

# International Networks Map

April 2024



National Centre for  
Remote and Rural Health and Care

## Professional Group Networks

WONCA Europe

Rural GP Association of Scotland

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh – Faculty of Remote, Rural and Humanitarian Healthcare

Norwegian College of General Practice

Nordic Federation of General Practice

## Geographical Networks

Scottish Rural Network

Edge Foundation Island Education Network

Rural Pact Community Platform

The European Small Islands Federation

Scottish Islands Federation

Rural Services Network

## Centres

National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care (Scotland)

National Centre for Rural Health and Care (England)

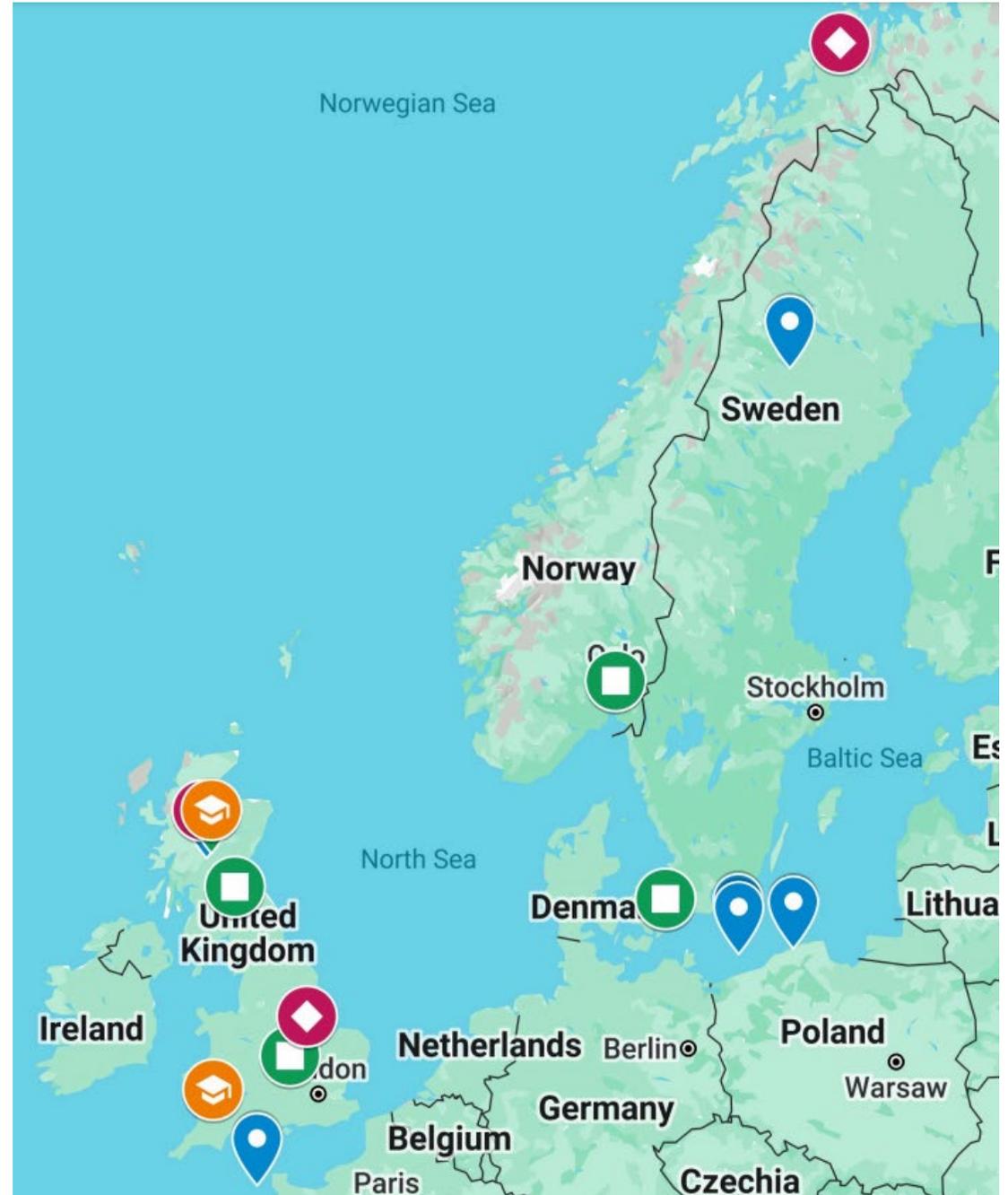
Norwegian Centre for Rural Medicine

Glesbygdsmedicinsk Centrum (Rural Medicine Centre) (Sweden)

