Austin Northern Training Hub is able to offer flexible training for General Surgery SET trainees in both metropolitan hospitals. The units in which this may be undertaken are listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Austin Hospital</th>
<th>Nothern Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HPB &amp; Transplant Unit (GS1)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Unit (GS2)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGI/Endocrine Unit (GS3)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal Unit (GS4)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Austin Hospital</th>
<th>Nothern Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal Unit (GS1)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast Unit (GS2)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGI / Endocrine (GS3)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPB &amp; Transplant Unit (GS4)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sub-specialty nature of these eight units impose a number of internal stipulations on the structure of the FLEXTR training posts. These are:

- **Structure**: Trainees will be structured to a one week on – one week off rotation. *Half day rotations will not be possible in these high volume and high complexity units.*
- **Previous Probations**: Trainees who are on a probationary term or on a normal term with a performance management plan (PMP) will not be accepted in to our FLEXTR positions.*

There are some additional caveats that we have to contend with, and they are as follows:

- **Even numbers**: Each of the four posts will be filled with FLEXTR trainees as long as there are even number of trainees available. We cannot support a single FLEXTR trainee in those posts.
- **FLEXTR Trainee Requirements**: Some of the units may not be available due to specific requirements of existing full time trainees, especially SET5 trainees.
- **UNIT Requirements**: Each of the units have the right to not accept FLEXTR training posts in a particular year depending on the seniority of fellows, FT registrars, etc.

**WHO CAN APPLY:** We welcome requests from any General Surgery trainee in Australia who may wish to undertake FLEXTR training providing that there are vacancies.

**HOW THE ALLOCATIONS WILL WORK:**

1. **Define the available posts**: Each year we will confirm the number of posts and units available for FLEXTR.
2. **Preferences**: With the ability to potentially host up to 16 FLEXTR trainees we are confident we should be able to accommodate most requests. However we do have a hierarchical system of preferences in allocating the posts as follows:
   - First preference: Austin Northern Training Hub trainees
   - Second preference: VIC/TAS trainees
   - Third preference: Non VIC/TAS Trainees.
3. **Numbers**: We can only support even numbers and will allocate according to the above preferences
4. **Boards informed** – Boards will inform trainees.
HOW TO APPLY: Any Australian trainee who wishes to apply for FLEXTR training for 2020 and onwards should follow the steps described below:

1. Discuss with your current hospital or hub supervisor your wish to apply for FLEXTR and to obtain a support letter.
2. Apply through TMS to your state training committee for approval to do FLEXTR. If you are not a Victorian trainee you will need to apply for both a Transfer of Training Between Regions and Flexible Training via TMS as per the regulations. The earlier you do this the more likely you are to get a suitable position.
3. Email the Austin Northern Training Hub (ANTH) Supervisor to indicate your interest as early as possible which will help with planning.
4. Once you have had approval from your state committee, communicate the approval to the ANTH Supervisor along with details of your previous rotations and the rotation/s of interest for FLEXTR.
5. Indicate if you wish to do one year (six month equivalent) or two years (one year equivalent) of FLEXTR.

WHAT IT WOULD COST YOU:
All participating trainees are expected participate in an ongoing research audit on the impact of FLEXTR on education, training, experience, attitudes, patient outcomes and family/social impact.

CONTACT:
Vic / Tas Regional Exec Officer, GSA.
A/Prof V Muralidharan, Supervisor General Surgery Training, Austin Northern Training Hub
(muv@unimlb.edu.au)

* We are fully aware that FLEXTR positions may be very valuable as an inclusive component of remedial action and performance management under certain circumstances. Until the FLEXTR program is well embedded in to the ANTH surgical training program and experience and data are built up we have elected to exclude those on probationary terms or on Non probationary terms with PMPs.