

UWS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION

University of
Western Sydney



DEAN'S UPDATE

Welcome to the next edition of our School Newsletter.

The establishment of the School of Medicine at the University of Western Sydney in 2007 had the immediate effect of creating opportunities for students in Greater Western Sydney to aspire to a career in Medicine. Already, the UWS School of Medicine is helping address critical medical workforce shortages and is strengthening the health system through medical training and research.

VISIT FROM PROF CEES VAN DER VLEUTEN

The School of Medicine hosted a two week visit in April from Prof Cees van der Vleuten, Director of the School of Health Professions Education at Maastricht University, to assist with the review of assessment and curriculum renewal for the UWS medical program. Cees is a leading international figure in medical education, and was instrumental in developing educational innovations at Maastricht University. Cees has been appointed as Adjunct Professor to the School of Medicine.



A highlight of his visit was the all-day symposium, Beyond Competence: Assessing for Quality and Excellence during which speakers included lead medical educators from Australian and New Zealand medical schools and prevocational training bodies, as well as recent UWS graduates. Demand was high for places, with participants from 17 Australian and New Zealand medical schools, and prevocational and vocational training organisations, conjoints, alumni, students and staff.



(Clockwise from right front row) Lambert Schuwirth, Cees van der Vleuten, James Kwan, Kichu Nair, Mike Tweed, James Edwards, Michael Wan.

At the conclusion of the visit, the School thanked Cees for his participation and willingness to look at the course

from its perspective, highlighting both matters of educational pedagogy and practical implementation.

UWS FORMALLY HONOURS THARAWAL CEO



Pictured: UWS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Barney Glover and Uncle Darryl Wright

At the April graduation ceremony, eight community awards were presented to our "community heroes" – members of the Greater Western Sydney community in recognition of their service to the region. These individuals are valuable role models in the community and have gone 'above and beyond' in their work or community service.

Uncle Darryl Wright is a Dunghutti man from the Macleay Region, Kempsey in Northern

NSW. For the past eleven years, Uncle Darryl has been the Chief Executive Officer at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation. Uncle Darryl has used his extensive management skills to build the Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation into a thriving and effective community asset in cooperation with the Tharawal Board, staff and Campbelltown community. He is also an Aboriginal Elder on Campus and Community Elder. The Elders on Campus group comprises of highly respected community Elders who make themselves available to advise and guide students in the context of employment. They provide leadership, mentoring, cultural workplace relations, Board and Committee participation, and operate in an advisory capacity with the potential to develop projects associated with ongoing research and teaching.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week which celebrates the rich culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia each year was celebrated between 27 May and 3 June. We are proud to pledge our ongoing support to building a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as encouraging conversation about the importance of reconciliation and recognising Australia's first peoples in the Constitution.

COMBINED SCHOOLS PRIZE CEREMONY

A Combined School Prize Ceremony with the Schools of Medicine, Nursing & Midwifery and Science & Health was held on the 21 July 2014 for the 2013 Academic Year. The purpose of this event was to congratulate and celebrate the academic excellence of our students, as well as, to acknowledge the generous support of prize donors who formally present the awards.

The School of Medicine's prize recipients were: Aaron Coleman who received the Mark Richardson Award for Second Year Medicine; Daniel Youlden who received the Inner Wheel Club of Camden & Rotary Club of Camden Prize in Medicine; Emma Dasey who received the ADInstruments Award in Medical Physiology; Kelvin Tran who received the Calvary Award in Fostering Personal and Professional Development in Medicine; and Thomas

Patterson who received the Wollondilly Shire Council Prize for Medicine in Context.



Thomas Patterson was presented the Wollondilly Shire Council Prize for Medicine in Context by the Donor, Diane Gardiner



Kelvin Tran received the Calvary Award in Fostering Personal and Professional Development in Medicine by Prof. Annemarie Hennessy & Prof. Brad Frankum on behalf of the donor



Daniel Youlden was presented the Inner Wheel Club of Camden & Rotary Club of Camden Prize in Medicine by the Donors, Elizabeth Davies, Carmel Rixon and Rick Wade

Deans' Medal recipients from each school were also awarded at this Ceremony School.