## Academic Institutions and Courses

University of the Highlands and Islands – MSc Rural Advanced Practice

Swansea University – Rural and Remote Health in Medical Education



### Professional Group Networks

Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators

New South Wales Rural Doctors Network

### Geographical Networks

Australian Rural Health Education Network

Services for Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)

National Rural Health Alliance

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network

The Pacific Islands Healthcare Project

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners - National Rural Faculty

### Academic Institutions and Courses

The University of Adelaide – Adelaide Rural Clinical School

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)



### Professional Group Networks

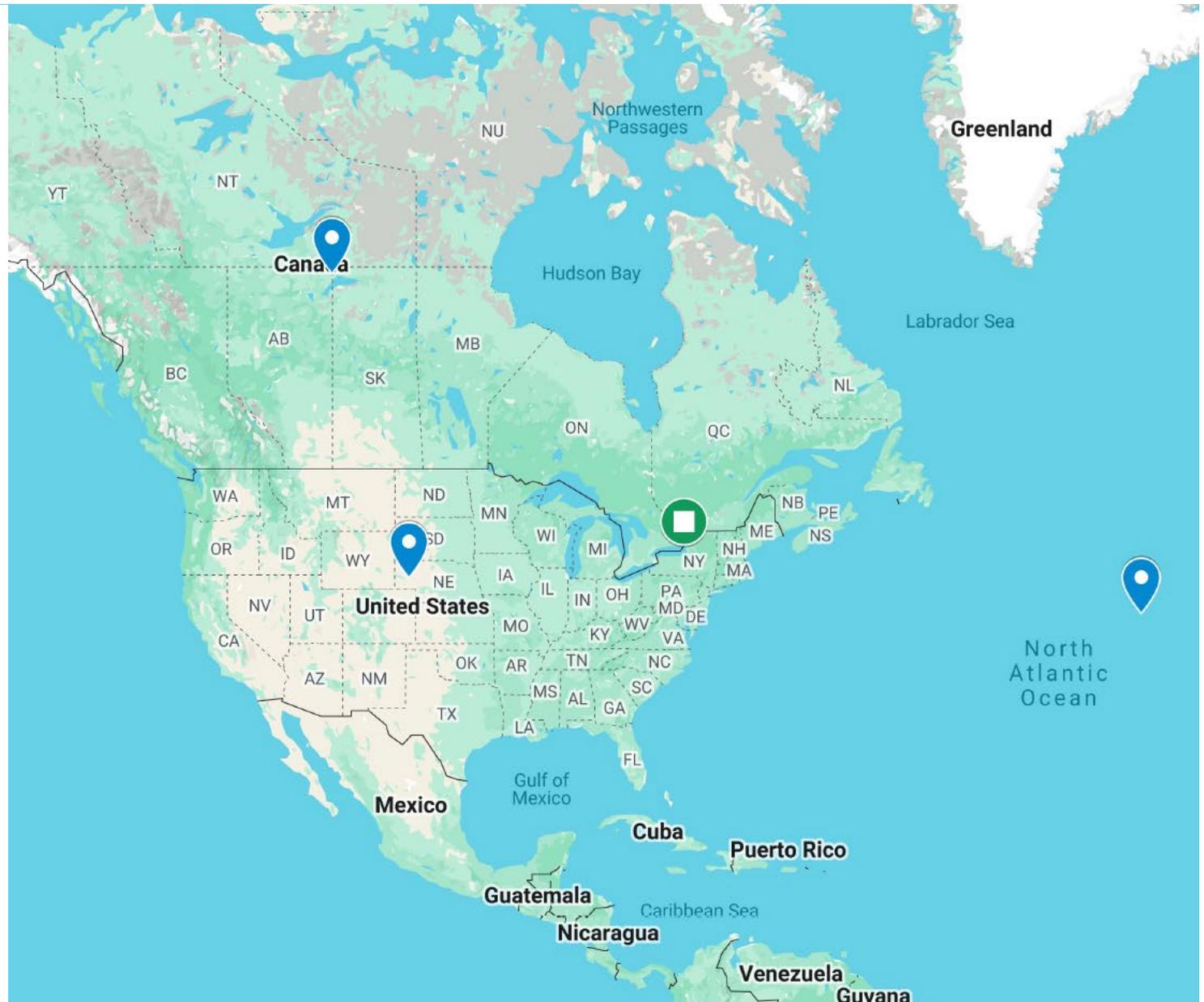
Society of Rural Physicians of Canada

### Geographical Networks

Canadian Northern and Remote Health Network

The National Rural Health Association

Island Innovation



Organisation Name	About	Website Link
<b>Professional Group Networks</b>		
Rural GP Association of Scotland	<p>The purpose of the Association is to further the educational and medico-political needs of its members. The educational activity is concentrated into the Annual Conference, and political issues discussed at the AGM. Medico-political issues are also dealt with throughout the year as the need arises, for instance: during recent years of New Contract negotiations, representatives of the RGPAS have had a strong political voice. Together with SGPC representatives they have resolved many contentious issues with relation to rural issues and the New Contract.</p>	<p><a href="https://ruralgp.scot/">https://ruralgp.scot/</a></p>
New South Wales Rural Doctors Network	<p>NSW Rural Doctors Network Ltd, trading as "Rural Doctors Network" and known as "RDN", exists to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in remote, rural, regional, Aboriginal and disadvantaged communities. It is a not-for-profit, non-government charitable organisation that works to create and sustain access to quality multidisciplinary healthcare for all Australians – no matter where they live. By working collaboratively with health professionals, communities, service agencies, industry, federal, state and local governments as well as Local Health Districts and Primary Health Networks, RDN seeks to grow and strengthen a capable primary health workforce and support the capacity of health service organisations by contributing to rural health policy development.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.nswrdn.com.au/">https://www.nswrdn.com.au/</a></p>
Rural Services Network	<p>The Rural Services Network is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association. We are a membership organisation and work on behalf of our members as the national champion for rural services.</p> <p>We support our member organisations through the sharing of best practice and rural expertise, and advocate on their behalf to ensure that the rural voice is raised up the agenda with parliamentarians and decision makers.</p> <p>The Rural Services Network has different levels of membership and currently represents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 69 Local Authorities in Sparse Membership</li> <li>• 17 Local Authorities in Rural Assembly Membership</li> <li>• 222 Organisations across England as part of the Rural Services Partnership</li> <li>• 207 Rural Market Towns and Larger Parishes</li> </ul> <p>In addition, we have a large number of Parish and Town Councils have community membership of the RSN, due to their Principal Council being in Sparse or Rural Assembly membership.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/page/wh-at-is-the-rsn">https://www.rsnonline.org.uk/page/wh-at-is-the-rsn</a></p>

