

Advanced Training in General & Acute Medicine

Site/Network Information – AMR 2025

Calvary Mater Newcastle

The Calvary Mater Newcastle (CMN) provides a unique opportunity for General Medicine Advanced training in a regional area with a generous component of rural outreach work, including within Aboriginal populations. In addition to the general medicine terms at CMN, there are speciality term options in ID, Respiratory Medicine, Cardiology, Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine, and the co-location of the mental health unit gives trainees the unique perspective of managing chronic disease in vulnerable populations. At CMN, in particular, there is a strong focus on cancer medicine, due to the predominant oncology and haematology services. Physicians at CMN offer expertise in areas of clinical governance and research, with links to Newcastle University, and support is given to trainees for publications and conference presentations. The Hunter region itself has beautiful coastal areas with sweeping beaches, bountiful wine growing regions within 30 minutes of the city, and a café and restaurant culture to rival any metropolitan area (without the traffic!). Trainees who choose us for their training will not be disappointed with the opportunities available for clinical medicine, research and lifestyle/relaxation.

Tamworth / Armidale

Tamworth/Armidale General Medicine Advanced Training Network offers a unique stand-alone rural General Medicine advanced training program. There are two full time positions. One of the positions will include a 6-month rotation to Armidale.

Tamworth Rural Referral Hospital practises true General Medicine, with all patients admitted under the physician on call for the day. This ensures a breadth and depth of medical problems presenting to the medical service. The hospital has a large drainage area, covering much of North Western New South Wales, meaning that many patients can present from geographically distant areas with a multitude of medical issues. All of the physicians in Tamworth participate fully on the General Medical Roster. Our physician group is united by our love for medicine, and our desire to achieve excellence as clinicians and educators. We are dedicated to the development and training of high-quality General Physicians, with or without dual subspecialty training, who will then become confident and capable of managing general medical issues in a regional or metropolitan environment. Tamworth has a strong reputation as being a centre of educational excellence. Our trainees are well supported and appreciated and enjoy the experience of working and living here.

Armidale Rural Referral Hospital is the principal hospital on the Northern Tablelands of NSW with a referral population of approximately 80,000. The Hospital has 99 beds, including a 32 bed General Medical Ward, a 5 bed ICU/CCU, and 6 dialysis chairs. Excluding the dialysis patients, there are approximately 2,500 General Medical admissions per year that are looked after by five Staff Specialists and one VMO, all of whom are General Physicians with a subspecialty interest. Patients admitted to the ICU/CCU are also looked after by these Physicians. Medicine in Armidale Hospital is therefore very much General and Acute Care Medicine.

Armidale is home to the University of New England, which in turn is home to the School of Rural Medicine. This medical school is a partner in the Joint Medical Program with the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle. Much of the teaching within the School of Rural Medicine is delivered by the Physicians within Armidale Hospital, and an Advanced Trainee would be encouraged to contribute to this.

Orange

Orange Health Service offers two full-time stand-alone rural General Medicine positions. Both positions are located in Orange with no rotations to other sites in WNSWLHD.

Orange Health Service is a major rural referral hospital in the Central West of NSW, servicing a large area of western NSW. General Medicine has a very strong presence at Orange Health Service, with the majority of medical inpatients admitted under General Medicine. This service is complemented by separate Cardiology and Haematology/Oncology teams, as well as strong surgical departments, a Level 5 ICU, on-site inpatient rehabilitation, an excellent general and interventional radiology department, on-site dialysis unit and on-site chemoradiotherapy units. There are currently 10 physicians on the General Medicine roster, all of whom are passionate about practising true General Medicine in a rural setting in addition to their subspecialty work. Our department has a strong culture of teaching and education, providing excellent supervision of medical students, JMOs, basic physician trainees and advanced trainees. This has resulted in a substantial number of junior doctors returning to Orange as consultants.

Advanced Trainees in General Medicine working at Orange Health Service will get familiarity and experience managing a huge and diverse range of clinical problems, both common and uncommon.

Orange is a beautiful town at high altitude surrounded by wineries and productive farmland.

John Hunter Network

John Hunter Hospital

John Hunter Hospital is a well-established tertiary centre with a long track record of quality general medicine training. The first year of training includes a mix of ward-based General Medicine posts at John Hunter and Belmont District Hospitals, and Medical Assessment Unit rotation at John Hunter Hospital. The second year of core training gives trainees the opportunity to choose any sub-specialty rotation in areas of their choice since the funding follows the trainee. It is generally expected that 6 months training in the second year will take place at a rural site, which could include Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Taree or Armidale, or by negotiation elsewhere depending on particular training interests (previous trainees have spent this time in Katherine, Timor L'Este, and Alice Springs). Trainees working at John Hunter Hospital have access to subspecialty clinics of their choice, as well as participating in Aboriginal Outreach clinics across Northern NSW.

There is also a formal teaching program centred around research methodology and introduction to biostatistics during the first year. Trainees have access to researchers at the collocated Hunter Medical Research Institute with a track record of completing high quality research projects.

