



DEAN'S UPDATE

Welcome to the first edition of the School of Medicine, Newsletter.

We hope to bring you a variety of news articles Quarterly, as they happen within the School and we look forward to your contribution.

This year we were asked to provide a comprehensive report to the Medical School Accreditation Committee. This Comprehensive report is provided at a time when we have our first graduates and provides an opportunity to reflect on some of our successes and areas for further development.

The challenge is ensuring the highest quality teachers and students are attracted to the UWS School of Medicine. This will be achieved as the School's reputation grows concurrent with our graduates moving upwards in their medical careers.

The AMC Directors, on the recommendation of the Medical School Accreditation Committee, agreed to extend the accreditation of the program to 31 December 2017 subject to satisfactory progress reports. On reviewing the 2012 comprehensive

report, the Committee congratulated the School on the graduation of the first cohort of the medical program and requested that its commendations on the impressive achievements in Indigenous Health be conveyed to the School.

Applications for next year's intake to the MBBS have now opened with just over 2000 applications already received.

The MyVoice Staff Engagement Survey results across the University outlined the next steps for identifying improvement actions for Schools/ Divisional Units. The MyVoice Survey results speak positively about the extent to which staff support the University's mission and strategic plan. As we look forward to the next period of development of UWS there will be many opportunities to build on the University's achievements to date and continue to make progress in teaching and learning, research, and student support.

The Board of Trustees met in June to consider the strategic priorities that emerged from the discussions that took place at the Senior Management Conference in May, and approved the following priorities and projects – these are known as the "Our Future Action Program: 2012 – 2014".

- Learning and Teaching Flexibility: Beyond the Classroom
- Optimising the Use of the Academic Year and Infrastructure
- Staffing for Development
- Financial Sustainability
- Academic Program and Pathways
- Marketing the University: Branding and Identity

I am pleased to advise that four Medicine staff successfully completed the Foundations of University Learning and Teaching program at the end of Autumn Session 2012 - Tracey Garland, Slade Jensen, Janie Leggett and Scott Mackenzie.

In late 2011, UWS commenced a project to review our readiness to implement a university-wide Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) database system as this was seen as an area

where the University needed to improve and, preferably, consolidate many of the disparate CRM applications that exist within the University. The recommendation from that review was to implement a CRM ecosystem across the University. The project runs from 2012 to 2015. The stage 1 rollout project commenced in March and the School of Medicine is a pilot site. Shamila Mailik is currently working with ITS on this project.

A Combined Schools Prize Night was held with the School of Science and Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Medicine on 3 July for students who completed Years 1, 2 or 3 in 2011. The evening was attended by Academic and Professional staff from all three schools, as well as, by Donors, Students and their guests. Congratulations to all our prize winners. We also thank our Donors for their generous support and interest in the success of our students. More information on this event is available on the School website.

PROFESSOR ANNEMARIE HENNESSY

DEAN

LEARNING AND TEACHING

DONTAS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Dr Vincent Ho has recently been awarded the Dontas Travelling Fellowship in Medicine for the Greek/Australian International Legal and Medical Conference to be held in June 2013 at Cape Sounion in Greece. The topic that Vincent is presenting at the conference is "Protecting the Unprotected – Strategies to teach medical professionalism in medical schools." The adjudicators were impressed with Vincent's application and their decision to award him a Fellowship was based upon the relevance of his submitted essay. All applicants for the Fellowship had to submit an essay accompanying the application and this essay was then marked by the panel and a decision made after consideration of the essay and accompanying documents including a curriculum vitae.

FOUNDATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LEARNING AND TEACHING PROGRAM

Four Medicine staff successfully completed the Foundations of University Learning and Teaching program at the end of Autumn Session 2012, Tracey Garland, Slade Jensen, Janie Leggett and Scott Mackenzie. Congratulations on your achievement!

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The university has recently funded a 2 year pilot of Pebble + and the School of Medicine together with colleagues in industrial design, higher education and music have been the first to adopt the technology. Pebble + is a fully online system which has been developed by educators to encourage students to collaborate, share knowledge and engage in reflective practice. The use of Pebble + has been integrated into the personal and professional development curriculum and its adoption and use during this semester will be evaluated towards the end of 2012.

PHD NEWS

Glenn Mason presented his paper 'The development of online learning designs for patients with type 2 diabetes' at the 20th Australian National Health Informatics Conference (HIC 2012). This will appear in Health Informatics: Building a Healthcare Future Through Trusted Information. Selected papers from the 20th Australian National Health Informatics Conference eds (AJ Maeder & FJ Martin-Sanchez).

TRAVEL GRANT

Dr Elise Wright, Postdoctoral Fellow, Molecular Physiology, received US\$1,000 travel grant to attend the HUPO 11th Annual World Congress in Boston, USA in September, 2012. This initiative is part of a program developed with HUPO's agreement to redistribute profits from

the 9th HUPO World Congress in Sydney back to Australian and New Zealander early career proteomics researchers. Elise will present a poster entitled "Initial studies suggest that a novel anticancer agent may enhance protein degradation in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*".

