

General Practice Training: offering diverse career opportunities

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an ongoing therapeutic relationship with patients (and often, with families). Presenting health issues focus in General Practice, and I have learnt a great deal about his and the quality of care from both changing people's health and health behaviour for the better.

Not all GP Registrars have the same professional experience. GP Snergy, the Regional Training Organisation (RTO) for three regions across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, offers a wealth of Registrar profiles. The profiles highlight some of the interesting and exciting career paths a number of our colleagues have embarked upon.

Vocational training in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program is the most common way to become a GP. Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) can be achieved in three years full-time with an optional fourth year, and Fellowship of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) can be achieved in four years full-time. Fellowship of either or both Colleges can be pursued by Registrars during their training years.

Information about eligibility for the training program is available on the AGPT website. Doctors can apply as early as post-graduate year one, during internships. A Paediatric term must be completed prior to starting GP placement. For RACGP training, a hospital training year will count towards training time. For many Registrars, their first year is recognised as prior learning and can be counted towards the hospital training year. Following the hospital training year, GP Registrars complete three General Practice terms in different practices, each lasting 12 months. During training, Registrars complete an extended kill term lasting 12 months, in a field of their own choice. ACRRM offers a rural path to Fellowship, with details available on their website.

Examination requirements to become a Fellow of the RACGP include written examination (the Applied Knowledge Test, and Key Feature Problem), and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (practical OSCE). To achieve Fellowship of ACRRM, assessments include a Multiple Choice Question Exam, Case Based Discussion, Structured Assessment of Multiple Patients Scenario (SAP), Feedback, and a Procedural Skill Logbook. Information about assessments is available on each of the College websites. ~~IB~~ ~~KD~~ ~~WTO~~

The RACGP and ACRRM each have an election process, with information about their respective processes available on their websites. Regional Training Organisations (RTOs) are also involved in the election process and can be contacted for questions regarding the training program itself. A list of RTOs, arranged by location, can be found [here](#).

Although the application process has changed since I began the program, my advice is to hope applying is to be genuine and to be yourself.

Applications are currently open, until **10.00am AEST 8 May 2017**. This year, the election process will be led by the RACGP, and ACRRM. Applicants can choose to apply to either or both College's. The online application is available on both the RACGP website and on the ACRRM website. For an indicative completion of the application form, the AGPT Eligibility team is available to be contacted. The next step in order to be eligible to check with the AGPT, following which the applications are passed on to the RACGP and ACRRM. At this point, there is an application fee for eligible applicants.

References

1. Australian College Rural & Remote Medicine
2. ACRRM, Fellowship Assessment Handbook, 2017
3. Australian General Practice Training
4. GP Surgery GP blog
5. Primary Health Network
6. Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

- On the job Blog #1 - What's Special?
- What's special about the job I pick?

- Create a career in medicine
- Life and Career in Medicine with Professor Nick Talle