

RGEN25

Partnerships in Care - Excellence in Action

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May 2025
Hunter Valley, NSW



HEALTH
EDUCATION
& TRAINING

Photo credit: Cessnock City Council



PRE-EVENT: Friday 16 May 2025

9:00am	PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASSES
9:00am – 12:00pm <i>(Morning Tea to be served at 10:30am)</i>	Optional Masterclass One: Deteriorating Airways Chardonnay Room Presented by Kat Blake, HETI Centre for Rural Simulation
	Optional Masterclass Two: Ultrasound at Point of Care Verdelho Room Presented by Jo McCann, President, The Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine
12:00pm	PRE-CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS CLOSING LUNCH

DAY ONE: Friday 16 May 2025

From 1:00pm	CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS, ARRIVAL TEA & COFFEE SEMILLON FOYER, RYDGES RESORT HUNTER VALLEY,
1:30pm – 1:45pm	MC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr Rod Peadon, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships, HETI
1:45pm – 2:05pm	RGEN25 OFFICIAL OPENING Dr Jo Burnand, Medical Director, Medical Portfolio, HETI
2:05pm – 2:10pm	CELEBRATION OF RG COMMUNITY Professor Jenny May, National Rural Health Commissioner (Virtual)
2:10pm – 2:50pm	OPENING KEYNOTE: INSIGHTS IN HEALTHCARE Dr Paula Conroy, General Practitioner & Founder, Insight Health Advisory Dr Conroy brings a wealth of clinical and corporate governance experience to quickly get to the heart of the unique health needs of organisations and applies strategic thinking to propose pragmatic solutions. For over 15 years Dr Conroy has developed a stellar reputation as a doctor, specialising as a General Practitioner. She remains active as a clinician working in regional emergency medicine and undertaking surgical assisting. Having held leadership and non-executive director positions in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, Dr Conroy has helped organisations in multiple industries develop, implement, and operate robust organisational health and employee wellbeing programs.

2:50pm – 3:10pm	AFTERNOON TEA & TRADE DISPLAY
3:10pm – 3:40pm	TEAMWORK AROUND THE PATIENT Dr Stephen Murdoch, GPA Cooma, Southern NSW LHD Teamwork around the patient or more particularly, teamwork around the problem that is facing a 'patient' can vary depending on the setting. Stephen's experience in working with Indigenous people in the tropics has taught him the value of thinking more broadly about the 'patient' not just as a disease process that needs to be fixed or managed, but rather, a part of a complex social matrix in which 'health or ill health' is just one element.
3:40pm – 3:55pm	BRAINBREAK TRIVIA
3:55pm – 4:00pm	DAY ONE CLOSING COMMENTS Dr Rod Peadon, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships, HETI
4:00pm	DAY ONE CLOSE
6:00pm – 8:00pm	RGEN25 DRINKS & CANAPES EXHIBITION TERRACE, RYDGES RESORT HUNTER VALLEY

DAY TWO: Saturday 17 May 2025

8:30am	CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS, ARRIVAL TEA & COFFEE SEMILLON FOYER, RYDGES RESORT HUNTER VALLEY		
9:00am – 9:10am	DAY TWO OPEN Dr Rod Peadon, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships, HETI		
9:10am – 9:30am	WELCOME & REFLECTION DAY TWO Dr Louise Baker, Statewide Director, Rural Generalist Training Coordination Unit, HETI Dr Louise Baker is the Statewide Director of the Rural Generalist Training Coordination Unit at HETI, she is a GP obstetrician based in Cowra with over 30 years' experience. Louise is passionate about advocating for NSW RG's and future proofing the RG workforce. Louise understands the many hats a rural doctor can wear with family, professionally, within rural communities. As part of her role within HETI she leads trainees through GPPTP, AST Training, foundations to RGTP and John Flynn.		
9:30am – 10:00am	PARTNERING WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR Associate Professor Kerrie Stewart, Regional Director, Training Western NSW & ACT, RACGP		
10:00am – 10:30am	TEAMWORK IN A MEDICAL RETRIEVAL UNIT Dr Sam Vidler, Clinical Director, Hunter Retrieval Service & Kris Larkin, Training and Checking Aircrew Officer Partnering together as a team in stressful, emotionally charged situations is a skill that can be trained for and developed. In helicopter operations, the highest risk situation is winning a patient out of a scene who is so sick, they have required intubation and mechanical ventilation. We will explore the steps we undergo in development and training on how to do this, so that it becomes "Business as Usual" (nearly!), and how these same strategies can be employed in your working life.		
10:30am – 11:00am	MORNING TEA & TRADE DISPLAY		
11:00am – 12:30pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS		
STREAM	TRANSITION TO RG INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (AST & ABOVE)	FUTURE RG'S & EARLY CAREER ADVICE (PRE AST TRAINEES)	RDN CADETS
ROOM	Semillon 2 & 3	Semillon 1	Verdelho Room

