
GPNW - Simon Monks Memorial Award for Excellence

The Board of General Practice North West (GPNW) has announced a new student award which will honour the memory of Dr Simon Monks, who died earlier this year as a result of an accident. An annual Award for Excellence is to be implemented, to be presented to a selected fifth-year University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School medical student, based on one of their General Practice attachments in the North West Region during the year. Nominations will be requested from participating practices.

Background:

As many of you will know, Dr Simon Monks was a highly respected partner in the East Devonport Medical Centre, prior to his sudden and unexpected death in March 2007. He was actively engaged at the time, on the Board of GPNW as well as in the teaching and mentoring of medical students from the University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School (RCS) at the East Devonport practice.

Dr Monks was a very committed and caring GP and took a proactive and dedicated approach to achieve excellence in his clinical practice, his supervision of medical students and in all aspects of his personal and family life. He was a quiet, thoughtful person and his active participation at GPNW Board meetings has helped to shape the direction of the organization, to improve general practice and patient care.

Discussion has occurred with and support has been expressed from Dr Monk's family, and GPNW has also worked in close collaboration with the Rural Clinical School to develop the parameters and process for the Award. The Award will be offered annually and have a value of \$3,000. In addition to the cheque, a framed certificate will be presented, that includes a photo of Simon Monks and short summary of his background in general practice.

Nomination Process:

Students will be nominated for the award from any of the General Practices involved with the RCS fifth-year teaching program. A copy of the selection criteria is attached. Nominations for 2007 close at COB on Monday 12 November.

Selection Process:

Nominations will be considered by a panel made up of GPNW and RCS representatives, as well as Dr Monks' widow, Dr Margret Oetterli.

Presentation:

The winning nomination will be announced and the presentation made, at the beginning of the following academic year, at a student welcome function, set for early February 2008.

If you have any queries, please contact Rosalie Maynard at the RCS on 6430 5920 or mobile 0427 61 22 66, or Elvie Hales at GPNW on 6432 1440 or mobile 0408 370 784.

Selection Criteria

Practice nomination criteria

1. Demonstrate a high level of interest in the General Practice attachment of the fifth-year MBBS program for Rural Clinical School students and demonstrate an interest in pursuing a vocational pathway into rural general practice.
2. Demonstrate excellent communication skills with patients and colleagues in the practice's health care team.
3. Demonstrate excellent clinical skills in the General Practice setting.
4. Demonstrate a good understanding of the role of the General Practitioner in the health management of individuals and their families.

Rural Clinical School selection criteria

1. A sound academic record in the MBBS program and successful completion of the fifth year of the MBBS at the Rural Clinical School.
(Note: This will change to provide for a student completing their fourth year of studies as the five-year curriculum is phased in.)
2. Indicate a preference for remaining in the North-West region for final year studies in the MBBS program.
3. Positive comment from an academic mentor at the RCS, either verbally or via Letters of Reference, indicating that the nominee displays the professional and personal characteristics desirable in general practice.

Timelines:

Nominations from practices should be sent to the GPNW office by COB on Friday 9 November.

The Selection Committee will meet to decide the recipient of the award after final academic results have been confirmed at the end of November.

Presentation:

The Award will be presented during Orientation Week at the Rural Clinical School, at the start of the subsequent academic year.

The Presentation will be made jointly by Chair of GPNW or their representative and Dr Margret Oetterli, or her representative.