

School of Medicine - General Practice Newsletter

Issue 2 / December 2010

Special points of interest:

- GP Supervisor Training
- Short Course on Research Methods
- 2011 GP Term Dates

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*Season
Greetings*

From the Peter Brennan Chair

Season's Greetings from the Department of General Practice here at UWS!

Our first year has been a busy one as you will see from the activities reported in this newsletter.

We have particularly enjoyed meeting so many keen and expert GP Supervisors in Bathurst, the Northern Rivers and Greater Western Sydney. We greatly appreciate your input to our student teaching.

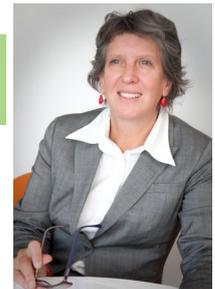
Our students, many of them expressing a passion for General Practice, have been rewarded in their efforts at the RACGP Annual Scientific Convention. We are fortunate also to be working with Nat, Joel and Sarah from the General Practice Student Network who continue to engage the wider group of students at UWS in General Practice related activities.

This year has also been one of building relationships both within and beyond the university. The Community Partners meeting, with those who support our Medicine in Context program, was a great opportunity to meet with a range of organisations that provide a wonderful learning environment for our Year 3 students.

We value our growing relationships with GP organisations and other universities across Greater Western Sydney as well as in our Rural Clinical Schools. We look forward also to building partnerships further afield with likeminded Departments in other universities with whom we have met over the past year.

We have had a flurry of research activities. In addition to Departmental research, there have been a number of opportunities for General Practice and Community health research training as advertised by email and in this newsletter. We are particularly looking forward to offering a Research Fellowship in the Department next year and hopefully in the near future also an Academic GP Registrar position.

Following a successful UWS Research Seed Grant proposal, ICHER – an Interprofessional Collaboration for Health Educational Research, has been convened with members from across the College of Health Sciences. This group will be developing research and funding opportunities and we will be reporting back on its activities in future newsletters.



We are glad to be working in a School of Medicine that actively supports primary health care teaching, learning and research and value the opportunity this provides for contributing to the improvement of health outcomes in our communities.

We are also grateful for the warmth with which we have been received by our many collaborators — we are privileged to be working with such enthusiastic General Practice communities in all our clinical locations!

Best of luck to all who have submitted applications for the various funding rounds— we will continue to work with those who seek such funding in the new year.

Jenny Reath

On behalf of our wonderful team here at UWS please accept our best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy and safe holiday

International Speaker Visits UWS Campbelltown Campus



Dr Arjun Karki, the Vice-Chancellor of the Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS), visited UWS in October to speak about the new medical school he has established in Nepal.

PAHS recently launched an undergraduate medical program that aims to produce technically competent, caring and socially responsible physicians. It is envisaged that these physicians will then be able and willing to serve the population in rural areas, where urban-rural health disparities continue.

PAHS is an institution that is ideologically aligned with work here at UWS and Dr Karki was an inspiring speaker. The new medical school he has established in Kathmandu will not only provide a chance for poorer, rural and female students to study medicine, but aims also to support graduates returning to their villages. This will make a huge difference in a country where almost 50% of medical graduates work overseas to repay the debt they incur as a result of studying medicine.

The program at PAHS draws on the learning from leading medical schools around the world and will set the agenda for first class, community engaged learning in developed as well as developing countries.

For those interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavour please consider donating towards scholarships for PAHS medical students at <http://www.nepalhealthscholarships.org.au/>

UWS Student Achievements

Students' short film captures long-term ambitions"

A medical student video competition was run by Australian General Practice Training and Australian Medical Students' Association, aimed at promoting general practice as a career.

The winning entry was submitted by three UWS medical students, Mercia Eminoglu, Sashie Howpage and Aarani Somaskanthan. Their entry, "Bob's Big Decision", depicted a junior doctor trying to decide on a career path.

The students were rewarded with a cash prize — Congratulations!

First Wave recipients

Two UWS medical students, Shamendri Dassanayke and Jun Dai have been awarded First Wave scholarships.

These scholarships aim to expose students to general practice as a career option and to foster relationships between medical students, universities and general practitioners. The students will be placed with a mentor and attend 6 practice visits.

We look forward to hearing from Shamendri and Jun regarding their experience.

Student Presentations at GP10

A number of UWS Year 4 students were invited to present the results of their Community Medicine Group Projects at the RACGP Annual Scientific Convention held in Cairns in October 2010.

Congratulations also to Manik Mayadunne who won a student competition for the best "artistic" rendition relevant to general practice. For his efforts, Manik was provided with a free registration to the convention.

Well done Manik!