Rachel Clare Debono, Rachel Maree Brennan and Bronwyn Forsythe were our Deans' Medallists.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Prof. Iain Gosbell who received the GoldStar award at the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research mid-year grants and awards ceremony.

Prof. Paul De Souza together with Prof. Les Bokey and Prof. Soon Lee and other colleagues at Liverpool received a \$6.5 million grant from the Cancer Institute NSW to establish the Centre for Oncology Education and Research Translation (CONCERT) – an initiative that will develop new drugs and treatments for Australian cancer patients. This highly prestigious collaborative grant will boost the level of translational cancer research exponentially, resulting in the rapid translation of research to help care for people suffering from cancer.



Prof Neil Merrett was elected to the Committee of the Section of Upper GI and Obesity Surgery of RACS. He was also appointed to the Board of ANZGOSA and the Training Committee of ANZGOSA.

Dr Ryan Dashwood and Ashleigh Deschamps, our Animal Facility Manager, received funding from the Vice-Chancellor's Professional Development Award designed to support their roles with the School.

STUDENTS BUZZ AT THE NSW BRAIN BEE CHALLENGE



Cheered on by family and supporters, 124 of our best and brightest Year 10 students from 48 schools convened at the University of Western Sydney, School of Medicine, to compete in the State Finals of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge.

This annual event saw individuals and team competitors battling it out for the ultimate prize of Brain Bee NSW State Champion. The winner of the individual competition was Jade Pham from James Ruse Agricultural High School. Second and third places respectively were awarded to Natasha Asif from Beverly Hills Girls High School and Oliver Hills from Meadowbank Educational Trust School, Wagga Wagga. For the team event, the James Ruse Agricultural High School team was awarded first place followed by Cabramatta High School in second place, and Presbyterian Ladies' College, Sydney in third place.

The NSW State Champion Jade Pham, will go on to compete at the national titles held next year at the Australian Neuroscience Society meeting in Western Australia. The winner of that competition goes on to represent Australia at the International Brain Bee Challenge.

In addition to the thrill of competing, the first, second and third place individual winners received iPods and neuroscience books donated by UWS and a conditional scholarship valued up

to \$20,000 to study at UWS. The winning team was given neuroscience books for their school with members of the team also receiving iPods from UWS.

Prof. Vaughan Macefield, from the UWS School of Medicine and NSW Coordinator of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge spoke about the importance of the competition and congratulated all this year's contestants.

I thank you for your contribution and participation in the School Newsletter.

*Prof. Annemarie Hennessy
Dean*

RESEARCH

AN UPDATE FROM THE MOLECULAR PHYSIOLOGY UNIT

Molecular Physiology Unit and the UWS Molecular Medicine Research Group welcome Ms Arlene D'Silva as a new PhD student. Arlene is enrolled at University of Sydney but will complete all her thesis research at UWS School of Medicine as part of a collaboration with Clinical Prof. Jon Hyett (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital). Her project involves the use of Proteomics to assess early risk factors and mechanisms in pregnancy/gestation. The Molecular Physiology Unit thanks Prof. Hennessy for initially spearheading introductions and promoting more formal collaborative interactions, including such training opportunities.

ENDEAVOUR FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT COMING TO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

An early career researcher (Dr Gómez Sanz) who completed her PhD in Spain and is currently undertaking post doctorate work in Switzerland has been awarded an Endeavour Fellowship to undertake post doc work with Dr Slade Jensen and the Antibiotic Resistance and Mobile Elements Group, which is based at the Ingham Institute at Liverpool.

She will likely be commencing in October, and we are making arrangements locally for her to be made a visiting fellow.