<p>Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Faculty of Remote, Rural and Humanitarian Healthcare</p>	<p>The Faculty of Remote and Rural Healthcare was formally launched in November 2018 by The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, incorporating Humanitarian in its structure in August 2020.</p> <p>The faculty was established in response to the need identified within both industry and the public health arena to define, review and set standards of competence for organisations as well as medical and non-medical personnel delivering healthcare in remote and rural environments.</p> <p>Our primary objective is to “improve the health outcomes of individuals living and working in remote, rural, austere and life threatening areas of the world”.</p> <p>Our vision is to establish, promote and develop a diverse global community of healthcare professionals operating across public, private and third sectors within a number of diverse industries. This will be developed through our Capabilities Framework.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/faculties/faculty-of-remote-rural-and-humanitarian-healthcare">https://www.rcsed.ac.uk/faculties/faculty-of-remote-rural-and-humanitarian-healthcare</a></p>
<p>Society of Rural Physicians of Canada</p>	<p>The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. Founded in 1992, the SRPC’s mission is championing rural generalist medical care through education, collaboration, advocacy and research.</p> <p>On behalf of its members and the Canadian public, SRPC performs a wide variety of functions, such as developing and advocating health delivery mechanisms, supporting rural doctors and communities in crisis, promoting and delivering continuing rural medical education, encouraging and facilitating research into rural health issues, and fostering communication among rural physicians and other groups with an interest in rural health care.</p> <p>The SRPC is a voluntary professional organization with over 3200 members representing rural physicians spanning the country.</p>	<p><a href="https://srpc.ca/about-us">https://srpc.ca/about-us</a></p>
<p>Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators</p>	<p>The Federation of Rural Australian Medical Educators (FRAME) is the peak body representing those Rural Clinical Schools (RCS) and Regional Medical Schools (RMS).</p> <p>FRAME aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To influence and advocate for Australian rural medical education policy and innovative practice.</li> <li>To promote rural medical education as a core component of Australian rural medical workforce strategy, by supporting integrated rural career pathways throughout all stages of medical education and training.</li> <li>To act as a forum for the discussion of rural medical pedagogy and research, rural health, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, student selection for rural training, rural community engagement and collaboration and other topics of mutual interest.</li> <li>To ensure all stages of medical education and research address the priority health care needs of rural, regional and remote Australia.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://ausframe.org/#">https://ausframe.org/#</a></p>

