TEACHING ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM: TRAPS, TEMPTATIONS AND THE MORALLY GREY
Dr Nancy Sturman
Discipline of General Practice, The University of Queensland, UQ Healthcare

Background/rationale
There is widespread acceptance in the literature that students learn most about medical ethics and professionalism in the practical, applied context of clinical placements. On general practice attachments, students can develop their own ‘physician morality’ while learning from the ‘practical moral wisdom’ of their GP teachers. Research has shown, however, that general practitioner confidence is relatively low in teaching about some important ethical and professionalism issues.

Workshop structure and content
The facilitator will briefly summarise some of the recent literature about defining and teaching professionalism, and some of her own research about medical student and general practitioner experiences of ethical issues in Australian general practice. Participants will then rotate in and out of small groups, and between different stations. Each station will present an important but uncomfortable ethical issue which arises in general practice consultations, and which general practitioner teachers have identified as ethically grey. The task for the group is to discuss different approaches to the issue, and then role play engaging a medical student in the consultation. The workshop will close with some reflections from the participants and a summing up from the presenter.

Learning objectives
To increase participant exposure to some of the literature about teaching ethics and professionalism to medical students on general practice placements; and to facilitate peer-based experiential learning about good practice teaching strategies in uncomfortable consultations with ethical and professional content.

Interactive learning strategies
Small group role plays and discussion.
Four groups of 4-6 participants will rotate around four stations in each corner of the room. If the space is large enough, six groups of four participants would also work. The workshop could run plugged or unplugged. Ideal length 1.5 hours.