

Information Statement for REGISTRARS for the Project: Registrar Clinical Encounters in Training (ReCEnT)

Using Longitudinal Patient Encounter Data to Enhance General Practice Training
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Researchers: Conjoint Prof. Parker Magin^{1,2}, Emeritus Prof. Mieke van Driel³, Prof. Neil Spike^{4,5}, Ms Amanda Tapley^{1,2}, Dr Andrew Davey^{1,2}, Ms Katie Mulquiney^{1,2}, Prof. Joshua Davis^{2,6,7}, Prof. Liz Holliday², Dr Lisa Clarke¹, Dr Alison Fielding^{1,2}, Ms Irena Patsan^{1,2}, Ms Dominica Moad^{1,2}, Ms Anna Ralston^{1,2}, Mr Ben Mundy^{1,2}, Dr Alexandria Turner¹, Mr Jordan Tait^{1,2}, Dr Katie Fisher^{1,2}, Dr Michael Bentley¹, Dr David Runciman¹, Dr Angelo D'Amore^{1,5}, Mr Shaun Prentice^{1,8}, Dr Linda Klein^{1,2} and Dr Rebecca Stewart¹.

1. RACGP
2. School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle
3. General Practice Clinical Unit, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland
4. University of Melbourne
5. School of Rural Health, Monash University
6. Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin
7. John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle
8. School of Psychology, Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide

You are invited to participate in the research project identified above. The research is being conducted by a team of researchers from the RACGP, The School of Medicine & Public Health, University of Newcastle, General Practice Clinical Unit, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland, the Menzies School of Health Research and John Hunter Hospital.

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) 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 the RACGP's education and training program overall. The study will also provide a platform for further research activity by RACGP registrars.

Who can participate in the project?

We are seeking all eligible RACGP 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 RACGP.

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 RACGP. All eligible registrars will be

required to participate in data collection on patient encounters and educational factors as part of an 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 RACGP 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 RACGP 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 RACGP or their Medical Educators, or affect your progress through the training program or the RACGP Fellowship examinations. Dr Lisa Clarke, Regional Director of Training – Medical Education, and Dr Rebecca Stewart, National Clinical Lead – Training, Information & Data Systems – Rural Training Programs, are members of the research team, however participation or non-participation in the research component of the ReCEnT project will in no way affect your educational relationship with Dr Clarke or Dr Stewart. Professor Magin, Dr Alison Fielding, Amanda Tapley, Katie Mulquiney, Andrew Davey, Irena Patsan, Dominica Moad, Anna Ralston, Ben Mundy, Dr Alexandria Turner, Dr Katie Fisher, Dr Michael Bentley, Dr David Runciman, Dr Angelo D'Amore, Shaun Prentice and Dr Linda Klein are employed by RACGP but are not part of the RACGP 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 complete a consent form. In completing this form, you are consenting for the researchers to access for research purposes the data that is routinely collected as part of the RACGP educational program, that is, the electronic 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 and stored at RACGP's premises in Azure cloud services. Please note that your information on the 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 RACGP 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. Electronic encounter data will be entered into a secure password protected online database and stored on the RACGP secure Cloud server for at least 5 years.

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 RACGP secure Cloud server. Your personal information will be protected as per RACGP's Privacy Policy which is available on our website <https://www.racgp.org.au/privacy-policy>.

How will the information collected be used?

The information collected will be analysed and reported in articles, health journals, conferences, presentations and training update newsletters. All study information will be reported as aggregated data and individual participants will not be identified in any reports arising from the project. 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. Please indicate on the consent form whether or not you consent to your ReCEnT data being used for research purposes.

Further information

If you would like further information please contact Professor Parker Magin by phoning 0408 953 872. Thank you for considering this invitation.



Conjoint Prof. Parker Magin | Chief Investigator

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the RACGP National Research and Evaluation Ethics Committee, Approval No. NREEC 23-161. 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, please contact the RACGP Research and Ethics Officer at ethics@racgp.org.au or telephone 03 8699 0385.