**Presentation title**

Mind the Gaps: preparedness of new general practitioner fellows for independent practice.

**Explain why your paper is relevant, important and of interest to GP22 participants**

Understanding perceived gaps in knowledge and preparedness for practice can inform initiatives to enhance training and support for future general practitioners (GPs).

**Take home message**

A survey of 129 RACGP new fellows (within 5 years of fellowship) from across Australia revealed:

* Most GP new fellows reported high levels of overall preparedness;
* There were some specific non-clinical, clinical and procedural areas for which new fellows did not feel well prepared ; and possible barriers to career sustainability were identified.

**Background**

There is limited published research on the knowledge gaps and preparedness for independent practice of Australian GP new fellows.

**Aim / Hypothesis**

To identify the gaps and strengths in training and preparedness for practice for RACGP new fellows.

**Methods**

Focus group discussions of new fellows (n=13; 3 focus groups) and GP supervisors (n=11; 3 groups), informed the development of an anonymous online survey for current new fellows. Focus group audio-transcripts and survey qualitative responses were thematically analysed; survey quantitative responses were analysed descriptively.

**Results**

129 new fellows completed the survey. The large majority felt “moderately/extremely” well-prepared for their first two years of independent practice. Other findings include reported low levels of preparedness by many respondents for some specific clinical, procedural and non-clinical areas (including eating, developmental & behavioural, and substance use disorders, musculoskeletal injections, and business aspects of practice), a preference by many for a longer training time, and perceived barriers to career sustainability.

**Discussion**

Despite the small number of survey respondents, this study provides valuable insights into new fellows’ reported strengths and weaknesses in preparedness for practice, and flags a need to further explore mechanisms to support new fellows and barriers to career sustainability.

**Conclusion**

This study provides new knowledge of Australian GP new fellows’ perceived preparedness for independent practice.