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GP Synergy award winners announced

At the first of GP Synergy's two end of year events held earlier this week, GP Synergy awarded Dr Eloise Warren the inaugural Dr Jeremy Bunker Outstanding Achievement Award and Dr Vanessa Jones the Outstanding Academic Achievement by a Registrar Award.

The Outstanding Achievement Award is in honour of GP Synergy's late Director of Training, Dr Jeremy Bunker, who passed away from cancer earlier this year. The award celebrates the contribution Dr Bunker made to general practice training and the wider community and recognises those who have made similar contributions.

The winner of this award was GP Synergy registrar, Dr Eloise Warren, in recognition of her development and ongoing involvement in an Indigenous health clinic in Bathurst. Whilst on her GP training rural rotation in Bathurst, Dr Warren identified a gap in the primary healthcare provision for the local Indigenous community. To help address this issue, she consulted several organizations within the area to create a GP-based Indigenous health clinic. These organisations included the nearby Aboriginal Medical Services in Orange and the further afield Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern. The local Division of General Practice were also instrumental in the set-up of the clinic with Dr Warren and have continued to remain actively involved. The clinic is based on a similar model developed by Dr Paul Johanson in QLD, who Dr Warren had also initially consulted.

Although having returned to Sydney, Dr Warren continues to commute to Bathurst to run the clinic and is working with other practices and stakeholders in the area to establish additional services to close this healthcare provision gap.

The Outstanding Academic Achievement by a Registrar Award, recognizes the achievements of the GP Synergy registrar who completed the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) fellowship exam with the highest overall score in 2011. The recipient of this award was general pathway registrar Dr Vanessa Jones.

At the event, GP Synergy Chair, Dr Charlotte Hespe, thanked Dr Linda Mann for her significant contribution to the organization in the Acting Director of Training role during Dr Jeremy Bunker's illness and passing.

Dr Charlotte Hespe also officially welcomed Associate Professor Rosa Canalese to the organization in the role of Director of Training.

Associate Professor Canalese is a practising GP, with significant medical education expertise. She has been the head of the Medical Education Unit as Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning at The University of Notre Dame and has extensive experience with vocational general practice education and training in former senior medical educator roles with the RACGP training program and the Institute of General Practice Education.

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