

# **Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine Certificate in Musculoskeletal Medicine**

*Prepared by A/Prof Michael Yelland, Dr Geoff Harding, Dr Paul Cleary, Dr Chris Homan and Dr Bruce Jones*

## **Introduction**

The Australian Association of Musculoskeletal Medicine (AAMM) is offering a Certificate in Musculoskeletal Medicine to provide doctors with the opportunity to extend their expertise in dealing with musculoskeletal complaints in a structured way that is compatible with the other continuing professional development demands. The certificate is offered in a modular format, to allow doctors to pace their learning to meet their own needs specified in their own learning plan and/or benefit from individual modules if they do not wish to complete the certificate. It will allow GP registrars and Pain Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine trainees to upskill to a level that should improve their performance in their Fellowship exams in the area of musculoskeletal problems.

## **Certificate Outline and Components**

The certificate comprises four modules that individually are useful in clinical practice, but collectively would provide a comprehensive approach to upskilling in this area. To complete the requirements for the certificate, candidates are required to complete four modules and pass an assessment process.

These modules cover areas of the musculoskeletal system as follows:

*Module 1: Assessment and Management of Low Back Pain*

*Module 2: Assessment and Management of Neck and Upper Back Pain*

*Module 3: Assessment and Management of Upper Limb Pain*

*Module 4: Assessment and Management of Lower Limb Pain*

Each module covers assessment (history/examination/investigation/clinical reasoning) and management (education, manual techniques, exercises, medication, injections and others). They are being mapped directly to the 'extended expertise' level of the RACGP curriculum musculoskeletal skills scope document.

The components of each module are:

1. Prereading of 4-6 hours and a short MCQ quiz to prepare for the workshop and reduce the time spent on knowledge/theory during the workshop.
2. A day long workshop comprising 7 ½ hours teaching, learning and assessment time and an hour for breaks. This includes a multiple choice question test at the end of the workshop.
3. Post workshop reinforcing activity and quiz showing evidence of learning from prereading and workshop components.

Modules are designed to be independent but also reinforcing of each other. Hence they may be taken in any order. The certificate will be awarded when all four modules have been successfully completed.

## **RACGP QI & CPD Points**

An application for approval of each module as an 'Active Learning Module' attracting 40 Category 1 QI and CPD points will be made to the RACGP. This will provide an incentive for GPs to do individual modules even if they are not aiming for the certificate and a further incentive for those who have enrolled in the certificate. The requirements for these QI & CPD points include:

1. Completion of the 'predisposing activity' ie 4-6 hours of prereading, submission of a case description and completion of a small multiple choice question quiz.
2. Adequate participation in the workshop
3. Completion of the 'reinforcing activity' ie a reflection on the case description and completion of the previous multiple choice question quiz

### **Assessment for the Certificate**

The assessment and evaluation of each module comprises:

1. Completion of the 'predisposing activity' ie 4-6 hours of prereading, submission of a case description and completion of a small multiple choice question quiz.
2. Adequate participation and performance in the practical components of the workshop, ie physical examination, treatment and case discussion as assessed by each facilitator
3. End of workshop activity - a multiple choice question exam including 15 questions on the material covered in both the prereading and the workshop
4. Completion of a workshop evaluation form

For those who successfully complete the certificate, a certificate will be awarded that can be framed and displayed as desired. Although the certificate will not be a registerable qualification with AHPRA, it can be used in marketing to indicate a higher level of proficiency in dealing with musculoskeletal problems.

### **Module Fees**

There will be a fee for each module of \$590 (incl GST) for GPs, \$490 for members of the AAMM and a discounted fee of \$390 (incl GST) for registrars. This covers all components of the module, workshop meals, teaching and administrative costs. Past participants wanting to revise modules will pay half-price.

There will be no additional fee for enrolling in the certificate, but applicants for modules will be asked to declare their intention to complete the certificate over time.

### **Schedule and Location for Modules**

Dates for the second series of modules to be held in Brisbane are

- Saturday 4 August 2018 - low back pain module
- Saturday 10 November 2018 – neck and upper back pain module
- Saturday 16 Feb 2019 – upper limb pain module
- Saturday 11 May 2019 – lower limb pain module

### **Expression of Interest**

Expressions of interest in enrolling in individual modules and/or the whole certificate should be emailed the AAMM certificate administration officer, Kim Ramillon by emailing [aamm.cert@gmail.com](mailto:aamm.cert@gmail.com)