

FROM THE RAMUS TEAM

Welcome to the September 2021 *RAMUS* Newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find:

- a selection of extracts from the 2020 Mentor Reports
- highlights of the August issue of the Australian Journal of Rural Health (AJRH)
- how to nominate your mentor for the RAMUS Mentor of the Year Award.

The next RAMUS newsletter will be published in December. Contributions (including photos) are encouraged. Please email your contribution to me at janine@ruralhealth.org.au by 30 November 2021.

We would appreciate hearing from Scholars, Mentors and Alumni about the impact COVID-19 has had on your studies, placements or clinical work. Send your experiences to ramus@ruralhealth.org.au and advise if you give permission for it to be published in the Alliance's online magazine, Partyline - www.ruralhealth.org.au/partyline.

I also encourage you to take a closer look at the National Rural Health Alliance's website: ruralhealth.org.au. It is a major resource for up-to-date and detailed policy information on the health issues that impact people in rural and remote Australia. Management of RAMUS on behalf of the Australian Government is just one of the things the Alliance does. You can find some of those other activities by browsing the website.

I hope your studies are going well in 2021.

Kind regards

Janine

END OF YEAR ACQUITTAL REQUIREMENTS

End of year acquittal requirements will be emailed in November. If you have recently changed your email address, please contact Janine so that contact details can be updated. Alternatively, you can make changes to your details yourself

http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au/contact/update_details

RAMUS ON FACEBOOK

Have you joined the RAMUS Facebook group?

The group shares current RAMUS news and gives you the opportunity to communicate with the RAMUS team as well as other RAMUS scholars, mentors and alumni.

To join the RAMUS Facebook group, go to:

www.facebook.com/groups/348490061904468



2021 RAMUS MENTOR AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2021 RAMUS Mentor of the Year Awards.

Do you have a mentor who has inspired you, is a role model and a valued source of encouragement and advice? If so, you can acknowledge them and show your appreciation by nominating them for a 2021 Mentor Award.

To nominate a mentor please send a statement, 400 words or less, outlining your reasons for the nomination and the contribution that your mentor has made.

Please include a photo of your mentor or a photo of yourself with your mentor along with your nomination and email to ramus@ruralhealth.org.au by **31 December 2021**.

COMMENTS FROM 2020 MENTORS

"She completed her Year 5 in 2020. This was a busy year with final exams. She did 12 weeks of rural placement in Mount Isa. Mount Isa is a good place to learn about managing complex patients in remote setting. I wish her all the very best for the future, I am sure she will have a successful career, hopefully in rural medicine".

"It has been a pleasure, and a very rewarding exercise, to be her mentor for the last eight years. From the time I first encountered her – on the instigation of her high school English teacher when she was in Year 11 – we have been in regular contact. For the last three years of her medical course, she was attached to the University of NSW Rural Clinical School here in Wagga Wagga. This gave us the opportunity to meet at least weekly during term time which increased my chances to give her advice, some tuition and – once or twice – time for some counselling. She is a conscientious student who looked for novel ways to present her portfolio material and would go out of her way to add relevant detail to assignments. She has now graduated – with distinction – and is embarking on her postgraduate career, starting as an intern at the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle. I

suggested we stay in touch, and she was enthusiastic in her acceptance of this suggestion.

I believe she has a brilliant career ahead of her, perhaps in academe or in a branch of medicine that she feels keenly about".

"It has been a privilege to participate in the RAMUS program. I would be happy to continue in a mentor role if called upon to do so in the future".

"She was to do a portion of her elective placement with our paediatric unit at the Townsville University Hospital. Unfortunately, due to Covid this didn't turn out. However, she was able to do the placement at the Cairns Base Hospital. This meant that I did not see her as much as had been planned. Nevertheless, except for her elective and rural placement, I have seen her in the hospital corridors and at the clinical school at various times throughout the year. I wish her all the very best for her intern year and the rest of her career".

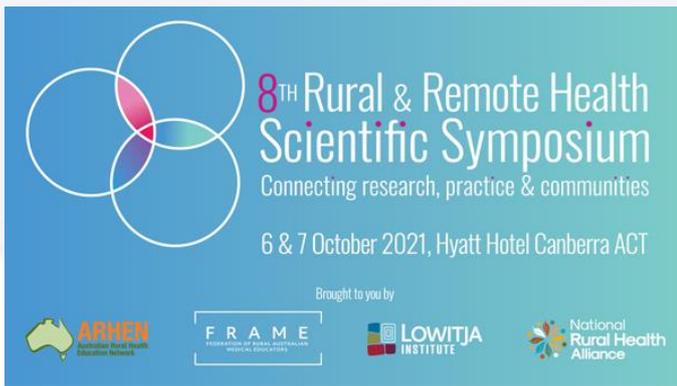
INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

As a RAMUS scholar, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate indemnity insurance cover if you are undertaking supervised clinical activity as part of your RAMUS-related rural activities; such as during visits to or placements with your RAMUS mentor.

You may be asked by medical practices or health services to provide evidence of your indemnity insurance cover.

Don't assume that your RAMUS rural activities are automatically covered by your university's indemnity and insurance arrangements for medical students. You should check whether the planned activities are included in your university indemnity insurance cover. Those that do not form part of your formal university course and curriculum requirements may not be covered.

You can consider joining a medical defence organisation (MDO) that provides medical indemnity insurance. Several MDOs offer special packages for medical students for free or at low cost.



The National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) says the most important focus for rural health is strengthening the connection between research, practice and communities to improve the health outcomes of people living in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia.

