

From the RAMUS team

Welcome to the November 2014 issue of the *RAMUS Newsletter*.

In this issue you will find information about the end-of-year requirements for scholars, both those continuing their scholarship and those graduating, plus mentor requirements.

You will also find an outline of the latest issue of the **Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH)**. Scholars have free online access to the AJRH through the RAMUS website.

The **2015 application round for RAMUS is now open**. We encourage all Newsletter readers to promote RAMUS to current and prospective medical students with a rural background. Please contact us if you would like some copies of the new promotional brochure for RAMUS for your next high school visit or rural health club event.

Best wishes

The RAMUS team

Michael, Madeleine and Janine

2015 RAMUS application round

Applications for RAMUS 2015 are now open!

The 2015 RAMUS Application Form and Guidelines are available at <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au>



End-of-year requirements

The end of the year is coming up rapidly. Whether you are graduating this year or continuing next year, it's time to begin thinking about the end-of-year requirements for your scholarship.

We recently emailed details of the end-of-year acquittal requirements to all scholars. If you haven't received the package please contact us so we can check your address and re-send it if necessary.

The details and forms are also available at <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au/scholars>

Continuing scholars: please note that your scholarship payments for 2015 cannot start until you have submitted all the documents with a due date of 31 December 2014 (except the mentor report).

Completing Scholars

The following are due by 31 December 2014 in order to receive your one-off completion payment:

Completing Scholars Details Form

This ensures we have accurate contact information for you. Complete, sign and return the form via email, mail or fax.

Scholar Report

This report should be 500-1000 words and cover your involvement in rural activities, contact with your RAMUS mentor and things you have gained from your Scholar Mentor Plan. Complete pro forma (available on the website) and email as an attachment.

Academic Results

Official university documentation of your academic results for the year 2014. Provide a screen shot from your student portal or photocopy/scan your 2014 results. Email, post or fax your results.

Continuing Scholars

The following are due by 31 December 2014:

Scholar Agreement

This confirms that you re-commit to meeting the obligations of RAMUS. Complete and return the scholar agreement form.

Scholar Details Form

This ensures that we have accurate contact and bank account details for you. Complete and return the scholar details form.

Scholar Report

This report should be 500-1000 words and cover your involvement in rural activities, contact with your RAMUS mentor and things you have gained from your Scholar Mentor Plan. Complete pro forma (available on the website) and email as an attachment.

Academic Results

Official university documentation of your academic results for the year 2014. Provide a screen shot from your student portal or photocopy/scan your 2014 results. Email, post or fax your results.

Confirmation of Enrolment

Official university documentation of your full time enrolment in medicine for 2015. Provide a screen shot from your student portal or photocopy/scan your 2015 enrolment. Email, post or fax your enrolment to the RAMUS team.

Income Details for 2013-2014

Photocopy/scan your ATO Notice of Assessment for 2013-2014. If you did not lodge a tax return, submit a Statutory Declaration that states your income for 2013-2014. Provide a copy of your ATO Notice via email, mail or fax. Statutory Declarations must be submitted via mail.

Mentors

Reports from RAMUS mentors on each of their scholars are due by 31 December 2014. Mentors are asked to use the pro-forma sent to them (please let us know if not received).

Tips for your scholar report

Your annual scholar report gives an opportunity for you to reflect on your experiences as a RAMUS scholarship holder over the past year.

Things you might include:

- an overview of your activities and experiences relating to rural practice and what these have meant to you. Please refer back to your scholar mentor plan for 2014 and comment on whether you were able to achieve everything you planned;
- coverage of your activities and relationship with your RAMUS mentor;
- notes about academic or personal achievements you would like to share with your RAMUS colleagues and the team (university awards or prizes, articles published, presentations at conferences);
- feedback on your experience of the RAMUS Scheme; and
- photos are especially welcome – either incorporated with your report, or sent separately;

There is no set format for the report; feel free to use any style or approach you wish. Aim for 600 to 1,000 words in length. There is a scholar report pro-forma on our website which scholars can download and use.

You can submit your report as an email attachment (preferred) or by mail or fax. Scholar reports are a demonstration of RAMUS scholars' enthusiasm for and commitment to the health and wellbeing of people living in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia.

We may wish to publish your report, edited extracts from your report, and/or your photos in the RAMUS Newsletter, on the RAMUS website or Facebook page or in other National Rural Health Alliance publications, such as the Partyline magazine. If so, we will contact you beforehand as a courtesy to seek your clearance.

Want to change your payment schedule?

Scholars on the Undergraduate Payment Schedule have the option to change to the Graduate Payment Schedule from the beginning of 2015.

We recognise that the Graduate Payment Schedule may suit some scholars in undergraduate courses better, especially in their later years of study. Each year we

consider requests on a case-by-case basis from scholars on the Undergraduate Payment Schedule to change to the Graduate Payment Schedule.

If you decide to change to the Graduate Payment Schedule you cannot then change back to the Undergraduate Payment Schedule at a later date.

