

School of Medicine - General Practice Newsletter

Issue 3 / March 2011

From the Peter Brennan Chair

Celebrating the beginning of our second year!



Inside this issue:

New Team Members	2
GP Conjoint Appointments	2
First Wave Scholarship—Student reflects	2
Landmark MoU	3
Urban Back 2 Base	3
GP Conference Week	3
WSPCTN 1st Workshop	3
Research Study Recruitment	4
Contact Details	5
GP Supervisor Dates	5

We paused after a frantic start to the new year to celebrate our achievements with your assistance, over the past 12 months:

- A growing and enthusiastic department, now with nine staff;
- Roll out of our curriculum in urban as well as rural locations;
- A successful "GP Conference Week" in February 2011;
- Our first UWS GP Supervisor Workshop in December 2010;
- Engagement in an increasing array of research projects and plans for more.

All this has only been possible with the support of our amazing GP supervisors and teachers in the west and southwest of Sydney as well as at our rural clinical schools at Bathurst and the Northern Rivers.

We also value our collaborations with Divisions of General Practice and Regional Training Providers in all these locations.

In April we will welcome UWS GP supervisors to the first joint GP supervisor workshop we have run in collaboration with GP Synergy and UNSW in the southwest.

We are also working with WentWest and the University of Sydney as well as UNSW to

plan a series of Research Workshops for GP supervisors and interested members of your General Practice teams—read more on page 4.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Wendy Hu, who is taking up a new position at the School of Medicine as Associate Head of School—Teaching and Learning. Thankfully this two year appointment will allow Wendy to maintain her substantive role in our Department. With the audit activities she is coordinating in the first half of 2011, she will however, be slightly less engaged in our day to day activities.

In my new role on the Governing Council of the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Network, I am relishing the opportunity to improve the connections between hospital and community based care. I am also working more closely with GP Synergy, since taking up an appointment to their Board of Directors.

With the move to establishing Medicare Locals well afoot, we remain keen to work with our local organisations and to provide whatever support they require at this time of transition.

We are fortunate to be working in such a supportive School of Medicine. Let me assure you that at UWS, the central role of General Practice in delivering high quality, equitable health care to the Australian population, is well understood and taught to our students.

At the Dean's welcome to 2011 Year 1 students, Professor Jones used a slide of the "wired up" ICU environment to reflect on skills required to work as a medical graduate in an ICU. She then compared these with the skills required for rural General Practice, assuring the students that rural General Practice was the more complex environment, requiring greater skills of them as doctors of the future.

Looking forward to continuing our work together!

Jenny Reath

WELCOME TO NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We are fortunate to welcome Dr Lawrence Tan to our team.

Lawrence entered Family Medicine training after graduating from Sydney University. He worked in practices in the inner-city and South-Western Sydney, then took his family to Bolivia where they have been working for 15 years.

He has been involved in providing itinerant rural health care in isolated locations, medical education with the State University in Sucre, and in helping set up the first post-graduate GP training program there. He now works as a GP in Bonnyrigg three days a week and with the Department of General Practice.

Lawrence has a Masters of Public Health and Diplomas in Child Health and Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as his FRACGP. He has undertaken research projects relating to common local problems in Bolivia (eg. tuberculosis, high-risk pregnancy, parasites in children) and is looking forward to developing his interest in how diverse world views and cultures can affect primary health care delivery.

Lawrence will be with us on Tuesdays and Fridays. He supervises MiC students in his practice and will take responsibility for the Urban GP rotations.

We are also happy to welcome Dr Nick Collins.

Nick has a long association with the UWS School of Medicine and has taught students in their Introduction to Clinical Medicine, Health Practice and Ambulatory Care attachments.

Nick qualified in medicine from Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School, then trained in general practice in London in the 1990s. He later emigrated to Australia and continues to practice as a GP in Campbelltown where he is a member of the Macarthur Division of General Practice.

Many of you will know Nick in his clinical role as a Staff Specialist at Campbelltown Hospital and Director of the Macarthur Ambulatory Care Service (MACS), a GP-led multidisciplinary team providing Hospital-in-the-Home and associated hospital substitution services to the residents of the Macarthur region.