This is the theme of the 8th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium on 6 and 7 October, bringing together rural health researchers, research clinicians, research students, policymakers and community leaders.

“Regardless of the current COVID-19 environment we need to ensure that the significant rural health research activity in Australia involves rural and remote communities, not only to achieve genuine impact, but to ensure this research translates to more equitable rural health services,” said Alliance CEO Dr Gabrielle O’Kane.

The Symposium is a key platform for leveraging the latest science that supports better health outcomes for the seven-million people who live and work in rural and remote areas.

“Australia has a strong network of rural health researchers, universities, professional bodies and practices, which is why we are excited to announce CRANaplus, the Australian Rural Health Education Network and the University of Southern Queensland as sponsors for the Symposium,” Dr O’Kane said.

The Symposium features prominent and engaging keynote speakers, and highlights research on important topics such as digital health and technologies; promoting Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander wellbeing; cultural safety; mental health; health systems, policies and access; workforce and career pathways; maternal and child health; and research in the COVID era.

Registration is now open for the Symposium program, which includes keynote speakers:

- Professor Tom Calma AO
- Professor Mary-Louise McLaws
- Associate Professor Adrienne O’Neil
- Associate Professor Jacki Schirmer.

The National Rural Health Alliance runs the 8th Rural and Remote Health Scientific Symposium in conjunction with the Australian Rural Health Education Network, the Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators and the Lowitja Institute.

Australian Journal of Rural Health

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

Please contact RAMUS for access.

Original research and other articles in the August issue include:

- Poorer first aid after burn is associated with remoteness in Australia: Where to from here?
- Effects of employing primary care doctors in hospital to improve the quality of care and health outcomes of rural patients: A systematic scoping review
- Open the doors to (de-identifiable) data
- Prevention pays: COVID-19 tells us it’s time for a Sovereign Health Fund for disease prevention
- Group clinical supervision for allied health professionals

Special Issue Call for Abstracts:

Lived experiences in the co-design of policy, research, and programs to improve the health of rural and remote communities

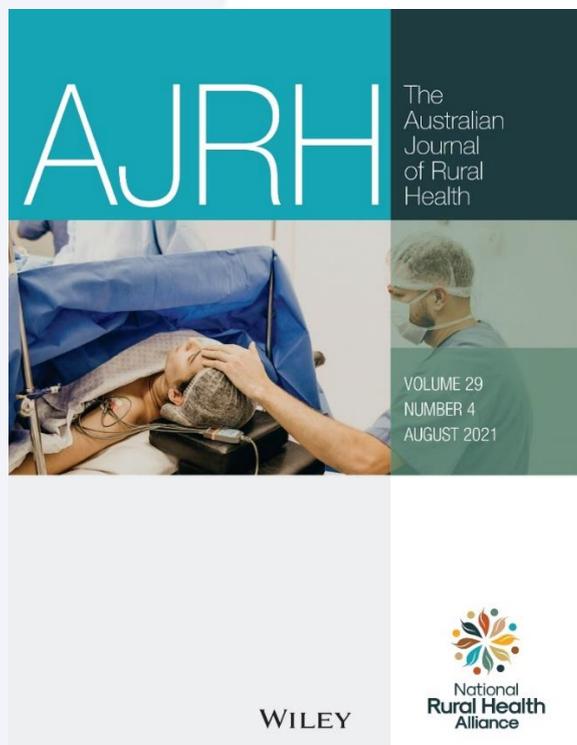
FRIENDS OF THE ALLIANCE

This upcoming special issue of the *Australian Journal of Rural Health* calls for papers to explore the topic of lived experience in co-design, whether it be the co-design in the broad areas of policy, research, or programs. Abstracts should be submitted via email to the AJRH Editorial Office ajr.eo@wiley.com before 5pm AEST 15 October 2021. For more information, click [here](#).

You don't have to wait to get the latest research from the Australian Journal of Rural Health. [Early View](#) on the Wiley Online Library website allows access to the online version of record before inclusion in an issue.

You can access the full content of all articles through your university library or contact us for details of how to use the RAMUS scholar [portal](#).

AJRH is now on [Twitter](#) so you can follow the Journal to see the latest news about articles and stay in touch with discussions around research developments.



Friends are a diverse group of people who want to influence and support rural and remote health services, policies and programs.

Friends believe that, wherever you live, everyone should have access to high quality and comprehensive health services that meet your needs. They are committed to the health and wellbeing of the seven-million people in rural and remote Australia. They want good health outcomes for everyone.

The benefits for **Friends** include:

- **Friends**-only input to the Alliance's policies and activities, through timely, targeted requests from the Council and staff team
- an invitation to join the discussions and sharing in the Friends Facebook
- access to the **Friends Community Forum** where friends can network and share with other like-minded people and organisations supporting rural and remote health
- live online *Cuppa Sessions* where you can network and start conversations about the things that matter to your community
- discounted invitations to Alliance professional development opportunities including the biennial [National Rural Health Conference](#)
- the opportunity to nominate for the [Friends Advisory Committee](#) to represent the views of **Friends** to the Alliance
- complimentary subscription to the [Australian Journal of Rural Health](#) for individual members
- free webinar registration and access to recordings
- email notifications of all opportunities exclusive to **Friends**.

How do I join? Students are encouraged to join Friends – the student rate for 2020-21 is just \$22.00. For more information or to join go to: www.ruralhealth.org.au/joinfriends

RAMUS is managed by the National Rural Health Alliance on behalf of the Australian Government

www.ruralhealth.org.au



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