Postgraduate Psychiatry Training Program

Office for Psychiatry Training
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Why Austin Health?

A comprehensive training program
- A diverse range of rotations, particularly in Child & Youth, Perinatal, Neuropsychiatry, Consultation-Liaison and Veterans’ Psychiatry.
- Access to unique Statewide services including the Psychological Trauma Recovery Service, Brain Disorders Program and Child Inpatient Unit, as well as specialist Statewide Liaison roles.
- Renowned advanced training programs in Child & Adolescent and Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, with access to others.
- A comprehensive training program within a conveniently small area.

A focus on research and education
- Direct access to some of Victoria’s prominent academics, with an office of the University of Melbourne’s Department of Psychiatry on site, supporting research & teaching.
- On-site weekly education program for registrars, including grand rounds, specific psychotherapy, research education and leadership & management.
- Education is integrated into registrar roles and supported by consultant staff.
- Regular RANZCP exam preparation tutorials scheduled flexibly to facilitate candidate attendance.

Committed to supporting registrars
- A supportive, cohesive registrar group and collegiate working atmosphere, as well as a consultant and management staff committed to exam success and registrar development.
- Opportunities for leadership exist through the registrar leadership group, and recognition of principal registrars.
- Flexible training options including part-time training are supported.
Rotations Available
Child & Youth Mental Health Service
(CYMHS) Clinical Director: Dr Leeanne Fisher

The Austin has Victoria's most comprehensive Advanced Training in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, with a focus on psychodynamic and systems theory, research and education. Inpatient posts are available in each of the Adolescent Inpatient Unit and the Child Inpatient Unit, while our Community Outpatient Teams provide opportunities for community placements. In addition to Stage 2 training, the Austin is able to offer a full Advanced Training Certificate in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, offered in collaboration with the Mindful Training Centre, Travancore.

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry
Unit Head: Associate Professor Nick Paoletti

The Austin’s Consultation-Liaison team provide a comprehensive training experience across all three Austin campuses to both Stage 2 and Advanced Certificate trainees. Notably, the team have a liaison role to Statewide Austin services such as Austin’s Liver Transplant Unit, National Epilepsy Service, Long-Term Respiratory Unit and Victorian Spinal Unit, among other specialist services. Rotations also exist in our new Psychiatric Assessment & Planning Unit and within C-L at the Mercy Hospital for Women.

General Adult Psychiatry
Clinical Director: Dr Victoria Harpwood

Austin Health provides services to the North-East Area Mental Health Service, including the Acute Psychiatric Unit, Secure Extended Care Unit, and comprehensive community mental health services. Along with Continuing Care and Mobile Support Teams, these include a Youth Early Psychosis Service, Primary Mental Health Team, and the first Victorian Crisis, Assessment & Treatment (CAT) Team. Opportunities to be involved in community rehabilitation and group programs also exist at our Community Recovery Program and Prevention and Recovery Care Service in concert with Mind Australia. Our new Transition Support Unit supports adults with dual disability to transition to community living.
Parent-Infant & Eating Disorder Services
Chair of Women’s Mental Health: Professor Anne Buist
Eating Disorders Unit Head: Dr Suzy Redston

Parent-infant psychiatry is one of the Austin’s biggest drawcards, with five registrar posts available. Besides our popular Parent-Infant Inpatient Unit post, two posts are each available at the Northpark Private Hospital Mother/Baby Unit, Bundoora and at the Mercy Hospital for Women which is co-located with the Austin. Eating disorders experience is available on our inpatient Eating Disorders Unit, as well as the Body Image & Eating Disorders Treatment & Recovery Service (BETRS); a comprehensive community service, with day program and psychotherapy services, located at St Vincent’s Hospital.

Psychological Trauma Recovery Service (PTRS) Clinical Director: Dr Tim Rolfe

The PTRS is a unique Statewide service which provides inpatient and outpatient treatment to Veterans and Serving Members of the Australian Defence Force, as well as to civilian victims of trauma, from police officers to Bali bombing survivors. Seven registrar posts are available at the PTRS, with opportunities for involvement in group therapy, TMS, work programs, EMDR and other specialised PTSD treatments. The PTRS inpatient unit, accredited as a Stage 1 acute adult rotation, allows first year registrars the rare opportunity to develop experience with high prevalence disorders.

Statewide Brain Disorders Program (BDP) Clinical Director: Dr Charu Gandhi

Experience in neuropsychiatry is available at the Austin’s BDP, including the inpatient Brain Disorder Unit and CBDATS, a statewide community assessment and outreach service. Outpatient experience is also available at the Neurobehaviour and Functional Neurology Clinics, the latter providing somatoform disorder experience supervised by world expert, Prof Richard Kanaan.
Additional Subspecialty Opportunities

Austin’s Drug Dependence Clinic provides a broad addiction psychiatry experience including addiction C-L, opiate pharmacotherapy, and dual diagnosis assessments for local community health providers. External rotations include opportunities for training in Aged Psychiatry (through the Bundoora Extended Care Centre, Northpark Private Hospital and The Melbourne Clinic), and in Forensic Psychiatry through Forensicare. Private Practice rotations are also available, at Northpark and Epworth Private Hospitals, and at the Melbourne Clinic.

Education, Research & Support

Education & Research Opportunities

A weekly education program is well-attended by medical staff, and includes monthly grand rounds, Professorial tutorials, case presentations and journal club, as well as specific teaching in research methods, critical appraisal and psychotherapy. Teaching is supported by academics from our on-site University of Melbourne Department of Psychiatry, including A/Prof Trevor Norman, A/Prof James Olver, and its Chair, Prof Richard Kanaan. Multiple research opportunities are also available for scholarly projects, and for those interested in an academic career. The Austin also has strong links to the RANZCP; Chair of the Victorian Psychiatry Training Committee, Dr Lee Allen, is also an Austin consultant and involved in the teaching program. The Austin is committed to registrar exam success, offering a comprehensive RANZCP exam preparation program as well as supervision for the psychotherapy long case and scholarly project.

Leadership & Support

Due to our regular education and short distance within which all our registrars work, we have a very cohesive and supportive registrar group. Regular social events are organised, with annual awards, recognition of principal registrars and opportunities for registrar leadership through the registrar leadership group. Beyond the registrar group itself, registrar needs are further supported by the Austin in multiple ways, such as through the availability of flexible work options including part-time training, a flexible exam preparation schedule to support candidates on external rotation, and a commitment to registrar development.
Psychiatry training at Austin Health provides psychiatry registrars access to one of Melbourne’s most comprehensive general and specialist mental health services, all in one place. This allows Austin trainees convenient access to prominent academics, to the collegiate and educational advantages of a large training centre, and to a service renowned for its dedication to registrar support and development.

Join Us!

Austin Health’s psychiatry training program includes almost 50 junior medical positions, including:

- **8 part-time positions**, with job-share arrangements supported in other positions
- **Five posts annually for new Stage 1 trainees**, with August commencement options.

**Stage 1 registrar recruitment** (via RANZCP match and VPTC approval) occurs in **May-July annually**.

Recruitment for all other accredited and non-accredited registrars occurs throughout the year, but particularly in **May-July** and **November-January**.

Find Out More

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