Nick's research interests include Hospital-in-the-Home, quality improvement in healthcare and pandemic influenza.

Nick will work on Monday in our Department. His primary role will be liaison with GPs and GP supervisors in urban locations.

Great to have you on board Lawrence and Nick!!

GP Conjoint Appointments

Would you like to be recognised for your contribution to teaching and research?

Would you like to further your professional development and explore career opportunities in academic medicine?

As a UWS School of Medicine conjoint, not only will you expand your teaching and research development opportunities, you will have access to an outstanding library, e-journal and e-textbook collection.

How to apply:

Please forward your up-to-date curriculum vitae to s.mazzotta@uws.edu.au for consideration and processing.

Congratulations to recent Conjoint Lecturer appointees in General Practice:

Dr Helen Parsons, Justice Health
Dr Stephen Hampton, Justice Health
Dr Arif Mirza, Campbelltown Medical Centre
Dr Deepa Garg, Primacare Family Medical Centre

First Wave Scholarship — A UWS student reflects

During my placements, I saw many chronic conditions. I got to know the patients and my mentor as everyday people outside of a strictly medical context. I talked to the receptionist and allied health professionals who exuded a sense of teamwork. Misconceptions were dispelled and I gained a broader perspective. I used to think rushing through patients with short consults was bad, that you should spend some time with each patient to treat them holistically.

But I learnt that a doctor's time is a limited resource which you should distribute fairly among everyone, and long individual consults means there may be some who miss out on healthcare at the end of the day.

Most importantly, I gained confidence in starting a practice. Before, starting my own business in the wilderness outside the comfortable confines of the hospital was daunting. Now I embrace this freedom, innovative opportunity, and my community.

Jun Dai, Medical Student

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Landmark Agreement

As a mark of our intention to work closely with other Universities operating in the Greater West of Sydney, on 2 March, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Departments of General Practice (or equivalent) of Sydney University, University of Notre Dame and University of NSW.

This landmark agreement commits us to exploring opportunities for collaboration in General Practice teaching and research. We will continue to meet regularly and also to collaborate with Divisions/Networks of General Practice and Regional Training Providers.

This MoU and the partnerships that grow from it, will enhance capacity and quality in education and research in general practices in the Greater West of Sydney.



URBAN BACK 2 BASE

A brave group of 5th year medical students ventured into urban general practice in February for their 5 week GP attachment. They were scattered over a vast stretch of Western Sydney from Mt Druitt to Campbelltown, and seem to be thoroughly enjoying the experience and learning useful and practical skills from their experienced GP supervisors.

Every fortnight they return to campus for a "Back to Base" session where they can reflect on and consolidate what they have been learning on the field. Each one has interesting and/or amusing stories to share about what they have observed. The themes of the Back to Base sessions have included "Principle of General Practice", "Diagnostic Dilemmas", and "Management Issues in General Practice".

CONFERENCE WEEK WRAP UP

In February, we held our first GP Conference Week for final year medical students. With the aim of providing students with a solid grounding in the principles of general practice, a varied and interactive program was designed and delivered. Included were short plenary presentations from invited expert speakers, breakout small group teaching and interactive hands on workshops in Dermatology, Prescribing, Computing in General Practice and Motivational Interviewing. We were very fortunate in being able to invite many experienced and enthusiastic GP teachers from Greater Western Syd-



ney to teach our students, thus providing role models and a sense of the breadth and depth of General Practice. Another feature of the program was a multidisciplinary team approach with sessions from community pharmacists, Aboriginal health professionals, nurse specialists and patient volunteers.

Feedback from students is that they greatly enjoyed the range of learning activities, particularly hands on workshops. We hope to further engage GP teachers in GWS through teacher training and support and by building opportunities to teach and supervise in the UWS medical and research programs.



WSPCTN First Orientation Workshop for new teaching practices

The Western Sydney Primary Care Teaching Network, (WSPCTN), held its first Orientation Workshop on Saturday 19 February 2011, for general practices in Western Sydney that have recently expressed interest in inter-professional student placements.

Presenters included Professors Tim Usherwood and Jenny Reath, Drs Michael Fasher, Simon Young, (GPs), Jenni Hardy and Christine Taylor (Nursing) as well as medical and nursing students.

