

University of Sydney opens new clinical school to increase healthcare workforce

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Growing the GP workforce and fostering research collaborations

The University of Sydney in Australia has launched a new clinical school to enhance general practice (GP) as a preferred career choice among medical students, grow opportunities for GP-related research and champion multidisciplinary care in the community.

The Sydney General Practice (GP) Clinical School sits within the Sydney Medical School. Its new status is unique in that it is on par with the University's hospital-based clinical schools spread throughout metropolitan and rural New South Wales (NSW).

The clinical school announcement is the culmination of years of innovation within the Sydney Medical School, including the 2020 launch of the new Doctor of Medicine curriculum which incorporated increased exposure to GP training.

Medical students now participate in placements with GPs across NSW for one day per week over 16 weeks in their second year of study and for 8 weeks full-time in their fourth year, instead of having a single term of experience in their second last year.

In addition, the clinical school will foster research collaborations that address the needs of the profession. Current projects focus on topics such as medication safety and deprescribing, preventive medical care for young people, GP management of melanoma, vaccine uptake in priority populations and postpartum care for women from diverse backgrounds.