INGHAM

VISIT TO CHINA – DR BJÖRN ESPEDIDO

Dr Björn Espedido recently returned from Chengdu, China where he was invited to give a seminar to clinicians, scientists and students working at the Infectious Diseases Centre of West China Hospital (the largest hospital in China) and the West China School of Medicine. He spoke on "Whole Genome Sequencing Applications in Clinical Microbiology" based on research conducted at the Ingham Institute – Liverpool Hospital Clinical School, where there is an Ion Torrent Personal Genome Machine sequencer. Dr Espedido presented research that he (along with Prof Iain Gosbell, Dr Slade Jensen and Conjoint A/Prof. Sebastiaan van Hal) recently published on using next generation sequencing platforms to: characterize outbreaks of multi-resistant bacteria in local ICUs, identify new/emerging multi-resistant bacteria in Australia and study the in vivo evolution of bacterial infections from different patients in response to changes in the antibiotic treatment of the patient. The seminar was well received and future genomics-based collaborations were discussed.



RESEARCH PROJECTS

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Dr Michael O'Connor

Active research projects are underway using human pluripotent stem cells to generate ocular lens cells, retinal pigment epithelium, gut, and vascular endothelium. Michael was invited to present a seminar on these projects at the University of Newcastle on May 23. The lens research project has been particularly productive, with a provisional patent submitted in January this year for a new lens cell purification technique. This work was also selected for an oral presentation at the prestigious international ARVO eye conference (May 3 to 8, Miami, Florida, USA).

Since the last newsletter, an invited manuscript on emerging stem cell therapies has been published (Clin Transl Med. 2014. 3:10. doi: 10.1186/2001-1326-3-10). Another invited manuscript on modelling gut motility disorders with stem cells has been submitted together with Dr Vincent Ho. Additionally, an invited book chapter on lens regeneration is due for publication later this year (in Regenerate Biology of the Eye; Springer).

Patricia Murphy submitted her PhD thesis in March and is now working full-time as a research scientist at the stem cell company Genea Biocells (Sydney). A Masters student, Sharon Ramlu, has also finished and moved overseas.

The Stem Cell Stories regenerative medicine image exhibit that Michael established in collaboration with Questacon (Canberra) has just finished touring at the Royal Institute of Australia (Adelaide). The exhibit, including 3 images selected from UWS researchers, has generated significant media interest and has been the subject of articles in the Sunday Mail (Adelaide), SALife magazine and the closing credits on the ABC 7:30 Report (Adelaide, Friday July 4). The exhibit will now return to Canberra for display from October this year until April next year, after which it will tour again.

As a result of this successful Questacon interaction, UWS has been able to establish an additional Questacon

collaboration, through the Questacon Science Circus which was visited and displayed on the UWS Parramatta campus Saturday and Sunday August 23 and 24. The Circus aims to engage children in the wonder of science.

In preparation for transitioning to the Presidency of the Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research, Michael was recently awarded a UWS Vice Chancellor Professional Development scholarship. These funds will enable him to attend the Foundations of Directorship workshop run by the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Look forward to an update on the workshop in the next newsletter.

Finally, the School of Medicine zebrafish facility is continuing to progress well. Research groups from the Schools of Medicine and Science and Health are investigating a variety of zebrafish projects. Colonies of two strains of zebrafish are now well established in the facility (TAB wild type, and the genetically modified transparent Casper fish) and the first genetic manipulation experiments are planned for the second half of this year.

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE'S RESEARCH

The Department of General Practice has recently completed two landmark research reports and consulted on a third. These were all related to funded research projects and are mentioned below.

Strengthening the roles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Educators and Mentors in General Practice Training

This research project, funded by General Practice Education and Training Limited (GPET), and carried out with Cultural Educators and Mentors, has provided an improved understanding of the variety of roles these key educators play in General Practice training. The research findings will be reported at the Primary Health Care Research Conference in July and are featured in the 2014 Research Snapshots, a Primary Health Care Research and Information Service publication, highlighting influential research undertaken in the Australian Primary Health Care context. The research findings and in particular

their recommendations for the support of Cultural Educators and Mentors, will inform GP training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health into the future.

