



The Royal Australian
College of General
Practitioners

The RACGP
Foundation

Invest in your future

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IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF ALL AUSTRALIANS DOESN'T HAPPEN BY CHANCE.

Australian general practitioners (GPs) are at the forefront of community health, providing over 125 million general practice consultations each year.

You may be aware of the role The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) plays in supporting GPs in their pursuit of clinical excellence, delivering advocacy, professional development, e-health and a range of products and supporting services.

You may, however, not be as aware of the RACGP's commitment to research through The RACGP Foundation.

Despite Australia enjoying one of the highest life expectancy and standards of healthcare on the planet, we run the risk of falling behind the rest of the world.

Natural disasters, non equitable access to care across the country, chronic diseases, complexity of medicines and their interaction, lifestyle changes, an ageing population and rising healthcare costs are placing strains on GPs' capacity to provide quality care.

The RACGP Foundation supports research in general practice, through the attraction and dissemination of funding for key projects, offering research grants, awards and scholarships which underpin the profession's commitment to continuous improvement.

In 2011, The RACGP Foundation invested just over \$100 000 in 24 research projects. While this represents a significant investment in our quest to support general practice, it represents less than one-tenth of a cent, per consultation.

We need to grow The RACGP Foundation and improve the ratio of research dollars donated per consultation and we need your help.

Your support of The RACGP Foundation will allow us to commission an even wider range of evidence based research, allowing GPs to make smarter, informed and practical decisions about patient health.

We ask you to please consider a tax deductible donation to The RACGP Foundation to help us reach our vision of a 'Healthy Profession. Healthy Australia', by using the included form to pledge your donation. All donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

Legacy

As an ongoing legacy, we would also be happy to talk to you about how easy it is to leave a bequest to The RACGP Foundation. Please register your interest on the attached form, and we will provide information for your consideration.



Zena Burgess

CEO – The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners



Every dollar
donated to The
RACGP Foundation
is used to directly
fund research
and projects.



RACGP/CONROD FELLOWSHIP

Each year in Australia more than 1500 Australians are killed on our roads and around 22 000 are seriously injured¹. With deaths in drivers aged 70 years and older increasing over the 4 years to 2008², Associate Professor Peter Schattner recognised the growing need for GPs to confidently be able to assess older patients' competence to drive.

To help understand what can be done to support GPs in this area, Associate Professor Peter Schattner was awarded The RACGP Foundation funded RACGP/CONROD Fellowship grant.

Here is a snapshot of Peter's work.

Associate Professor Peter Schattner



'To drive or not to drive – assessment dilemmas for general practitioners'.

The aims of the study were to:

- investigate how GPs recognise and manage elderly patients' fitness to drive
- examine GPs' attitudes and beliefs about their role as assessors of a patient's fitness to drive, including the barriers and facilitators to the assessment and management process
- assess GPs' experience in assessing patients and providing reports to driving authorities, and
- identify further educational needs of GPs in the field of driving competence in the elderly.

Utilising a qualitative mixed method design process, including a literature review, semi-structured interviews, focus group and questionnaires,

a comprehensive survey for GPs was developed and distributed to GPs from five divisions of general practice including rural and metropolitan Victoria.

With 62% of survey respondents agreeing that they should be the initial person to assess fitness to drive, 45% said that they were not comfortable with their ability to assess driving capacity.

With 74% percent of GPs indicating they would appreciate further education, the project went on to recommend ongoing postgraduate education and professional development for GPs in this area.

The production of a two page flyer from VicRoads, which will be sent to GPs, face-to-face discussions with representatives from VicRoads and the Monash University Accident and Research Centre and two articles for peer review were some of the outcomes of this important research.

In addition, the development of an RACGP special edition *check* program on driving assessments in general practice, due for publication in early 2012 and the successful presentation of the report findings at GP11 in Hobart, will allow GPs to benefit from this valuable research work long into the future.

1 The National Transport Commission and Austroads. *Assessing fitness to drive*, Sydney: Austroads Incorporated, 2006.

2 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. *Road Deaths Australia: 2008 Statistical Summary*. Canberra: Australian Government, 2009, p.43.



THE RACGP FOUNDATION DONATION FORM

Title First name

Surname

RACGP member Yes No Member no.

Address

Suburb State

Postcode Telephone

Email

I wish to donate to The RACGP Foundation

I wish to leave a bequest to The RACGP Foundation (please turn over)

Donation

Please indicate the level of your contribution:
(A receipt will automatically be sent to you)

I wish my financial contribution to be used to support:

RACGP/APHCRI Indigenous Health Awards

RACGP/Osteoporosis Bone Health Research Grant

Family Medical Care Education and Research

Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials

RACGP/Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation (CONROD)

To be used at the College's discretion on approved research and/or pilot studies

Cheque/Money order (made payable to RACGP)

Card type: Amex Visa MasterCard Expiry: /

Card number

Cardholder name (please print clearly)

Cardholder signature

Bequest

The RACGP Foundation also provides an opportunity for members to support the College through the provision of a memorial gift in their will through a:

- Bequest** (a bequest may be in the form of cash, securities or property)
- Endowment** (an investment fund established to provide interest income)
- Grant** (a specific donation to support an award or dedicated purpose)
- Other** _____

Please indicate the level of your contribution:
(A receipt will automatically be sent to you)

Please return via post or email to:

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
1 Palmerston Crescent, South Melbourne
Victoria 3205
Phone: 03 8699 0497
Email: foundation@racgp.org.au

Please call 1800 331 626 for more details on The RACGP Foundation and to find out how you can become involved.

**For more information
about the specific projects you
may wish to support please visit
www.racgp.org.au/foundation**



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