Port Macquarie Hospital

Port Macquarie Hospital in the Hastings Macleay Network offers 6-month rotations for core training in General Medicine, including core subspecialty, core acute and core General Medicine. We are happy to rotate with John Hunter Hospital (JHH) network to give trainees a variety of experiences and locations. We are equally happy for trainees to base themselves in Port Macquarie for longer periods of training, up to 2 years, if the trainees want this.

The PMBH is part of the Hastings Macleay Network, with the base hospital being the major training venue. We have our General Medicine 6-month rotation based at Kempsey district Hospital. The other rotations include acute medicine working in the Medical Admissions Unit. Subspecialty rotations include Infectious Diseases, Geriatric and Stroke Medicine, Rheumatology, as well as other roles by negotiation, such as Renal, ED and ICU. Trainees are expected to assist with the medical registrar afterhours roster.

We are happy for trainees to live anywhere in the network, and for 6 months rotations within the JHH Network we would offer accommodation for this period. It may be possible to negotiate longer periods of accommodation support.

Education is provided on site, but ample opportunity to travel to conferences and attend the networked education sessions coordinated by HETI as well as within the wider network of Northern sites (JHH, Mater, Tamworth and Port Macquarie).

Northern Sydney Coastal Network

Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD) provides public health services in the Local Government Areas of Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Manly, Pittwater, Warringah, Ryde, Mosman, North Sydney, Willoughby, Lane Cove and Hunters Hill. With a growing and diverse workforce of approximately 8,350 employees, NSLHD provides a wide range of public health services to a population of approximately 840,000. While Royal North Shore Hospital is the major referral and teaching hospital, Ryde, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai, Northern Beaches Hospital, Sydney Adventist and North Shore Private Hospitals play an integral role in acute service delivery and the training of clinicians. Supporting the acute hospitals are a number of Community Health Centres throughout the region and a strong community health team.

Trainees employed by Royal North Shore hospital will provide a General and Acute Medical Service to Royal North Shore Hospital with rotations to Coffs Harbour Hospital (General Medicine/ MAU and Stroke Medicine), North Shore Private Hospital (Cardiology and Intensive Care Unit), Sydney Adventist Hospital (General and Respiratory Medicine), Hornsby Hospital (MAU) and Northern Beaches Hospital (General Medicine and Infectious Diseases/Endocrinology).

Southern Network

Northern Sector:

Bankstown – Lidcombe Hospital

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital is accredited for advanced training in Core General Medicine (terms MAU, Acute Geriatrics); Core General Medicine related (terms Ambulatory Care/Hospital in the Home, Orthogeriatrics); Core Subspecialty (terms Stroke unit, Geriatrics/Rehab; Older Persons Behavioural Unit). The 6 months in MAU will also include providing an Infectious Disease consultation service.

St George Hospital

St George offers General Medicine and MAU rotations.

Liverpool Hospital

Liverpool hospital offers General Medicine, Acute Medicine/MAU and Subspecialty rotations. As the subspecialty rotation is funded through General and Acute Care Medicine the subspecialty is flexible, and can be adjusted to meet the needs and desires of each trainee.

There is one Acute Medicine team, with the MAU as its home ward. In addition to the advanced trainee, it has two basic physician trainees, covering extended hours to 8 pm on weekdays. There are two General Medicine teams, and the advanced trainee is the registrar on one of these teams.

Canterbury Hospital

Canterbury Hospital offers General Medicine rotation which involves medical assessment of admitted patients in Emergency, inpatient care and outpatient clinics.

Sutherland Hospital

Sutherland Hospital offers General Medicine rotation which involves a rapid assessment model for acute general medicine patients bypassing Emergency, inpatient care and outpatient clinics.

Southern Network

Southern Sector:

Wollongong / Shellharbour / Shoalhaven Hospitals

The Division of Medicine provides services primarily across the three main hospitals, the Wollongong Hospital, Shellharbour Hospital and Shoalhaven Hospital. Wollongong Hospital is the Illawarra and Shoalhaven's major referral and teaching hospital and has bed base of more than 500. Wollongong Hospital is the largest of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District's (ISLHD) nine hospitals, treating more than 47,000 patients annually. It is the region's tertiary referral hospital which means it has the capacity to treat specialist and complex cases.

Each main Hospital has a full General Medicine department with 4 teams. All the teams have College-accredited Basic Physician Trainees, as well as Intern or Resident. The rotations at Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District include: General Medicine Wollongong Hospital, including the responsibility of the 17-bed Medical Assessment Unit (MAU); General Medicine at Shellharbour Hospital, including the responsibility of assessing patients at the Acute Medical Admissions Unit (AMAU); General Medicine at Shoalhaven Hospital; sub-specialty rotations in Respiratory, Neurology, Gastroenterology, whereas the possibility of non-core training rotations may also be available. Overall, the contract in the ISLHD Hospitals offers the opportunity of core General Medicine and subspecialty training over 24 months.