An Evaluation of the Partnership between the Western Sydney Medicare Local and the Western Sydney Local Health District

Funded by WentWest Ltd, the team from the Department of General Practice used a Program Logic approach to evaluating the inputs, activities, outputs, and early outcomes and impacts of the partnership between these two key health care organisations in the west of Sydney. The report highlights the potential for such health care partnerships and contributes to the literature on what factors in the Australian context are likely to facilitate a more integrated approach to health care.

Evaluation of a community-based cancer support service: Blue Mountains Cancer Help

This consumer led research has been implemented by a collaboration between Blue Mountains Cancer Help, the Nepean Blue Mountains Medicare Local and with UWS taking a consultant role. The research findings were presented in June to a community forum in the Blue Mountains. The consumer led research approach will be showcased in a presentation at the Primary Health Care Research Conference in Canberra later this month.

RESEARCH GRANTS

CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Grant Successes

Associate Professor Federico Giroi and Professor Louisa Jorm were successful in their bid for renewal of Capital Market CRC. UWS is now a university partner of the Capital Markets Cooperative Research Centre (CMCRC) (www.cmcrc.com/), which has been awarded more than \$32M of funding over the next five years from the Australian Government Cooperative Research Centres program. UWS will collaborate with the CMCRC on the health research program, on topics related to the containment of health expenditures and the efficiency of health care markets. Other university partners involved in

research related to health care include the University of Technology Sydney, Federation University Australia, the University of Sydney and the University of NSW.

- Prof. Louisa Jorm was successful in receiving funds from healthdirect Australia to undertake a project titled: 'Mapping the Outcomes of Calls to healthdirect Australia'. The project has received funding of \$321,176 over two years and commenced in 2014.
- Dr. Mel Taylor was successful in her bid to join the Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC (BNHCRC). The project titled: 'Managing Animals in Disasters: Improving Preparedness, Response, and Resilience through Individual and Organisational Collaboration'. The project has received funding until 2017 totalling \$387,046 and commenced in 2014.
- Professor Louisa Jorm and Professor Annemarie Hennessy were successful in receiving funds from the Cancer Institute NSW totalling \$2.5M over five years to undertake the UWS/ CINSW: Cancer Prevention Initiative (CPI). The grant will be used to employ an Academic Chair in Cancer Prevention and accompanying team.
- Ms Marlee Bower received a scholarship from Rotary Health. Her research proposal is titled: 'The experience of loneliness in the Australian homeless population'. Marlee commenced her PhD studies in 2014.
- Dr. Vanessa Rose and Associate Professor Janette Perz have received funding from Australian Rotary Health to undertake a project titled: 'Walk the Talk: Phase II study of an online population-based intervention to improve the mental health of young people who are unemployed'. The project commenced in 2014 and will receive funding of \$128,796.

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BATHURST RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL

STUDENTS HEAD WEST FOR BEST EXPERIENCE



LEARNING RURAL WAYS: Member for Bathurst Paul Toole and Dr Tim McCrossin (right) welcome the new undergraduate medical students from the University of Western Sydney to Bathurst

Bathurst welcomed its fifth intake of fourth-year undergraduate medical students from the University of Western Sydney, and they are all fired up about what they wanted to achieve during July in the city.

Associate Professor Tim McCrossin, Clinical Dean of the Bathurst UWS Rural Clinical School, said it was always exciting to welcome a new group of students.

He said some of the students, who had taken part in the program in the past returned as junior medical officers to the Bathurst Base Hospital.

Associate Professor McCrossin said in addition to being part of the clinical teams to which our students will be attached, he also wanted to see the 12 students immersed in local community activities. One of the community projects the students have been a part of in previous years is the Teddy Bear's Hospital at the Royal Bathurst Show.

"Our aim is to expose them to a rural and regional setting with the hope that they will look at working here in the long term," Dr McCrossin said.

Member for Bathurst, Paul Toole was on hand to welcome these students.

"This is something I feel very close to, having been involved since 2010 when I was mayor of the city," he said. "That first year we had eight students and now the demand is so high we have filled 12 positions."

