Deakin University School of Medicine
Producing Doctors for Geelong and the Western District

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ALFRED FELTON

Alfred Felton (1831-1904), businessman and philanthropist. His will established a trust fund, of more than £2,000,000, half the income of which was to be given to charities, especially those for the relief of women and children, and the other half spent on works of art for the Melbourne National Gallery.
Deakin University School of Medicine

Established as the third Victorian medical school concentrating on the medical workforce needs of rural and regional Victoria.

First graduates December 2011
Deakin University Goals

• To develop lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with rural and regional communities, in particular those in Geelong and Western Victoria.

• To offer an educational experience which will widen participation and support students from diverse backgrounds.

• Strong emphasis on distance learning.

• New strategic plan based on making best use of all learning resources available particularly internet based.
DEAKIN FEATURES

• Postgraduate entry

• Currently 130 places (32 rural bonded places and 4 rural bonded scholarships)
DEAKIN FEATURES 2

- One of six universities teaching the Flinders / St George curriculum
- Problem based learning model
- Four year course  First Two preclinical
  Second two clinical
DEAKIN FEATURES 3

- Admission by GAMSAT and interview
- Preclinical years at Waurn Ponds
- Four clinical schools Geelong, Warrnambool, Ballarat and Box Hill.
- Third year IMMERSe Program mimicking Flinders Riverland program where students learn hospital subjects in rural GP hospital setting.
General Practice Teaching at Deakin

• Five week block in first trimester of fourth year.
• General practice attachments with twice weekly half day tutorial teaching sessions.
• Assessment using ten MiniCEX and Single Long case presentation to tutor and group.
• Day exposure over first two years of course.
• PBL tutors and OSCE examiners include many GPs.
General Practice Teaching Staff

- Two professors based respectively in Geelong and Warrnambool.
- Part time Senior Lecturers at these two centres.
- GP coordinators at the other two centres.
Kardinia Health - the Geelong GP Super clinic

A joint project of Barwon Health Barwon Medicare Local and Deakin University.

Vertical integration potential for training across medical students PGPPP and GP registrars

Interprofessional learning across allied health disciplines
Warrnambool GP clinic adjacent to the hospital

- Similar opportunities for vertical integration and interprofessional learning
- Opportunities for GP inpatient hospital unit
Geelong Hospital Rural Generalist Pathway

5 positions each year to give those interested in rural hospital practice to gain both procedural and non-procedural skills and GP training and qualify over a five year cycle as a FACRRM or FARGP.

No need to hunt for separate positions from a variety of hospitals and separate from Victorian Resident Matching program.
Developing Our GP Department

- A Janus model for Professorial leadership
- Academic registrars
- GP PhD candidates
- GP research
- Support to Medicare Locals
- Educational support to Regional Training Providers
Problems awaiting solutions

- Exposure to rural general practice for non IMMERSe students.
- Longitudinality
- Academic basis of general practice
Specific Geelong Problems

GP census using AHPRA and Medical Directory of Australia

- 303 GPs for population of 240,000
- 40% graduated more than 30 years ago (age >55 years)
- Of the 51 registered less than 10 years only a third Australian Graduates.

Limited urban training positions for SGPT and a danger that VMA registrars may not integrate with those from SGPT.
Specific Geelong Problems 2

- Limited consulting rooms for learners and GP nurses.
- Sparse GP numbers with experience of teaching
- Others had muddied the water resulting in enmity between Deakin, training providers and practices.
Specific Geelong Problems 3

• Lack of rooms and experience made parallel consultation sessions difficult.
• Strong dependence on the Super clinic for GP learner attachments
• Teaching IMMERSe students general practice
• Impact of hospital intern matching process on medical student availability.
• Payment of PIP payments to corporate practices.
The way forward

• Similar GP mapping exercise for Victoria south of the Great Western Highway.
• Links with the other emergent rural and outer metro universities.
• Build the network of educators and researchers.
• Chase opportunities for GP teaching infrastructure.
Are Registrars our future teaching workforce?

Other disciplines make extensive use of registrars for teaching. As they may be more open to this development than older GPs we need to investigate how to upskill in time and travel efficient ways their abilities to teach while addressing lifestyle, family needs, remuneration and the implied threat of the exams.