	To collaborate with relevant national organisations to facilitate and promote rural medical education e.g. the: Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)	
National Rural Faculty, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	The RACGP Rural supports and advocates for general practitioners working in rural and remote Australia. RACGP Rural is committed to addressing rural disadvantage focusing our efforts toward strategies which lead to more equitable access to healthcare.. Our aim is to ensure a sustainable, well-supported rural general practice workforce to competently and confidently address the needs of rural and remote communities.	<a href="https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/rural">https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/rural</a>
Norwegian College of General Practice	The Norwegian College is part of the Norwegian medical association and works to develop the family medicine/general practice specialty. This includes core values and ethics, education, quality development and research. The organization has many subcommittees, including one on <a href="#">Rural medicine</a> .	<a href="http://www.legeforeningen.no/nfa">www.legeforeningen.no/nfa</a>
Nordic Federation of General Practice	NFGP is an organization who through a collaboration between the five Nordic colleges of general practitioners ensures that Nordic general practice/family medicine has high international professional standards based on the accomplishment of common Nordic tasks and through exchange of experience and knowledge, which will support the individual colleges of general practitioners' national work.  Organization-wise this is possible through a collaboration between the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care (SJPHC) and the Nordic congresses of general practice within the framework of the jointly owned NFGP ApS.	<a href="https://www.nfgp.org/flx/nfgp/about_nfgp/">https://www.nfgp.org/flx/nfgp/about_nfgp/</a>
<b>Geographical Networks</b>		
Scottish Islands Federation	Formed over 10 years ago, the Scottish Islands Federation (SIF) is a network of island communities working together to have a stronger voice on common challenges, and to share ideas and innovation to accelerate change. The overarching aim of SIF is to promote, publicise and advance the interests of Scotland's 93 inhabited islands and our objectives are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a broad and inclusive membership from all Scottish Islands</li> <li>• Ensure community and voluntary groups have a voice and are well represented within the federation</li> <li>• Work with councils, agencies and the Scottish Government to ensure that island needs are well understood</li> <li>• Represent the interests of Scottish islands at regional, national and European levels</li> <li>• Share good practices and facilitate information exchange amongst Scottish islanders</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.scottish-islands-federation.co.uk/what-we-do/">https://www.scottish-islands-federation.co.uk/what-we-do/</a>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage networking on and between islands throughout Scotland and Europe</li> <li>• Acquire, disseminate, and utilise knowledge resources for islanders</li> </ul> <p>SIF is driven by its members and managed by a voluntary board of directors and is currently supported through the Scottish Government Islands Team and member subscriptions.</p>	
The European Small Islands Federation	<p>The European Small islands Federation is the fruit of a successful cooperation between small islands communities. In May 2001, six national organisations representing small islands communities decided to gather within a network : the European Small Islands Network composed of Danish, Finnish, French, Irish, Scottish and Swedish small islands was born. In 2005, the six founding members of ESIN decided to formalise the network. Statutes were approved and the European Small Islands Federation came into being however the name “ESIN” remains to design the federation. ESIN progressively made it known amongst islands communities and three new organisations joined ESIN in 2006 : the Association of Estonian Islands, the Association of Italian Minor Islands and the Hellenic Small Islands Network. In 2009, the Åland Islands became a member of ESIN and in 2014, the Croatian Islands <a href="http://www.otocnisabor.hr/">http://www.otocnisabor.hr/</a> joined.</p>	<p><a href="https://europeansmallislands.com/origins-and-aims/">https://europeansmallislands.com/origins-and-aims/</a></p>
Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network	<p>Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network is a collective organisation to advocate for the health and wellbeing of rural New Zealanders. Our vision is healthy and thriving rural communities</p>	<p><a href="https://htrhn.org.nz/">https://htrhn.org.nz/</a></p>
National Rural Health Alliance (Australia)	<p>The National Rural Health Alliance (the Alliance) comprises 51 national organisations committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the 7 million people in rural and remote Australia. Our diverse membership includes representation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector, health professional organisations, health service providers, health educators and students.</p> <p>The Alliance provides a united voice for people and health professionals living and working in rural communities and advocates for sustainable and affordable health services. Our most important role, underpinned by our broad representative base, is listening to the people of rural, regional and remote Australia and taking their views to government.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ruralhealth.org.au/about">https://www.ruralhealth.org.au/about</a></p>
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH)	<p>SARRAH, established in 1995, is a grassroots’ organisation advocating on behalf of rural and remote Australian communities in order for them to have access to allied health services which support equitable and sustainable health and well-being.</p>	<p><a href="https://sarraah.org.au/">https://sarraah.org.au/</a></p>
Island Innovation	<p>We facilitate connections between island stakeholders and sustainable development practitioners across the globe to share knowledge and promote collaboration. By creating a support network, we smooth the way for developing innovative solutions to drive economic performance, ensure political stability and promote good</p>	<p><a href="https://islandinnovation.co/about/">https://islandinnovation.co/about/</a></p>

