

# Overcoming isolation: building a global community of practice through SCENARIO Ed

Carla Taylor<sup>1,2</sup>, Simon Morgan<sup>1,3</sup>, Samia Toukhsati<sup>1,2,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> General Practice Supervision Australia, Victoria, Australia

<sup>2</sup> Monash University, Victoria, Australia

<sup>3</sup> Royal College of General Practice, Victoria, Australia

<sup>4</sup> University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

## Background

General practice is recognised widely as an isolating medical specialty. Coupled with physical isolation, GPs are increasingly vulnerable to professional isolation due to limited opportunity for interaction and collaboration both within the community practice and between the community and acute settings. For students and doctors in training, isolation may become a defining feature of general practice which negatively impacts career intent. This paper reports on the development of SCENARIO Ed, a tool that leverages advances in technology to promote learning and reduce isolation via the establishment of a worldwide virtual community of practice for students, trainees, supervisors, and educators.

## Method

In 2023, GPSA launched SCENARIO as an online application designed for clinical supervisors and educators to access randomly selected “scenarios” commonly encountered in community practice (e.g. tricky consultations). These case studies or scenarios can be used by educators across the world to boost exposure to community practice and facilitate problem-based discussions with students/trainees during teaching sessions.

SCENARIO Ed is a companion application that builds on teaching sessions through a global, online forum that enables medical students and trainees to discuss scenarios with other learners at different educational levels and in a variety of international jurisdictions.

## Results/Evaluation

A mixed methods study will be undertaken to evaluate engagement with SCENARIO Ed as an educational tool, as a strategy to promote interest in community practice, and as a mechanism by which to foster global communities of practices and reduce isolation. Indicators of success will include user analytics (e.g. geographical location and time spent in the application) as well as engagement analytics as consumers, contributors, and creators.

## Discussion

SCENARIO Ed offers a platform to enrich clinical education experiences through the development of a global community of practice. These benefits will have far-reaching implications for attracting, retaining, and supporting the health professional workforce into the future.

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