



## About Me

### Introduction

I was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt into a loving family with parents and two brothers. My family upbringing influenced me greatly. My mother was a school teacher and she valued learning and was always supporting people in times of need. Unfortunately, she died of cancer in her early forties. My father was a renowned political journalist who encouraged us all to work hard and study for success.

I have always enjoyed lifelong learning. This interest has led me to complete a number of courses:

- Degree in Medicine (Cairo University)
- Masters in Surgery (Cairo University)
- Fellowship in General Practice (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)
- Diploma of Dermatology (University of Wales)
- Company Directors Course (Australian Institute of Company Directors)
- Fellowship in Advanced Rural General Practice (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)
- In 2018, I became an Associate Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

### The journey to general practice

My wife and I decided to migrate to Australia in 1992. In January 1995 we started working in Tasmania. I worked as a surgical registrar at the Launceston General Hospital for 3 years before moving to The Royal Hobart Hospital for 2 years. An opportunity then opened up for my wife and I to work as general practitioners.

In January 2000, we moved to Wagga Wagga in New South Wales to commence work as general practitioners. I soon realised what a wonderful profession general practice is. It was as if the dream I had when I went to medical school had come true - patient communication, family care, diversity, and lots of challenges. I was instantly hooked on general practice.

I enjoyed working in Wagga Wagga and decided to build a purpose-built premise with plenty of rooms. I equipped it with the best medical equipment and IT technology available. As I established the clinic, I made an effort to visit other clinics, particularly previous winners of the RACGP "Practice of the Year" award in both New South Wales & Victoria. These visits gave me an understanding of what was regarded as the best practice at that time. This information, together with hours of research, and a strong commitment to be the best, was finally achieved in 2005 when the dream was realised.

In August 2005, I opened Glenrock Country Practice in Glenfield Park Wagga Wagga to support the health care needs of a growing rural community. The community embraced the medical practice. In 2007 we were awarded General Practice of the year for NSW /ACT, followed by 3 AGPAL excellence awards in 2009 and 2010.

My wife and I continue working at GP owners of this medical practice today.

## **General practice leadership**

I am passionate about improving health care for rural communities. I have always wanted to use my experiences and voice to bring about significant and lasting policy change that makes a difference. In 2008, I decided to join the RACGP Rural Faculty Board. In 2014 I was elected as the Chair of the RACGP Rural Faculty.

The RACGP Rural Faculty, now called RACGP Rural, has provided me with the opportunity to work together with passionate GPs from across rural Australia. Together we have improved the education and training experience for rural GPs. In this role, I have been able to meet with politicians, peak bodies and experts to develop solutions to address the health care needs of our communities.

The RACGP is my professional community. I am privileged to have been elected by my peers to be a Director of the RACGP (2014 – present). Since 2018, I have been the RACGP Vice President. A position I am very honoured to hold.

## **General practice education and training**

The general practice training to the future will be different. Working together with my GP colleagues, GP registrars and supervisors, I have supported the creation of new and innovative approaches for general practice education and training. I have achieved this through contributing to a number of national committees:

- RACGP National Standing Committee for Education
- National Rural Generalist Taskforce
- Remote Vocational Training Scheme (RVTS) Board of Directors
- Divisions of General Practice
- National Primary Care Collaboratives

## **Advocacy**

I am driven by a strong resolve to address health disparities. I believe that an appropriately funded general practice system can ensure patients across Australia have access to quality healthcare.

**Associate Professor Ayman Shenouda**

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