	governance, which improves the social and environmental conditions within island communities.	
Rural Pact Community Platform	In 2021, the European Commission launched the Rural Pact, as part of its Long-Term Vision for EU's rural areas. The Rural Pact provides a framework for cooperation between public authorities, civil society, businesses, academia and citizens, at the European, national, regional and local level. The Rural Pact contributes to achieving the shared goals of the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas by facilitating interaction on rural matters. Includes projects in delivering health services in rural areas.	<a href="https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/rural-pact_en">https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/rural-pact_en</a>
Scottish Rural Network	The Scottish Rural Network (SRN) encourages rural development by sharing information, ideas and good practice. We work with, and for, anyone who lives, works or has an interest in rural and island Scotland.	<a href="https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/about">https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/about</a>
Canadian Northern and Remote Health Network	The Canadian Northern and Remote Health Network (CNRHN) brings together senior decision-makers, leaders, policymakers and practitioners, to develop effective and sustainable solutions to improve healthcare and the health status of people living in northern and remote areas of Canada. Members enhance their leadership and improvement skills by sharing learning, innovative ideas, tools and resources.	<a href="https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/all-programs/canadian-northern-and-remote-health-network/">https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/all-programs/canadian-northern-and-remote-health-network/</a>
The National Rural Health Alliance	Our aim is to advance rural health reform with our stakeholders to achieve equitable health outcomes for rural, regional and remote communities to achieve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-informed policy and practice</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Inclusiveness</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.ruralhealth.org.au/">https://www.ruralhealth.org.au/</a>
The Pacific Islands Healthcare Project	The PIHCP was developed to (1) provide humanitarian medical care to deserving, underserved, indigenous peoples of the USAPI at a reasonable cost, restore them to health, and return them to their island homes as productive members of society and (2) select patients to enhance GME for TAMC's residents-in-training and staff (i.e., good teaching cases).	<a href="https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2014.00175/full">https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2014.00175/full</a>
The National Rural Health Association	NRHA is the only national organization with a clear mission to: Improve the delivery of health services in rural areas through its many members and staff Help rural citizens build, maintain, and improve the institutions that can meet their health care needs by providing research, education, leadership and informational support	<a href="https://www.ruralhealth.us/about-nrha">https://www.ruralhealth.us/about-nrha</a>
Australian Rural Health Education Network	ARHEN is the national association and peak body for the 19 University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) located in rural and remote Australia.	<a href="https://arhen.org.au/">https://arhen.org.au/</a>

	Our purpose is to promote the health and wellbeing of people in rural and remote Australia by delivering high-quality health education, research and advocacy.	
Edge Foundation Island Education Network	<p>This network brings together colleagues leading education transformation on islands around the British Isles and in British Overseas Territories. Members include Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, the Western Isles of Scotland, the Orkneys, the Shetlands, Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Falkland Islands.</p> <p>The group provides an opportunity for members to explore the unique opportunities and challenges of education in an island setting and supports a range of Edge’s research projects which focus on education in an island context.</p>	<a href="https://www.edge.co.uk/research/research-networks/island-education-network/">https://www.edge.co.uk/research/research-networks/island-education-network/</a>
WONCA Europe	The European Regional Branch, WONCA Europe, is the academic and scientific society for general practice/family medicine in Europe. We represent 47 member organisations and more than 90,000 family doctors in Europe.	<a href="https://www.woncaeurope.org/">https://www.woncaeurope.org/</a>
<b>Centres</b>		
National Centre for Rural Health and Care (England)	<p>The National Centre for Rural Health and Care acts as a governance vehicle for formal collaboration amongst partners interested in the four key drivers of impact in rural health and care, as well as influencing policy and strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data – scoping and measuring the challenge and the response to it</li> <li>Research – identifying and testing what works</li> <li>Technology – shrinking distances between and adding to the human capacity in rural communities</li> <li>Workforce and Learning – making the case for rural settings as the location of choice for ambitious health and care professionals</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.ncrhc.org/about">https://www.ncrhc.org/about</a>
Norwegian Centre for Rural Medicine	<p>We are an interdisciplinary competence centre that promotes research, professional development, education and networks among doctors and health personnel in rural areas. By bridging the gap between practice, academia and administration, we will contribute to quality, recruitment and stability in the health service.</p> <p>Our work shall be characterised by reliability, flexibility and respect – internally and in collaboration with others.</p>	<a href="https://www.nsdm.no/english/">https://www.nsdm.no/english/</a>
National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care (Scotland)	<p>The National Centre for Remote and Rural Health and Care, was established in Autumn 2023. The National Centre will support delivery of improved care for remote, rural and island communities. It will reduce health and wellbeing inequalities through focused work to improve the sustainability, capacity, and capability of the remote, rural and island primary care and community-based healthcare workforce and the vital services they deliver to people living in these communities across Scotland.</p> <p>The Centre will work closely with stakeholders to serve all of Scotland’s remote, rural</p>	<a href="https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/63205">https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/63205</a>