Extract from Western Advocate/11th July, 2014

A VISIT TO COTTIES RUN

The visit to Prof. Wilson's working sheep farm has become quite a tradition, and always is met with great enthusiasm by the incoming students. This year was no exception. Professor Jenny Reath accompanied by A/Prof. Tim McCrossin and most of the students braved the July cold weather for an enjoyable day.

Professor Ross Wilson presented on many aspects of health and safety relevant to life on a farm, involving the students every step of the way.

The precursory lecture was followed by practical demonstrations (including many student attempts); at welding, chain sawing, moving sheep, shearing, riding all types of vehicles and tending new born lambs to name a few.





Students remarked “the farm visit was excellent, a great experience, very interesting and highly relevant to rural medicine”.

BEN AND ELIZABETH CHIFLEY COTTAGES

The Mayor of Bathurst, Cr Gary Rush, together with Professor Annemarie Hennessy unveiled a plaque at the Bathurst Rural Clinical School student residences. This was to mark the site of the Chifley Memorial Housing Estate within which the two student houses, the Ben and Elizabeth Chifley Cottages, are located. The estate was inspired by the former Prime Minister, Ben Chifley's quest for affordable post-war housing for ordinary Australians on lower to middle income.



The Mayor of Bathurst, Cr Rush and Prof Hennessy unveil the Chifley Memorial Estate plaque

Professor Hennessy mentioned that when the University was setting up the Rural Clinical School it was clear that student accommodation was essential because it was important for the students to become embedded into the community. She added that there was a 'lovely synergy' with the residences being part of the Chifley Memorial Housing Estate as the importance of education and health was a central part of Chifley's legacy.

LISMORE UNIVERSITY CENTRE OF RURAL HEALTH



In May the UCRH Lismore farewelled the 2013-14 cohort at a dinner attended by GP's, Clinicians and UCRH staff which ended with bush dancing enjoyed by all. The feedback received from these students was “that they thoroughly

enjoyed their rural placement and they reflected on how they had grown both personally & professionally”.

July was a busy time welcoming the 2014-15 cohort. Their orientation sessions included 'Introduction to Aboriginal Health on the North Coast', 'Communication in General Practice' and 'Working in a Rural Setting'. A dinner was held for the new students as an opportunity for them to meet and connect with the University of Wollongong and University of Sydney long stay students at Lismore. A Cultural Walk at Byron Bay ended the week and students had the opportunity to learn about the Arakwal Aboriginal community, cultural heritage and places of significance.

Students are now fully immersed in their attachments and the UCRH teaching program.

STUDENT UPDATES

THE AGES ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING WAS HELD IN MARCH 2014



Medical students with A/Prof. Harry Merkur

AGES (Australasian Gynaecological and Surgical Society) is the preeminent organisation in this region for the education of trainees and specialists in surgical procedures, with a particular emphasis on Minimally Invasive surgical techniques e.g. laparoscopy and hysteroscopy.

The emphasis at this year's ASM was on New Technology, particularly Robotic Surgery. The medical students were invited to attend the entire conference thus giving them first-hand experience at what a real postgraduate course is like. The students were very enthusiastic about attending this meeting, and by all reports it gave them a very positive educational result.

PATAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES



Elise Buisson, 2013 Donor recipient, was selected to spend time at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences in Kathmandu, an immensely valuable and eye-opening experience. She was privileged to spend the majority of her time in Nepal observing and participating in the medical curriculum at Patan Academy of Health Sciences.

PAHS places a strong emphasis on challenging the current distribution of the Nepalese medical workforce, with a particular dedication to the promotion of rural and remote health services. She had the opportunity to speak with some of the students about the time they had spent in rural communities, their experiences of Nepalese rural health and their ideas for improving it into the future.



