

Network Training Program

The Northern Paediatric Physician Training network has been developed in association with IMET NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training. The hub of the network, the John Hunter Children's Hospital, is closely associated with the University of Newcastle. There are five other hospitals in the network (Tamworth Base Hospital, The Maitland Hospital, Gosford Hospital, Wyong Hospital and Lismore Base Hospital). The purpose of the network is to provide an organised education and training program for trainees in preparation for their FRACP examinations and their future career in the practice of paediatric medicine. All appointees to the network are intended to have specific goals and objectives, incorporating the development of high skill levels in the various aspects of clinical practice.

Trainees specific goals and objectives include:

- A thorough grounding in the theory and practice of paediatric medicine;
- Expertise in history taking, physical examination, diagnosis, therapeutics and rehabilitation;
- Skills in communication with patients, their relatives/caregivers and other health professional staff including general practitioners;
- The ability to identify medical problems and develop strategies for their solution
- An ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team, including the making of appropriate referral to other health professionals and delegation to junior medical and other staff;
- Skills in collation and presentation of clinical information for peer learning;
- Skills in critical appraisal and assessment of medical literature;
- An understanding of the importance and practical application of quality assurance to maintain standards and improve efficiency;
- Undertake ongoing medical training with a view to attempting the Royal Australian College of Physicians exams after 36 months or more of accredited training.

Paediatric registrars participating in the Northern Paediatric Physicians Training Network agree to rotate through a number of training terms including Respiratory, Neurology, Endocrinology, Oncology, General Paediatrics, Community Paediatrics, NICU, Emergency, Rural / Regional accredited terms, at all sites within our network, namely: John Hunter Hospital, The Maitland Hospital, Gosford Hospital, Wyong Hospital, Lismore Base Hospital and Tamworth Base Hospital.

Whilst training in these hospitals our Paediatric Trainees have access to each hospital's education and training programs, as well as the central program offered at John Hunter Hospital. The satellite hospitals also expose our registrars and residents to a broader range of patient background as well as medical units with speciality and sub speciality programs. In order to gain exposure to the breadth of paediatric medicine the trainee will be in a clinical team consisting of a Consultant, Advanced Trainee, Registrar, Residents and Interns. Their responsibility will be for inpatients and emergency management for patients admitted through the Emergency Department.

All trainees have access to informal teaching during ward rounds totalling approximately 3 hours per week. More formal teaching sessions and meetings attended by trainees include the following:

Morning Report conducted every morning and provides education, opportunities for case presentation by Registrars as well as serving a handover function;

Journal Club held each Friday at the John Hunter Children's Hospital and informally held in the satellite hospitals;

Clinical Sciences Meeting and Grand Rounds held weekly, and involve visiting speakers and departmental presentations. All trainees have opportunities for active participation;

Teaching Rounds conducted within the various departments, which combine teaching and medical service provisions;

Departmental Meetings which include teaching sessions, audits, journal clubs and which are open to all trainee registrars;

Radiology Meeting conducted weekly on Wednesday involving consultants, VMO's and registrars;

Weekly two to three-hour Seminar Lecture Series with multiple clinical science and clinical practice subjects covered in all disciplines of paediatric medicine:
Series in preparation for the FRACP written examination.

NICU teaching held each week which include case presentations;

Clinical Tutorial Program participants being consultants, fellows and registrars involved in individual Long Case training. This program runs from March through to July each year.

Library facilities and internet are available at all hospitals.

The overall supervisor for the program is Dr Frank Alvaro FRACP (Network Director of Paediatric Physician Training), while there are site supervisors on the staff at each hospital at each network, as follows: John Hunter Hospital, Dr Frank Alvaro FRACP; Maitland Hospital, Dr Keith Howard FRACP; Tamworth Base Hospital, Dr Karen O'Brien FRACP; Gosford Hospital, Dr Adam Buckmaster; Wyong Hospital, Dr Susie Piper FRACP; Lismore Base Hospital, Dr Chris Ingall FRACP and NICU JHH, Dr Chris Wake FRACP.

For further information on Basic and Advanced Paediatric Physician Training visit http://www.imet.health.nsw.gov.au/page/basic_and_advanced_paediatric_physician_training_in_nsw.html#Paeds%20TNG