Information Statement for REGISTRARS for the Project:

Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT)

Using Longitudinal Patient Encounter Data to Enhance General Practice Training (2018.1)

**Researchers**: Conjoint Prof. Parker Magin1,2,Prof. Mieke van Driel3, Prof. Neil Spike4, Mrs Kim Pinkerton1,2,Ms Amanda Tapley1,2, Dr Andrew Davey1,2, Mr Nigel Catzikiris1,2, Ms Katie Mulquiney1,2, A/Prof. Joshua Davis2,5,6, Dr Rohan Kerr7, Dr Simon Morgan1, Dr Emma Pappalardo3, Ms Jasmine De Giovanni1, Mrs Debbie Quain1 and Ms Irena Patsan1,2

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You are invited to participate in the research project identified above. The research is being conducted by a team of researchers from GP Synergy, Eastern Victoria General Practice Training (EV GPT), General Practice Training Tasmania (GPTT), The School of Medicine & Public Health, University of Newcastle, Academic Discipline of General Practice, University of Queensland, the Menzies School of Health Research and John Hunter Hospital.

The project is currently being funded by a Commonwealth Department of Health Commissioned Research grant.

Why is the project being done?

Clinical in-practice encounters are the core learning activity of general practice training. Ideally, the content of your clinical experience as a GP registrar should be similar to that of Australian vocationally registered GPs. This reflects the content of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners’ (RACGP) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicines’ (ACRRM) standards, curricula and barrier assessments, and is important for the development of sound clinical reasoning skills.

However, in real life, the curriculum ‘walks through the door’, and exposure to different patient demographics and disease presentations may be highly variable from one registrar to another across training. This has a clear impact on the nature and quality of training.

The ReCEnT project aims to document the content and nature of Australian GP registrars’ clinical consultations over time. It will also capture information on educational factors. This information will be of great value in supporting both your individual learning, as well as informing GP Synergy’s education and training program overall. The study will also provide a platform for further research and audit activity by GP registrars.

Who can participate in the project?

We are seeking all eligible GP Synergy registrars to participate in this research project. You have been invited to participate in this project as you are currently enrolled as a GP registrar with GP Synergy.

What choice do you have?

There are two distinct elements to the ReCEnT project. The first is the education and quality assurance component of the project, which is a core requirement for training with GP Synergy. All eligible registrars will be required to participate in data collection on patient encounters and educational factors as part of our in-training assessment program, and for overall program evaluation and quality improvement.

The second element is the research component of the project, looking more broadly than registrar formative assessment and GP Synergy program evaluation. For example, we will be analysing the demographic associations of registrars’ ‘patterns of practice’ (such as prescription of a particular medication or referral to a particular form of allied health service). The incidence of encounters with particular diseases or the prevalence of particular managements in the practice of GP registrars will also be calculated. Some of these research questions may in the future be studied by registrars completing GP Synergy projects or academic registrar posts.

Participation in the research aspect of the project is entirely your choice. Only the data from those registrars who give their informed consent (by completing the consent form) will be available to the researchers for research purposes. Whether or not you decide to allow your data to be used for research purposes, your decision will not disadvantage you in any way. It will not affect any aspect of your training or relationships with GP Synergy or their Medical Educators, or affect your progress through the training program or the RACGP/ACRRM Fellowship examinations. One member of the research team, Simon Morgan is also a medical educator with GP Synergy but your participation or non-participation in the research component of the ReCEnT project will in no way affect your educational relationship with Dr Morgan. Professor Magin, Kim Pinkerton, Amanda Tapley, Katie Mulquiney, Andrew Davey, Debbie Quain and Irena Patsan are also employed by GP Synergy but are not part of the GP Synergy education team.

If you do decide to participate you may withdraw from the research component of the project at any time without giving a reason and have the option of withdrawing any data which identifies you.

What would you be asked to do?

If you agree to participate in the research component of the project, you will be asked to sign a consent form. In signing this form, you are consenting for the researchers to access for research purposes the data that is routinely collected as part of the GP Synergy educational program, that is, the patient encounter forms and associated questionnaires. The patient encounter forms and questionnaires are completed by you once **each** GP training term.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

The project will provide benefit to some registrars by providing a ready mechanism for registrars to undertake small research projects on a subject of interest, and support the development of research skills. This is particularly the case with registrars wishing to undertake Academic Extended Skills posts.

How will your privacy be protected?

For research purposes, any information you provide for this study will remain confidential to the research team and will only be accessible to the research team. Each registrar will be allocated a unique numerical code to protect their privacy, which will be used on all survey forms instead of names. Your de-identified information will be data entered at GP Synergy’s premises into a Heroku secure on-line international computer database which is run by a USA-based organisation. Please note that your information on the Heroku research database will be identified by your study ID number only - no information will be stored which allows individuals to be identified. The list linking your name and ID number will be stored separately in a password protected computer file at GP Synergy which is only accessible to the research team.

No information will be reported that allows individuals to be identified. Any access to these data for further research purposes (for example, by registrars undertaking small research projects as part of their educational program) will be restricted to de-identified data only. Encounter form data will be scanned and stored on the GP Synergy secure Cloud server for at least 5 years, and the hard copy forms will be securely destroyed.

Similarly, any personal information collected on your Registrar Characteristics Questionnaire form will remain confidential and accessible strictly to the research team. It will also be stored securely on the Heroku database. Your personal information will be protected as per GP Synergy’s Privacy Policy which is available on our website [www.gpsynergy.com.au](http://www.gpsynergy.com.au).

How will the information collected be used?

The information collected will be analysed and reported in articles, health journals, conferences presentations and newsletters. All study information will be reported as aggregated data and individual participants will not be identified in any reports arising from the project. Once each phase of the project is complete, the project team will provide a summary of the results to all participating registrars.

Non-identifiable data may also be shared with other parties to encourage scientific scrutiny, and to contribute to further research and public knowledge, or as required by law.

What do you need to do to participate?

Please read this Information Statement and be sure you understand it before you decide whether or not to participate. If there is anything you do not understand, or you have questions, contact the project team. If you would like to participate, please sign the consent form included and return it to the project team.

Further information

If you would like further information please contact Professor Parker Magin by phoning (02) 4910 0527. Thank you for considering this invitation.



Conjoint Prof. Parker Magin | Chief Investigator

**Complaints about this research**

This project has been approved by the University’s Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-.2009-0323. Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research Office, The Chancellery, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 49216333, email [Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au)