	and island populations, harnessing innovation and making use of virtual networks and existing community spaces.	
Glesbygdsmedicinsk Centrum (Rural Medicine Centre) - Sweden	We have our headquarters in Storuman, a sparsely populated municipality in Västerbotten's hinterland   Sweden. Here, we work to develop knowledge about the specific needs, conditions, challenges and opportunities that exist in providing health care in sparsely populated areas. The topics we work on are good, close and equal care in sparsely populated areas, Sami health, recruitment and education.	<a href="https://www.regionvasterbotten.se/glesbygdsmedicin">https://www.regionvasterbotten.se/glesbygdsmedicin</a>
<b>Academic Institutions and Courses</b>		
University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) - MSc Rural Advanced Practice	<p>Study this unique and specialised MSc Rural Advanced Practice, developed in partnership with NHS Education for Scotland, to become a successful Remote and Rural Advanced Practitioner. Equip yourself to provide quality health care to remote and rural communities while innovating and improving healthcare provision. Learn from experts at UHI's Department of Nursing and Midwifery, focusing on clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and research, to provide a fit for purpose approach to rural care in the modern world. On this fully online programme, develop strong supportive relationships with academic staff and supervisors using digital technology and an evidence-based approach.</p> <p>Be assessed through practice-linked reflection and completion of a course-specific work-based portfolio, developed in collaboration with NHS Education for Scotland. Your development and assessment of clinical competence is via local practice supervision.</p>	<a href="https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/msc-rural-advanced-practice/">https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/msc-rural-advanced-practice/</a>
Swansea University - Rural and Remote Health in Medical Education	<p>RRHIME (Rural and Remote Health in Medical Education) is a clearly defined Rural and Remote Health Track embedded throughout the GEM curriculum.</p> <p>This allows students the opportunity to focus elements of their education on rural and remote health. A crucial, evidence-based element is that students experience more prolonged immersion in rural health environments and/or focused on rural and remote health issues. These include rural General Practice and District Hospitals, as well as rural secondary care in Aberystwyth and Haverfordwest.</p>	<a href="https://www.swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/medicine/medicine-graduate-entry-mbbch/rrhime/">https://www.swansea.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/medicine/medicine-graduate-entry-mbbch/rrhime/</a>
The University of Adelaide - Adelaide Rural Clinical School	Our aim is to improve access to health care for patients throughout South Australia. Our programs are based in rural hospitals, community-based clinics and general practices, where you will have close contact with experienced teachers in a safe and supervised environment. We are committed to developing your professionalism, leadership, teamwork skills, scholarship, and cultural and social awareness.	<a href="https://health.adelaide.edu.au/adelaide-rural-clinical-school/">https://health.adelaide.edu.au/adelaide-rural-clinical-school/</a>
ACRRM - Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine - Central Office	ACRRM is the professional home of Rural Generalist Medicine and the ACRRM Fellowship (FACRRM) is designed to describe the professional standards for excellence in Rural Generalist practice. The College is committed to building a thriving	<a href="https://www.acrrm.org.au/home">https://www.acrrm.org.au/home</a>

	workforce of Rural Generalists across rural and remote Australia. These specialist general practitioners are trained to bring a broad set of advanced skilled services to people living rural and remote communities.	
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