

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Riverina Regional Training Hub (RRTH) aims to support rural and regional study, training and careers in medicine as part of the RHMT program. A wide brief that allows us to respond geographically in these areas in consultation and collaboration with our stakeholders on a local, regional, state and national level. We collaborate with and support a wide range of groups.

High schools

- During 2023 UNDA & the RRTH have collaborated with the Country Universities Centre (CUC) Western Riverina developing a new program to reach the parents of potential first in families high school students to encourage them to enrol in university, in our case in medicine or at least health. This collaboration is through the EARUCP Sub Project
- Stall holder for Griffith High School students careers event in collaboration with CUC

At both the above events we were able to introduce the Destination Medicine® Podcast as a resource for students and career counsellors as well as the CWRTH (USYD) developed *Maybe Medicine* booklet. The RRTH also

- Prepared of DM® flyer shell for distribution to school careers advisors. Shell can be adapted to reflect local stories
- Provision of information about applying for medicine to individual students

Medical Students

- RRTH is part of the UNDA RCS annual Rural Immersion and Indigenous Trip. Every Year 1 student spends time being introduced to rural and regional doctors, indigenous and rural health. This event is conducted at our Lithgow NSW RCS campus. RDN also collaborates with us on this program. This will grow from the current 130 students to 160 in 2024.
- Ecumenical support for medical students from outside the RRTH footprint to successfully apply for electives in both our Base Hospitals and in rural general practices in the region
- Collaboration with student health clubs from UNDA, UNSW and USYD and CNSW RTH to deliver annual Rural Health Symposium. The RRTH presented on the theme “Road to Rural Practice”, but also supported by identifying suitable rurally and regionally based speakers for the event
- Collaboration on behalf of NSW RTHs with NSW RDN for their annual Cadet Workshop weekend. in Tamworth



RDN Cadets Tamworth 2023

- Collaboration between NSW RTH and NSW RDN to deliver the annual Rural Medical Students Inspiration Day. This year ~100 students were supported to this event with most RTHs contributing in kind or donation to the cost of the day. The RRTH also provided 20 scholarships

for medical students to part pay for their attendance. UNDA had the highest number of student attendees at 20 students.

- Individual career planning and advice
- Involvement of medical, radiography and nursing students from various universities as patient volunteers in clinical workshops – great learning opportunity
- Collaboration to deliver annual Regional Preferential Recruitment information sessions with other NSW RTHs

At many of the above events we were able to highlight the resources developed by the RTHs including the DM@ Podcast and Regional Medical Training website

Medical Students and Junior Doctors

- Introduction of JMOs to Regional Training Hubs program and Riverina RTH during JMO Orientation
- Annual Rural Generalist Workshop and Showcase was held in Gundagai with support from local GPs and GP trainees, SES and Aboriginal community. This weekend workshop is held for medical students and junior students to support their interest in rural general practice. Always held in smaller rural towns showcasing both the town and the skills of local practitioners and, as possible, introducing local aboriginal community and sharing their experience. Limited to 25. Currently holding 33 Eols for 2024



Rural clinicians share their stories at 2023 RG Workshop & Showcase

Doctors in Training

- Annual Exam preparation workshops for candidates sitting critical care primary and final examinations. Focus on non-clinical aspects of preparedness and delivered by a psychologist
- Annual Difficult Airways (CICO) Workshop for junior doctors and doctors in training
- Anaesthetics Simulation Training (Pilot 2023) – series of workshops to upskill consultant and trainee anaesthetists using simulation lab
- Annual Core Emergency Medical Ultrasound – upskilling doctors in training, consultants, rural and regional and senior nurse practitioners in PoC Ultrasound focussing on Physics, AAA, EFAST, Vascular Access
- First MLHD region based Advanced Paediatric Life Support Workshop for paediatricians, doctors in training including in Emergency Medicine and rural and regional general practitioners. To be delivered every two years. Borrowing a leaf from CNSWRTH approach of “bringing CPD closer to home”
- Invigilating for ACRRM exam candidates

Supervisor support

- First MLHD region based Advanced Paediatric Life Support Workshop for paediatricians, doctors in training and rural and regional general practitioners. “Bringing CPD closer to home”



APLS Trainers and Trainees 2023

Training Pathways

- Discipline mapping to add to back end of Regional Medical Training website for training in the MLHD. Will develop into gap analysis for MLHD
- New training posts accredited
 - Advanced Training (AT) Post in General Surgery (Griffith)
 - Advanced Training Post in Nephrology (MLHD)
 - Advanced Training Post in Public Health (Lithgow)
 - Re-accredited Palliative Care (AST&ARST) with RACP Diploma in Palliative Medicine. Supported by FWNSW RTH to establish initially
- Training posts in the pipeline
 - Additional AT in Geriatric Medicine
 - New AT for Infectious Diseases Medicine

Workforce

- Initiated working group which includes NSW RDN and MLHD to collate, analyse and make accessible MLHD workforce data particularly in Emergency Medicine and GP VMO space to identify workforce issues rapidly. Development of new report using MLHD BI underway for MLHD Executive use
- During 2023 business cases prepared for Griffith Base Hospital to recruit
 - Orthopaedic Surgeon – commenced November 2023. Locally grown and trained
 - Additional Paediatrician – commencing early 2024
 - In pipeline – ENT VMO service
- In collaboration with local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities and the MLHD, UNDA continues to develop elements of a joint project in Cultural Fluency. This project which includes ethics approved research, aims to deliver better health outcomes for communities through education of emerging clinicians.

RRTH active membership

- MLHD Health Education and Training Advisory Committee and Clinical Education and Training Cultural Capability Working Group

- Destination Medicine editorial Committee with USYD RTHs
- Regional Medical Training Working group – one of NSW RTH member representatives
- Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct Alliance and Research and Innovation Working Group }
Workforce and Education } Currently interim joint working party
- MRTH^RRTH Collaboration – unlike any other RTHs, have the same footprint as MRTH
- NSW RTH Network (current Chair and Secretariat)
- Convened and hosted first national Regional Training Hubs forum since 2019.
- National Regional Training Hubs Steering Committee and prior to that the planning committee for the national Regional Training Hubs Forum
 - Contributed four abstracts for this forum, three presented and all in National RTH Toolbox
- STP Project in Climate Health SuSQI Advisory group
- Hubstars Project Officers group to support new RTH operational staff.