INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES’ EXPERIENCE OF GENERAL PRACTICE TRAINING.
MINING FOR THE STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES
Dr Mounira Youssef 12, Dr Anne Eastwood 1, Professor Kay Wilhelm 1, Professor Nicholas Zwar 2
1 GP Synergy 2 School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales 3 St Vincent’s Hospital

Background:
There has been little assessment of the specific challenges confronted by international medical graduates (IMGs) registrars and their supervisors in the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) program. A systematic review identified challenges faced by IMGs undertaking training but there are no data available that assess IMGs’ strengths and coping strategies for the RACGP examination, nor their integration into the Australian GP context.

Aims/objective:
To discover the characteristics of successful IMG registrars, and to make recommendations to identify those who lack these characteristics early on; and the types of intervention required to improve IMG’s exam success.

Methods/approach:
This qualitative study will conduct interviews with participants recruited purposively to reflect the range of ages and ethnicities of IMGs in the GP Synergy program. The interviews will be audio recorded, professionally transcribed and thematically analysed using N-Vivo software.

Results/findings:
An initial semi-structured interview schedule has been developed to assess the IMGs determinants of success and the changes that would assist them in preparing for the RACGP exams. This schedule will be refined based on data routinely collected about IMGs by GP Synergy and from key informant interviews with two medical educators about their impression on the determinants of success.

Discussion:
Assessing the strengths and coping strategies brought by IMGs integrating into the GP Australian context will help identify the types of intervention to be addressed. Early identification of these characteristics may increase the chance of success in the RACGP examination. This strategy could potentially reduce the risk of psychological stressors on the GP registrar performance in the exams and in clinical practice, and facilitate a smooth integration into the Australian health system.