GP SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Western Sydney Primary Care Teaching Network Project (WSPCTN)

The Departments of General Practice at the University of Western Sydney and the University of Sydney (Westmead Clinical School) have been collaborating since 2009 to coordinate student placements in the Sydney West area. During 2010 the two Departments, with WentWest Ltd, obtained funding for development of the WSPCTN. This aims to expand the capacity of our current network of teaching practices in three key ways:

1. Expansion of the network beyond the existing practices and other primary care teaching facilities to recruit additional practices, local SuperClinic(s), and other facilities;
2. Diversification of the network to support placement of nursing, dental and physiotherapy students; and,
3. Development and support of multidisciplinary teaching at the practices and other teaching facilities.

A project leader, Robyn Dalziel, project administrator, Jasmine Milne, and two part-time project academics, Dr Melissa Kang and A/Prof Michael Fasher, have been appointed. They have been busy contacting existing and potential teaching practices and other possible venues for student placements. The first cohort of nursing students have been placed and feedback from the practices has been positive. During the first quarter of 2011, we plan a workshop for new teachers, with multi-disciplinary teaching-skills workshops to follow for all teachers who are interested.

In August 2010 the two Departments and WentWest Ltd held a joint teaching skills workshop for all medical student and registrar GP Supervisors in Western Sydney. A major outcome of this workshop was widespread interest in developing research in general practice and primary care. We are keen, therefore, to work with practices, other placement sites, and our colleagues at the University of Sydney and WentWest to develop the research skills of interested general practitioners and other primary health care professionals, and to get a range of worthwhile, clinically relevant research happening across our region.

Contact Robyn Dalziel on Tel: 9845 9215 or Em: robyn.dalziell@sydney.edu.au for further information

Community Medicine Group Project

Health inequities, whether it be through medical, economic, social, geographic or environmental factors, and how it affects health, is a topic of research for our medical students. In 4th Year, students undertake a community based research project in both rural and urban settings. During the project, students work with a community to examine a health issue that is affected by disadvantage. Students may embark on either quantitative or qualitative research involving surveys, databases, audits and focus groups. To date these projects have involved interviewing patients in GP waiting rooms and hospital outpatient areas, approaching people in shopping centres and via consumer advocacy groups, and through the justice health system. Students organise themselves into groups of 3-6, and under the guidance of their project supervisor and a clinical epidemiologist, Charlene Thornton, they design, conduct and write up their project in the form of a journal article.

In 2010, project topics have included assessing women's knowledge of long-acting contraception in the Macarthur Region, adolescent's knowledge of anorexia nervosa and binge eating, the effect of obstructive sleep apnoea and Down syndrome for carers and families and an assessment of the difficulties with the affordability of medications for people with terminal illness. A project was accepted as a conference presentation at the national RACGP GP10 conference in Cairns.

The Department of General Practice warmly thanks practices and health services which have hosted projects in 2010. We invite you to contact us about project or research ideas that are of interest to you and may be suitable for student projects. Please contact Charlene Thornton on c.thornton@uws.edu.au to discuss your ideas and to see how our students can assist your research to develop and come to fruition.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

General Practice Conference Week 2011

In Years 3-5 UWS medical students are "immersed" in clinical placements, learning the practicalities of working in community and hospital based healthcare teams and providing patient care. Several times a year they return to the School of Medicine for a week long teaching intensive. These *Conference*

Weeks model the way that we learn as practitioners and help to develop collegiality.

In February 2011, the Department of General Practice will be hosting a General Practice Conference Week for our inaugural final year students. We have developed a varied program of case based lecture presentations together with tutorial group discussions and hands on activities, to be led by practi-

ing GPs. Our aim is to give students a solid grounding in the principles of General Practice prior to their GP placements in 2011, while providing good role models for students to learn more about our specialty.

For more information about the program and teaching opportunities, please contact Wendy Hu (w.hu@uws.edu.au)

Urban Rotations

2011 will see UWS medical students in both Years 3 and 5 attending General Practices on rotation. Placements will be centrally coordinated by Suzie Mazzotta in the Department of General Practice.

The last six months has seen an expression of interest process, requesting General Practitioners to become Supervisors, and we were rewarded with great enthusiasm.

In the South West area 20 new GPs have indicated their commitment to taking students in their practice and the recruitment drive through the Western Sydney area has resulted in an additional 25 practices willing to take UWS medical students.

Feedback from practices who have already taken Year 3 students during 2010 has been favourable and they have expressed their continued participation into 2011.

A sincere "thank you" goes out to all GP Supervisors already teaching UWS medical students and a big "Welcome" to the new supervisors on board.

Please see the back page on 2011 term dates and please feel free to contact Suzie Mazzotta for more information.

