify areas of regional medical workforce need within their catchment area, and work to build medical training capacity in these areas.

To this end the RRTH in 2020 is able to provide some support to medical students and junior doctors to attend approved conferences that support their continuing professional development. Further information may be found on the [RRTH webpage](#).

We welcomed our new Hub Clinical Director, Prof Michael Brydon in August. Michael is also the new Dean of the Notre Dame School of Medicine, Sydney Rural Clinical School. Prof Brydon replaced Dr Joe McGirr, now the state member for Wagga Wagga.

The RRTH and the USYD RTHs launched a podcast series in November 2019. **Destination Medicine**® has been developed for high school students, medical students and trainee doctors, anyone in fact interested in rural medicine. The podcasts share young rural doctors' stories, telling the sometimes funny, often inspiring tales of how they have come to be living and working where they are. There are eight stories in the first series all wonderful listening [Click here to hear!](#)

**Workshops** to support regional supervisors included Teaching on the Run, ALS2 Instructor training, Clinical Complexities & Self-care and Core Emergency Medicine Ultrasound.



Dr Theresa Pitt – rural paediatrician and one of the local stars of the **Destination Medicine**® podcast series

The **Regional Health Training & Education Calendar** was launched at the beginning of 2018. With our regional stakeholders we are aiming to capture all training particular to the Riverina Murrumbidgee area in one convenient place. The Resident doctors at Wagga Wagga Hospital already have a link to it in their on-line Resident Doctor app. The calendar is a multi-discipline tool. Like to add your workshop or event or want the App – contact the calendar' administrators on [RRTHenquiries@nd.edu.au](mailto:RRTHenquiries@nd.edu.au)

## 2020 VISION

A second **Destination Medicine** podcast series commencing in February will feature Dr Sean Hogan, who was dragged “kicking and screaming” to regional NSW. To his surprise he has followed rural study and training with a career in rural Psychiatry.

In the last quarter of 2019 the RRTH began to work closely with the MLHD and other rural health partners to increase the number of **short term placements** available for medical students not already based here. This has led in the last four months to an additional seventeen placements in hospitals and general practices. As a senior MLHD staff member said this week welcoming a med student and student midwife “a great recruitment opportunity”.

Twenty eight new junior doctors started at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital on 20 January. The RRTH time introduced the national Regional Training Hub program, the two local RTH and briefly explaining our role. We are excited to be supporting these new rural doctors through both their Residents Medical Officer Association (RMOA) and individually to find their own pathways in rural medicine. At the Notre Dame Rural Clinical we welcomed eight third year medical students, three of whom have moved with their families. They join eight fourth year students already at the RCS for 2020.

## STAY IN TOUCH



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