Elle said some of her most valuable experiences in Patan were two brief tours through the adjoining hospitals. Throughout all of her experiences at PAHS, she was surrounded by an incredibly welcoming

group of students, supporting her stay within a very different culture and healthcare system. Elle says “her experience at PAHS reinforced her passion for global health, and particularly for improving rural access to healthcare around the globe. This experience will form an invaluable part of the foundation of her career, and she was deeply grateful for the opportunity”.

MEDICINE IN CONTEXT

Malcolm Choat, Service Development Manager, UnitingCare Mental Health provided the following feedback on four of our medical students on placement: Jane Jeong, Kenny Cho, Jonathon Cheng and Michael Lee. “Each and every one of them contributed to their placement in ways that were above the usual levels of commitment demonstrated by UWS medical students. They engaged very well with consumers/clients and with staff. They were keen and eager to be involved. They were willing to learn. They were respectful and mindful of others.

During their placement, Jane, Kenny, Jonathon and Michael were set a project; to inform staff and consumers of the importance of oral hygiene and of the link between dental health and mental health. They did this with, shall we say, aplomb and vigour. They created an excellent piece of work to advertise the message. Their work will be used by UCMH in the future”.

SENIORS' WEEK HEALTH CHECK – WARRAGAMBA COMMUNITY CENTRE (MIC STUDENTS)



On 19th March, 2014, five medical students from UWS had participated in one of the seniors' week events held at Warragamba Town Hall and organized by Wollondilly Council. Hong Jie (Enson) Soh, Year 3, international student was one of the lucky ones who got selected.

He said being an international student was an honour to be part of the team. that aimed to help promote health care and prevention in the elderly.



SCHOLARSHIP HELPS CAMPBELLTOWN DOCTOR'S DREAM BECOME REALITY

As Bradbury's Joel Vosu helped deliver babies at Campbelltown Hospital during a university placement, he wondered whether they might one day grow up to be doctors who treated patients there.

After all, that's his story:



Dr Vosu, 24, was born at the hospital and returned there when he was a medical student at the UWS.

A recent graduate, he was the first recipient of the Campbelltown City Medical Scholarship, which has been renamed the Brenton Banfield Medical Scholarship in honour of the former mayor.

Dr Vosu will undertake medical research this year, but hopes to return to the local hospital as an intern and later to work as a paediatrician.

“For one, I'm familiar not only with the hospital but with the local area,” he said. “Also, it's a way of giving back to the community I grew up in.”

It would be the fulfilment of a lifelong dream for Dr Vosu, who decided he wanted to be a doctor when he was six.

“My mum’s a counsellor and my dad was a scientist and I guess medicine brought the people side and the science side together,” he said.

Dr Vosu, who went to Bradbury Public School and then to Broughton Anglican College, said the scholarship had made a big difference throughout his university years.

“It’s just meant it’s been more stable and more secure not having to focus on part-time work and just being able to focus on my studies,” he said.

He said the past few years were exciting, but were hard work too.

“You get to see some of the best and worst times in people’s lives and sometimes it’s just being able to talk to them,” he said.

He said there were many options available at UWS for students who were passionate about studying medicine.

“Make sure you want to do it because it does get very hard; if you don’t have that motivation it does make it that much more difficult.

“But now I can’t imagine myself doing anything else.”

To rename Campbelltown Council’s medical scholarship after Brenton Banfield was a fitting tribute to the much-loved former mayor, who died in November 2011.

Mr Banfield was on the board of the local health service, and played a key role in plans for a dedicated School of Medicine at the University of Western Sydney.

The council’s general manager, Paul Tosi, said it worked with the UWS Campbelltown campus to offer a range of scholarships for local students.

“The renaming of the medical scholarship in Brenton Banfield’s honour is a fitting tribute to a man who was passionate about Campbelltown, and dedicated a large part of his life to fostering valuable opportunities for our city’s residents,” Mr Tosi said.

Extract from Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser/4th March, 2014

SCHOOL UPDATES

WELCOME JERRY ZHOU – POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW IN TRANSLATIONAL GASTROENTEROLOGY

The Department of Medicine has recently appointed Jerry Zhou as the Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Translational Gastroenterology, and Jerry will work on developing the School’s emerging research area in neurogastroenterology and motility.