To make a request to change to the Graduate Payment Schedule from January 2015, you must *contact the RAMUS team before 31 December 2014* to discuss your situation.

Completing scholars invited to join the RAMUS Alumnus program

Scholars graduating in 2014 can stay in touch with RAMUS through the RAMUS Alumnus program.

More than 870 former scholars and current and former mentors are members of the Alumnus program. Joining the Alumnus program connects you with fellow doctors with a commitment to rural practice.

Alumni receive the RAMUS Newsletter, invitations to RAMUS networking events and can be members of the RAMUS Facebook group. You will also still be eligible to apply to the RAMUS Conference Placement Program for support to attend selected conferences.

Joining the Alumnus program is a pathway to becoming a RAMUS mentor once you start your vocational training (usually PGY3) and are working and/or training in a rural, regional or remote location.

Membership is free.

Download the Alumnus program brochure and membership form at:
<http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au/alumnus>

RAMUS Mentor Awards: nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2014 RAMUS Mentor of the Year Awards.

If your mentor has inspired you or they are your role model and a valued source of encouragement and advice, you can acknowledge and show your appreciation by nominating them for a 2014 Mentor Award.

To nominate a mentor please send a statement of up to 400 words outlining your reasons for the nomination and the contribution that the nominated mentor has made.

Please include a photo of your mentor/yourself with your mentor along with your nomination and email to ramus@ruralhealth.org.au by 31 December 2014.

The annual RAMUS Mentor Awards recognise and celebrate the important contribution that RAMUS mentors make to supporting and teaching scholars and to developing scholars' links to rural practice.

Former scholars: have you considered becoming a RAMUS mentor?

Many former scholars have expressed interest in becoming a RAMUS mentor at a suitable stage in their career and the number of RAMUS alumni who are now mentoring scholars is growing every year.

For current scholars who are graduating this year, you will be invited to join the RAMUS Alumnus program and at that time you will be asked if you are interested in becoming a mentor in the future.

Feedback from scholars sought through the annual survey

Every year we seek feedback from selected RAMUS scholars about their experiences throughout RAMUS and their future career aspirations.

The 2014 scholar evaluation survey is now open and is for scholars who started their scholarship in 2014 and those who are graduating and completing their scholarship this year.

If you are a new or completing scholar this year, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RAMUS2014> to take part in the survey.

The annual survey helps build a picture of the effectiveness of RAMUS in supporting rural students in their medical studies and the career goals of RAMUS scholars. Survey results are reported to the Department of Health (the funding body for RAMUS) and treated in confidence, with information from the survey being used in consolidated or anonymous form only.

Conference Placement Program

In recent months, RAMUS scholars and alumni have attended a range of conferences with support from the RAMUS Conference Placement Program.

Please remember to send in your registration confirmation, conference report and Statutory Declaration to receive your CPP payments.

Abstracts closing soon for the 13th National Rural Health Conference

There is still time for you to get on the program for the 13th National Rural Health Conference in Darwin, next May. The first step is to submit an abstract.

Abstracts, and the papers that follow, may deal with any issue affecting the health and wellbeing of people in rural and remote areas.

Abstracts can still be submitted via the 13th Conference website: www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc until **28 November 2014**.

Specific topic suggestions for abstracts can be found at <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/13nrhc/program/abstract-submissions>. First time presenters are encouraged and, if you are in that situation, assistance is available with your abstract, full paper and/or presentation.

The 13th National Rural Health Conference is being held at the Convention Centre in Darwin, 24-27 May 2015.

For more information contact conference@ruralhealth.org.au or phone the conference team on 02 6285 4660.

Keep your contact details up-to-date

Have you recently moved house or changed your email address? You can now update your details online through the RAMUS website.

To update go to: <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au/update-ramus-scholar-details>



Australian Journal of Rural Health

RAMUS scholars have free online access to the *Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH)*.

Access is through the RAMUS website: <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au/ajrh>

The latest issue of Australian Journal of Rural Health (October 2014) is available from [Wiley Online Library](#). Contents include an obituary acknowledging the work of Professor Erica Bell and an editorial by Editor-in-Chief, Professor David Perkins on the future of rural hospitals.

Original research articles include those on:

- e-health and remote monitoring for rural residents;
- differences in medical emergency team interventions between rural and urban areas;
- a retrospective observational study of patients presenting with undifferentiated chest pain;
- analysis of emergency peripartum hysterectomy in Northern Tasmania;
- prospective analysis of rural–urban differences in demographic patterns and outcomes following total joint replacement;
- surgical and survival outcomes in metastatic colorectal cancer among rural populations;
- characteristics of cancer diagnoses and staging in South Western Victoria; and
- prevalence, awareness, treatment and control of hypertension in Henan Province, China.

A note in the October issue from Gordon Gregory (CEO, NRHA) describes some ways to improve the impact of research - agreed at the 4th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium.

