

GPs lead the way on severe chronic disease

SGPN and GSAHS have this week launched a new severe chronic disease program on the Far South Coast and will roll it out across the entire network region over the next six months.

The communication platform for this joint initiative is an encrypted messaging system called Argus which many of you will be familiar with and will be using at varying levels.

Argus allows the general practice team to communicate securely and directly with the interdisciplinary community health team, other service providers and specialist medical services. Using Argus, GPs should receive timely feedback and mitigate the risk of correspondence being misplaced or not reaching the intended recipient.

"The program recognises the General Practitioner as the primary health provider and coordinator of patient care."

The vision of Greater Southern Area Health Service is to also use Argus to communicate Discharge Summaries and Emergency Department attendance notifications to GPs. Work on this has commenced although completion timeframes are unclear at this stage.

The Severe Chronic Disease Program recognises the General Practitioner as the primary health provider and coordinator of patient care. Through the program, GPs and their teams are being offered support from the community health hub teams to provide enhanced and integrated services from within the Area Health Service for patients with chronic disease. This coordinated approach will certainly improve the overall working relationships and build stronger links.

During the coming weeks, practices in the Eurobodalla and Bega Valley will be contacted by our Severe Chronic Disease GP Liaison Officer, Charmaine Johnson, and offered an opportunity to learn more about the program and be provided with updated information about Argus. The program will be rolled out to the rest of the network area early in 2011.

Practices already using Argus are recommended to upgrade from version 4.3 to version 5 to ensure improved performance and technical support.

If you have any questions relating to Argus or the Severe Chronic Disease Program, please contact Charmaine by [email](mailto:info@sgpn.com.au) or call her on 0488 121 147.

Referring to SGPN's mental health workers?

Please **FAX** your referrals to **4474 5716**

This is a secure line for mental health referrals only.

The mental health referral form is available on our website under Programs/Mental Health or click [here](#).

Please take a few moments to check you're using the correct form and faxing to the right number. Thanks!

GP Connect 2010 registrations are open!

Friday 12th to Sunday 14th November
Hotel Realm, Canberra

Registrations are open for [GP Connect 2010](#)! By now you will have your conference program for SGPN's first ever joint conference, collaborating with the ACT Division of General Practice to bring you this exciting educational event.

Four streams, 21 workshops and more than 30 expert speakers will keep GPs, practice nurses, practice managers and receptionists busy all weekend. Allied health professionals and specialists will also be invited to join us this year.

We are thrilled to have secured Dr Ayman Shenouda as our keynote speaker. He will share his inspiring journey in rural practice, from overseas trained doctor to RACGP's 2009 GP of the Year. Meanwhile, the extraordinary talents of Julie McCrossin as our conference host and facilitator will keep the conversations firing and the ideas flowing.

The conference begins on Friday morning with two all-day Category 1 sessions – Women's Health and an ACRRM Life Support ALS (which attracts an additional fee of \$300). The practice nursing sessions also kick off that afternoon and PN's please note that we consider you to be clinicians for the sessions aimed at "GPs and clinicians".

SGPN and ACTDGP have proudly partnered with ANU Medical School and the RACGP to bring you this exemplary education event. We look forward to seeing you there!

More information about the program and speaker profiles will appear in this space over the coming weeks.

What's on? Education and events for GPs, PNs and practice staff

Management options to maximise sleep Tuesday 19 October in Young and Tuesday 26 October in Cooma, 6.30pm-8pm. CPD for GPs and Practice Nurses presented by NPS educator Jo McMahon. Details from Sharon King on 4821 0434.

Aged and Dementia Care Symposium Friday 22 October, Batemans Bay. SGPN is co-hosting this full-day education event with GSAHS, Alzheimers Australia and the NSW Government. Click [here](#) for a full program and to book, or visit www.alzheimers.org.au and follow the education link.

Hepatitis C s100 Prescriber Course Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October (1.5 days) ASHM Office - Level 7 Training Room, 46-56 Kippax Street, Surry Hills. Complete this free course to prescribe HCV s100 drugs for the maintenance treatment of hepatitis C under shared care arrangements. RACGP Category 1 points. Course information [here](#).

GP Connect 2010 12-14 November, Hotel Realm Canberra. SGPN's joint conference with ACT Division of General Practice. Visit the website for more information www.gpconnect.com.au.

NEW! GSAHS Advanced Paediatric Workshop Thursday 25 November, 9am-4.30pm, Cooma Hospital Community Health Centre & Thursday 9 December, 8am-4.45pm, Clinical Education Unit ANU Bega. Free of charge for all members of the multi-disciplinary health team including medical, nursing allied health and pre-hospital. Trauma management, burns, drowning, head injury, shock, blood gas and x-ray interpretation plus skill stations are on the agenda for the day. To register, call Dianne Clifton at GSAHS on 0428 423 124.

Mentor a medical student: Promote rural medicine and earn 30 core PDP points

Mentors are still needed for 10 of the 300 medical students who gained places in this year's John Flynn Placement Program intake. If you are a registered doctor practicing in a rural or remote area (ASGC-RA 2-5), here is an opportunity to share your wealth of knowledge and experience. You could even encourage a student to choose a career in rural and remote medicine - and earn PDP points at the same time. You will be paid an honorarium of \$330 (including GST) per placement.

The first of the students' annual two-week placements is due to begin around December this year. ACRRM's John Flynn team is keen to talk to potential mentors in eastern Australian states. (Western Australia and the Northern Territory again proved popular choices with students this year and our mentors there are fully extended).

For more information, visit the [ACRRM website](#) or contact the John Flynn team via [email](#) or free call 1800 223 226.

Injury management & workers comp dinner at Bega Cheese

Bega Cheese is pleased to invite Bega Valley medical practitioners to a dinner presentation night on Wednesday 20 October at the Bega Cheese Heritage Centre.

Speakers throughout the evening will cover Bega Cheese culture, philosophies, safety improvements and injury management successes. Learn about the extensive health and wellbeing programs offered to employees and your role in best practice injury management, including an overview of the types of suitable duties available for injured workers to assist their recovery and optimise their rehabilitation.

It is expected attendees will benefit professionally from the evening's presentations while reinforcing the major role GPs play in workers compensation case management and additionally....get to take home a taste of Bega Cheese!

An optional plant tour will begin at 4.30pm for those eager to see the factory in action. The evening will commence at 6pm for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles with a delicious Heritage Centre meal and drinks provided from 6.30pm.

Bookings essential with maximum seating capacity of 40. For further information and bookings please contact Claire Tandy OH Coordinator and Company Nurse on 6491 7794.

Jindabyne Superclinic

The Jindabyne Superclinic is on track, with SGPN's Acting CEO Kathryn Stonestreet confident the government will honour its pre-election commitment to fund the \$5 million facility.

A funding proposal and business case submitted by SGPN and the Snowy River Shire Council in June was given the green light in the lead up to the Federal election.

"We've been in touch with the Federal Department of Health and Ageing to clarify the next steps to further our application for the funding," Kathryn says, "and last week we met with Federal Member for Eden Monaro Mike Kelly to discuss the process from this point forward."

"All parties are excited about the project and we're confident we're on track."

The proposal sees general practice co-locating with the region's existing community health and allied health professional workforce in a new, purpose-built facility. A pharmacy, pathology and imaging services may also be accommodated.

A site has been identified in the proposed Jindabyne Town Centre development. The Superclinic will be managed by SGPN on behalf of Snowy River Shire Council, who will own the facility.