Jerry Zhou completed his PhD at the School of Molecular Bioscience at the University of Sydney, whereby he applied molecular techniques to colorectal cancer classification. Jerry has a strong interest in translational “bench to bedside” research with a significant background in gastroenterology research and clinical studies. Jerry is motivated by projects that have real-world applications that can be translated into patient benefits, and he is looking forward to utilising his experience to bring basic science and clinical science together by embracing projects beyond the laboratory setting. He is particularly looking forward to the challenge of developing the new clinical research area of gastrointestinal motility, and forming new research collaborations in the School.

PELVIC ANATOMY WORKSHOP

In May, several students were invited to attend the Pelvic Anatomy Workshop that has now been held annually since 2012.

Three students were given exposure to cadaveric dissection relevant to O&G Registrars and specialists. The attendees spent a whole day with the program content being lectures and 4 hours of dissection. The Faculty included Prof Korda, Associate Professor Merkur, Associate Professor Clara Shek from UWS and Dr Dzung Vu Anatomist from UNSW. Dr Sanjay Adusum (colorectal surgeon) and Dr David Eisinger (urologist) ensured that the Pelvic Anatomy crossed several disciplines thus giving a collaborative “feel” to the day which is to be encouraged in the clinical situation.

Further meetings outside of the normal curriculum will surely follow in the next few years.

GPS IN SCHOOLS

The aim of this project is to improve the access of adolescents in South Western Sydney High Schools to General Practitioners by providing an understanding of the role of GP as an avenue for support and guidance on health related issues. At the same time it aims to educate the students on strategies to empower them in managing their own health, whilst building on the skills of medical students and GPs in engaging and consulting with adolescents.

The program is based on the “GPs in Schools” program run by Dr Carolyn Kefford at Sydney University. She has generously provided resources and guidance in establishing the program in the Macarthur area.

In May this year, local GPs and GP registrars, as well as medical students and GP Lecturers from UWS, worked in small groups with Year 11 students from St Patrick’s College, a local girls high school. The sessions covered four main areas of health concern in adolescence: mental health, sexual health, drug and alcohol, and help seeking issues. The discussions were student directed to ensure coverage of topics relevant to the students. It was an enjoyable engaging morning for all involved. We are grateful to St Patrick’s for hosting the morning and to our medical students and GP colleagues for supporting this worthwhile initiative.

HALFWAY DINNER

“Due to graduate in 2016 and become doctors in 2017, our Year 3 students celebrated getting through the first half of MBBS in July at a dinner at the Grande Royale in Granville. It was a joy to join these students at this milestone in their studies and to meet parents and partners who have supported them so far and presumably will continue to do so! Students were delighted that several staff were able to be there and were entertained musically by Kale Munien and Jonathan (Scotty) Chang and by their Academic Year Coordinator, Dr Scott MacKenzie, who spoke about his days as a medical student in Glasgow.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVER TRAVELS TO BOSTON FOR CONFERENCE

Department of Medicine Senior Administrator, Jennifer Greer, had the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of the world's brightest at the Golden Key 2014 International Summit "Be Driven" – You hold the key held on Boston's Waterfront from July 31 to August 3. Golden Key is an international invite-only academic honours society with over 400 University chapters in Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, the Bahamas and the United States.

Jennifer who is studying a Bachelor of Applied Management degree through the Federation University Australia won a Golden Key Education Development Scholarship Award and an International Summit 'Early Bird Registration' Travel Grant, which contributed to her attendance where she joined almost 50 delegates from across the Asia-Pacific to represent our region, and with over 700 people attending the conference.

Jennifer was also invited to present her academic work titled, 'Developing a Marketing Strategy for Research'. The model uses the power of marketing to raise awareness about 'gut motility' disorders and encourages sponsorship to support the SoM's gastroenterology research team who aim to make a difference to the quality of patients' lives in the Greater Western Sydney community. Jennifer was awarded the first prize of USD \$1,000 for the inaugural Golden Key Summit Poster Session.