Rural Rotations

Thirteen UWS medical students placed in Bathurst and Lismore Rural Clinical Schools have successfully completed their first General Practice rotations.

Student feedback received has been positive regarding the learning experience.

The School of Medicine is delighted that these practices have extended their commitment to taking students in 2011 as well.

"my supervisor was great at teaching and involved me in consultations"

"lots of hands on experience"

"Supervisors were very enthusiastic and I got to participate in activities I didn't expect to"

New Opportunities in General Practice

Medicare Locals, Superclinics and Health Workforce Australia.....

The world of Australian General Practice is changing ...what's new?

In common with GPs and GP organisations with whom we work, here at the Department of General Practice our priority is an effective, integrated primary health care system that is actively engaged in training the next generation of

health professionals and in contributing to the evidence base around best practice.

To that end we will work closely with local Divisions as they move to establish Medicare Locals.

We are supportive of bids for Superclinics that describe achievable strategies for achieving this vision.

We are also very happy to support individual General Practices applying for the Health Workforce Australian funding rounds to expand their practice's capacity to engage in this way.

Congratulations to those who have received funding to date. We look forward to working with all who are committed to this ideal!

RESEARCH INFORMATION

Funding Success!

The Department of General Practice has been successful in obtaining funding for two different research and education efforts.

1) Supervisor Training Workshop Series: "Applying research findings and undertaking research in general practice: a course for GP trainers"

We have received internal funding to hold a series of six Supervisor Training Workshops themed around the application of research findings and undertaking research in general practice. These workshops will take place in 2011 and will be appropriate for those who would like to know more about how to use research in their practice, as well as those who are interested in pursuing their own research projects. Participants will be able to choose to attend just one workshop or all six workshops.

*For those attending the workshops, we will also be offering a Research Fellowship for one GP who is interested in pursuing a research project with UWS one day per week for one year.

2) Training Workshop in the use of Portable Tympanometry and Pneumatic Otoscopy

The Department has also been successful in obtaining funding to purchase five portable tympanometers for a research project titled "Acceptability and impact of pneumatic otoscopy and tympanometry on the GP diagnosis and management of otitis media in children".

In conjunction with the roll-out of this study in 2011, we will be holding a 2 to 2 ½ hour training session (once in the West and once in the South West of Sydney) for any interested GP, practice nurse, or other health professional. GPs interested in being a part of the research study will be required to go through one of the training sessions. The sessions will also be open to others and QACPD points will be awarded for completing the session.

The training session will involve training in the use of portable tympanometry and pneumatic otoscopy to assist with accurate diagnosis of middle ear disease. Up to date guidelines and management of otitis media will also be a focus.

Please look out for communications in the coming months with information about the training dates as well as the GP Otitis Media Study opportunity

NEW DEADLINE FOR PHCRED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Please register by January 7th, 2011 if you are interested

Registration is now open for the **Short Course on Research Methods & Project Development Retreat** on **14 - 17 February 2011** at the **University of New South Wales**.

The course is open to all NSW Research Development Program participants and other invited early career researchers. We do not anticipate there will be a need to limit numbers from each of the university departments, but RDP participants will be prioritized if required.

You may find further information at www.nswphc.unsw.edu.au including:

- general information (including how to get to the venue, accommodation options & map of UNSW);
- A registration form: *Short Course on Research Methods*;

Application instructions: *Project Development Retreat*

Please return the *registration form* and the *Project Development Retreat application* by email to: nswphc@unsw.edu.au by January 7th, 2011 if you are interested.

If you have any questions about this training opportunity, please contact Joanna Lee by email: nswphc@unsw.edu.au or phone: 02 9385 1502. You may view the previous PPT presentations at http://www.nswphc.unsw.edu.au/past_events.htm#scmpdRetreat0410

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about research opportunities. Contact Sara at s.rosenkranz@uws.edu.au or on 4620 3894.

Sara Rosenkranz, PhD & Penny Abbott, MBBS MPH FRACGP

CONTACT US



http://www.uws.edu.au/medicine/som/general_practice

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Become a GP Supervisor in 2011

2011 GP Term Dates

31 January – 4 March	UWS Year 3 MiC students 2 sessions per week for 5 weeks
7 March – 8 April	
16 May – 17 June	
20 June – 22 July	
22 August – 23 September	
26 September – 28 October	UWS Year 5 GP students 6 sessions per week for 5 weeks
14 February – 18 March	
21 March – 22 April	
25 April – 27 May	
4 July – 5 August	
8 August – 9 September	
26 September – 28 October	
31 October – 2 December	

If you would like to become a GP supervisor or you are interested in finding out more information, please contact Suzie Mazzotta.

We will notify the University of Sydney of any expressions of interest in the West of Sydney, as we share recruitment and placement processes across both universities in the west.