Those GPs, practice nurses, managers and receptionists who

attended the event enjoyed hearing about the "whole practice" approach to teaching and learning.

For any information about the workshop, or the WSPCTN Project, please contact:

Jasmine Milne : jasmine.milne@sydney.edu.au , or,
Robyn Dalziell (Project Leader) : robyn.dalziell@sydney.edu.au

WSPCTN needs to recruit more practices that are willing to support nursing student placements for both the universities of Sydney, and Western Sydney. These placements are a positive experience for both students, and practices!

Please contact Jasmine or Robyn by email if you can help

RESEARCH STUDY RECRUITMENT

We need your help!

You are invited to participate in our research study entitled:

“Acceptability and impact of pneumatic otoscopy and tympanometry on the GP diagnosis and management of otitis media in children under 5 years”

The study is about whether the addition of pneumatic otoscopy or tympanometry to standard otoscopy improves the ability of GPs to diagnose and manage middle ear disease in children. We are seeking 10 GP practices who have 2 (FTE equivalent is fine) GPs who would be interested in taking part in the study who do not usually use tympanometry or pneumatic otoscopy when assessing children's ears.

What's involved?

Participation in the study involves attending a 2 1/2 hour training session (**first opportunity will be Monday May16th-Mark your calendars**) prior to the commencement of the study. You will earn RACGP QICPD points for your participation. This training is also open to those who are not interested in study participation.

Your practice will be loaned a portable tympanometer and given a pneumatic attachment for your otoscope. You will be asked to add one of these diagnostic techniques into your assessment of children's ears and fill in a short questionnaire. The addition of the extra diagnostic procedure of tympanometry or pneumatic otoscopy and the filling out of the questionnaire will add approximately 5 minutes to the length of the consultations. Tympanometry done by GPs is Medicare rebatable. There will be an interview at the end of the study which will take a maximum of 1 hour.

Who's leading the study?

This study is being conducted by the Department of General Practice, School of Medicine at the University of Western Sydney, and has been approved by the UWS HREC/ AH&MRC Ethics Committee.

For more information, please see the attached information sheet and the questionnaire we will be using or contact Dr Penny Abbott p.abbott@uws.edu.au, Dr Sara Rosenkranz s.rosenkranz@uws.edu.au or Prof Jenny Reath j.reath@uws.edu.au. Alternatively, you may phone Dr Rosenkranz on 4620 3894.

Expression of Interest

Previous analyses of GP research needs have indicated that using the library at UWS is a big benefit of becoming a UWS Conjoint. We are considering a one-day workshop on using the UWS library including: understanding what electronic resources are available, information about performing database searches, obtaining articles that aren't immediately available online, and checking journal rankings and impact factors.

If you would be interested in attending a workshop like this, please email Dr Sara Rosenkranz at S.Rosenkranz@uws.edu.au and let her know. If you have other library related issues you would like the workshop to cover, please include those as well.

Expressions of interest by 15/05/2011 C.O.B. please

CONTACT US



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

Postal Address

School of Medicine
Locked Bag 1797
Penrith South DC NSW 2571

Office Location

Building 30
Campbelltown Campus

Jenny Reath

Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice
Tel: 4620 3725 Mob: 0412586135
Email: j.reath@uws.edu.au

Wendy Hu

Associate Professor
Tel: 4620 3895 Mob: 0438407971
Email: w.hu@uws.edu.au

Lawrence Tan

Senior Lecturer
Tel: 4620 3896
Email: l.tan@uws.edu.au

Sara Rosenkranz

Research Fellow
Tel: 4620 3894
Email: s.rosenkranz@uws.edu.au

Penny Abbott

Senior Fellow
Tel: 4620 3682
Email: p.abbott@uws.edu.au

Nick Collins

Senior Lecturer
Tel: 4620 3896
Email: n.collins@uws.edu.au

Charlene Thornton

Clinical Epidemiologist
Tel: 46203682
Email: c.thornton@uws.edu.au

Suzie Mazzotta

Administrative Officer
Tel: 4620 3896
Email: s.mazzotta@uws.edu.au

Hassan Hosseinzadeh

STIPU Researcher
Tel: 4620 3896
Email: tbc

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.