FACILITATOR	Marina Maxhuni	Karen Beattie	Chris Russell
11:00am – 11:45am	<p>Operating as One: Teamwork in the Rural Operating Theatre</p> <p>Dr Angus Brown & Dr David Woods HETI Rural Director of Training</p> <p>Working in a rural operating theatre can be vastly different from the supported and supervised environments in which Rural Generalists are trained. However, Rural Generalists are trained to be innovative, flexible, and highly adaptive in their care of patients across rural and remote Australia. The phrase “being comfortable being uncomfortable” truly captures the experience of working as a Rural Generalist — a role that is both highly challenging and deeply rewarding.</p> <p>Dr Woods and Dr Brown will share their journey as a Rural Generalist Anaesthetist and Surgical Rural Generalist, working independently in rural operating theatres. Their presentation will explore how to navigate the realities of working in resource- and staff-limited environments, particularly in the operating theatre setting.</p> <p>Through a series of cases, they will highlight the critical role of teamwork — encompassing the entire team, not just medical staff — in delivering safe and effective care. Central to their approach is the principle of selecting the right patient, for the right procedure, in the right facility.</p>	<p>Journey to Date and Partners that Make the Difference</p> <p>Dr Rachel James & Dr Melissa Price-Purnell HETI Rural Director of Training</p> <p>In this session, Rachel and Mel will share their journeys through rural generalist training — from early clinical experiences to current roles as a rural generalist obstetrician in NSW. They will reflect on the formative moments, mentors, and opportunities that shaped their path, with a particular focus on how the right partnerships — both professional and personal — made all the difference.</p> <p>We will unpack the options available for Advanced Skills Training (AST), offering practical advice on what's available, how to align choices with long-term goals, and what to consider when selecting a PGY year to begin AST. Drawing from real world experience in rural generalist medicine, we will highlight how to make the most of this critical stage of training.</p> <p>Importantly, this session will also explore how to plan for the next five years with a holistic view — considering relationships, family, lifestyle, and location. Rachel and Mel bring an honest, grounded perspective on balancing career ambition with personal life in the rural context.</p> <p>This is a session designed to inform, encourage, and support junior doctors as they navigate the early years of their rural generalist journey — with insights you can apply right away.</p>	<p>Deteriorating Airways – Rural simulation Centre</p> <p>Presented by HETI Centre for Rural Simulation Kat Blake</p> <p>Airway management in adults is complex and high-risk, especially for those who don't perform these skills regularly. This hands-on session helps medical practitioners build confidence and skills in managing deteriorating airways, with a focus on prioritising oxygenation and ventilation. Participants will apply a structured, step-by-step approach—including optimal positioning, use of supraglottic airway adjuncts, and effective bag-mask ventilation. The session also covers practical tips for intubation and performing a cricothyrotomy using the scalpel-finger-bougie technique. Teamwork, communication, and checklists are emphasised throughout.</p>
11:45am – 12:30pm	<p>Transition to Independent Practice</p> <p>Dr Rachel James & Dr Melissa Price-Purnell HETI Rural Director of</p>	<p>Operating as One: Teamwork in the Rural Operating Theatre</p> <p>Dr Angus Brown & Dr David Woods</p>	

	<p>Training</p> <p>In this session, Rachel and Mel will share their experience transitioning from Advanced Skills Training into independent rural generalist practice — the challenges, surprises, and lessons that shaped the early years of their careers. They will reflect on what helped them feel ready (and what still felt daunting), with practical insights into navigating supervision arrangements, settling into a new community, and building confidence in decision-making. Exploring the realities of rural work, including setting boundaries, managing expectations, and when to lean on your team. The session will also touch on key logistical and financial considerations — including an introduction to Medicare billing and how to think strategically about income, sustainability, and long-term planning. Importantly, Rachel and Mel will speak candidly about choosing a town and making it home, with reflections on how they (with and without partners) balanced location, training, and family life. Whether you're heading into your final registrar years or just starting to look ahead, this session offers a grounded, real-world perspective on what comes next — and how to build a career that fits not just your clinical goals, but your whole life.</p>	<p>HETI Rural Director of Training</p> <p>Working in a rural operating theatre can be vastly different from the supported and supervised environments in which Rural Generalists are trained. However, Rural Generalists are trained to be innovative, flexible, and highly adaptive in their care of patients across rural and remote Australia. The phrase "being comfortable being uncomfortable" truly captures the experience of working as a Rural Generalist — a role that is both highly challenging and deeply rewarding.</p> <p>Dr Woods and Dr Brown will share their journey as a Rural Generalist Anaesthetist and Surgical Rural Generalist, working independently in rural operating theatres. Their presentation will explore how to navigate the realities of working in resource- and staff-limited environments, particularly in the operating theatre setting.</p> <p>Through a series of cases, they will highlight the critical role of teamwork — encompassing the entire team, not just medical staff — in delivering safe and effective care. Central to their approach is the principle of selecting the right patient, for the right procedure, in the right facility.</p>	
12:30pm – 1:30pm	LUNCH & TRADE DISPLAY		
1:30pm – 2:30pm	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: INNOVATION IN RURAL GENERALISM</p> <p>Dr Nathan Oates FANZCA, VMO Anaesthetist, Director Prevocational Education and Training, South East Regional Hospital, Annabelle Regan, Principal Project Officer, Rural Generalist Single Employer Pathway, Regional Health Division, Jacinda Choy, Senior Research Project Officer, Medical Workforce, NSW Ministry of Health & Kathy Ingham, District Medical Program Manager, Hunter New England LHD.</p> <p>Chair: Dr Rod Peadon, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships, HETI</p>		
2:30pm – 3:30pm	<p>CLOSING KEYNOTE</p> <p>Sam & Jenny Bailey</p> <p>Sam has an incredible ability to take an audience on the journey of his life. It's a rollercoaster ride that promises to make people laugh, cry, appreciate what they've got and realise that nothing is impossible.</p>		

	He delivers his story in his own down-to-earth laconic style that captures the great Australian spirit of 'having a go' in the face of life's challenges, finding the "grit" inside of us and living our best life.
3:30pm – 3:50pm	NETWORKING PROJECTIONS
3:50pm – 4:00pm	EVENT WRAP-UP & CLOSE DAY TWO Dr Rod Peadon, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Partnerships, HETI
4:00pm	DAY TWO CLOSE
6:00pm – 9:00pm	CONFERENCE DINNER PERGOLA, RYDGES RESORT HUNTER VALLEY

**Program subject to change without notice*