Jennifer has also been notified that she won the ATEM, Association for Tertiary Education Management's 2014 Best Practice in Leadership and Management Award in the category of 'Community Service' for her project initiative, which will be presented at the ATEM conference in Cairns 1 September.



AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME – DR VINCENT HO

Dr Vincent Ho was an invited speaker to the inaugural Australasian conference on Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (20th July at the Novotel, Parramatta) where he gave a presentation titled "Irritable bowel syndrome, GIT and the Hypermobility Syndrome". Ehlers Danlos syndrome is a rare inherited disorder affecting the connective tissues and Vincent described the gastrointestinal complications that such patients can experience which include irritable bowel syndrome, chronic abdominal pain, slow transit constipation, gastroparesis and severe reflux.

REMEMBERING DR NICK COLLINS

It is with great sorrow that the School of Medicine and UWS mourn the passing of Dr Nick Collins recently.

He was a foundation force for the medical school as a local general practitioner and head of the Macarthur ambulatory care service. He fought for the establishment of the School and then became one of its most engaged teachers and formative guides as a member of the Curriculum Committee from 2006 until 2010, and as a conjoint staff member before joining our General Practice Unit as a Senior Lecturer.

His capacity to genuinely train students about the journey from hospital to home was core to the mission of the School. This is a commitment we will maintain, informed by his leadership. His home hospital service is considered a jewel in the crown for the local health service and is an inspiration to all hospital and health services in Australia.

He was a thorough gentleman and a great friend to many. He will be sorely missed.

Prof. Jenny Reath and Dr Penny Burns were invited to speak at a private funeral service held for Nick.

A memorial service was also held for Nick in partnership with the LHD and UWS at Campbelltown Hospital.

We would like to welcome the following staff to the School of Medicine (or to new positions)

BATHURST RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL

- » Kristy Payne, Research Officer, Rural & Indigenous Health
- » Nathan Rollinson, Rural Schools Community Engagement Officer
- » Ross Wilson, Director, Rural Health

CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

- » Danielle Turner, Administrative Officer
- » Duncan Rose, Research Officer
- » Mo Hammoud, Research Officer
- » Nicole Schembri, Associate Research Fellow (HALTER) Project

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- » Brahmaputra Marjadi, Senior Lecturer, Community Engaged Learning

GENERAL PRACTICE

- » Jaspreet Saini, Academic Registrar, General Practice
- » Miriam Brooks, Senior Lecturer in General Practice
- » Steven Trankle, Senior Research Officer

INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY

- » Azharuddin Fazalbhoy, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

MEDICAL EDUCATION

- » Katrine Faddy, Associate Lecturer in Foundations (Mat Leave)
- » Kim Ramjan, Lecturer in Foundations
- » Lise Mogensen, Lecturer Medical Education (Foundations)

MEDICINE

- » Jamie Lin, Associate Research Fellow, Endocrinology

MENTAL HEALTH

- » Sarah Young, Research Officer

ONCOLOGY

- » Annette Tognela, Senior Lecturer
in Medical Oncology
- » Tara Roberts, Senior Lecturer, Oncology

PHARMACOLOGY

- » Alejandra Rangel, Research Officer
- » Ritesh Raju, Postdoc Pharmacology

SURGERY

- » Mark Magdy, Associate
Lecturer in Surgery
- » Ranah Lim, Associate Lecturer in Surgery

SCHOOL LOCATIONS

CAMPBELLTOWN

School of Medicine
University of Western Sydney
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith NSW 2751
Australia
General Enquiries: +61 2 4620 3600

MACARTHUR CLINICAL SCHOOL

(Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals)
General Enquiries: +61 2 4634 3741

BLACKTOWN CLINICAL SCHOOL

(Blacktown/Mt Druitt Hospitals)
General Enquiries: +61 2 9851 6000

BATHURST RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL

(Bathurst Hospital)
General enquires: +61 2 6331 4773