IT UPDATE

CRM PROJECT (CONSTITUENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)

During September and October 2011, UWS Information Technology Services engaged a consultant to conduct a capability review and readiness study for UWS into the implementation of a university-wide CRM strategy and solution. The strategy included the existing governance, processes, people and systems and established a common understanding of UWS' constituents and their relationships across business units and processes.

The study found a clear enthusiasm and level of support for the implementation of a university-wide CRM solution. This led to an early recommendation to build on that support by implementing a CRM pilot with selected groups to champion the solution. A pilot strategy and phased roll-out also gave UWS the opportunity to review business processes and, importantly, the data being held in various types of systems across the organisation.

A business case and funding proposal were put forward as part of the ITS budget submission for 2012 resulting in \$500k of funds being allocated to begin the CRM project. A Project Manager and Business Analyst have been hired to get Stage 1 completed in 2012 and already there are early indications of duplication of relationships in even small amounts of data from different business units. The School of Medicine is part of the phase 1 rollout and Shamila Malik is currently working directly with the CRM project team to get our Admissions, HR Conjoins, Community Partners and MiC/General Practice supervisors processes managed within the CRM. This will be a proof of concept for us and should these processes work within the CRM all other School of Medicine constituents will be moved across to this system.

The CRM system will organise, automate and enable greater collaboration of information regarding interactions between UWS staff, students, clients and customers, community and research partners – potentially anyone and everyone UWS engages.

RESEARCH

BELLBERRY MAKES IT POSSIBLE

Generous support from Bellberry Limited has provided the opportunity for high calibre UWS medical researchers to continue working on

projects that aim to improve health outcomes and contribute to new knowledge in important areas of health and medical research. In 2011 The University of Western Sydney was delighted to receive a generous donation of \$300,000 from Bellberry. UWS has used the funds to support various research projects.

To read more about these projects, please visit our Research page www.uws.edu.au/medicine/som/news/bellberry_donation

MENOPAUSAL HORMONE THERAPY ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED BLOOD PRESSURE

Longer hormone therapy usage further increases odds
Menopausal hormone therapy use is associated with higher odds of high blood pressure, according to research published by Dr Christine Chiu and colleagues from the School of Medicine, UWS. The study included 43,405 postmenopausal women and showed that longer use of menopausal hormone therapy is associated with having high blood pressure. The results of the study may be taken into account when women are deciding whether, and for how long, menopausal hormone therapy is right for them. This research was published in PLoS ONE, an international peer-reviewed scientific journal by the Public Library of Science.

More information is available at <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0040260>

NEURAL REGULATION OF CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Professor Vaughan Macefield from the School of Medicine and Dr Luke Henderson from the University of Sydney are investigating how the brain regulates the cardiovascular system. This project is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The project title is "Functional Imaging of the Brainstem and Cortical sites of Blood Pressure Control in Human Subjects in Health and Disease," funding has been set at: \$382,524.

RESEARCH AWARD

The Molecular Medicine Research Group received an award of \$40,000 from the Narellan Rotary Club.

RESEARCH SUCCESS: HENDRA VIRUS



Dr Mel Taylor from the Disaster Response and Resilience Research Group has been successful in gaining funding for

a three year project on horse owners and Hendra virus. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, announced the

project as one of six funded by the National Hendra Virus Research Program, and coordinated by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) at the end of May. The project entitled "Horse owners and Hendra virus: A Longitudinal cohort study to evaluate risk" (or HHALTER for short) is led by UWS and comprises an experienced 'One Health' team from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, the Queensland Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases, and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. HHALTER will study a large cohort of horse owners over a two year period and will investigate factors influencing Hendra virus risk awareness and uptake of risk mitigation practices, as well as attitudes and opinions about a range of emerging issues, such as the introduction of Hendra virus vaccination, and concerns for companion animals.

The HHALTER project received funding of \$308,081 and will provide a PhD Scholarship within the School of Medicine. More information about the project can be found at www.hhalter.com.au

RURAL CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Bathurst Rural Clinical students commenced their Community Research Projects in Breast Screening in a regional community, as well as, Autism Management: A consumer survey of services within a regional community

PUBLICATIONS

A graduate student, Prateek Dhingra, together with Dr Setthy Ung, a conjoint senior lecturer, recently published "Assessment of the effect of Advanced Paediatric Life Support training on level of self-perceived preparedness among health-care workers in Cambodia" in *Emergency Medicine Australasia*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UWS MEDICAL STUDENTS BUILD AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

PHOTO CREDIT OF 'PAUL WRIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY'



University of Western Sydney medical students have been awarded the 2012 Building Inclusive Communities Award (Youth Division), recognising

their community initiatives in the Macarthur region, Greater Western Sydney, and as far abroad as Nigeria.

Building Inclusive Communities Awards are a joint initiative of the Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales and Macquarie University. The Global Health and Community arm of the UWS Medical Society, GHAWS won the youth category and were presented their award by The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP, Premier of New South Wales at Parliament House.

The Global Health and Community arm of the UWS Medical Society, GHAWS has been responsible for numerous community initiatives since its establishment in 2009. These initiatives include mentoring students from Robert Townson High School, Raby, assisting the Autism Advisory and Support Service, Liverpool, and collaborating with the Birthing Kit Foundation of Australia.

"The UWS School of Medicine was established in 2007 with a great focus on the health and social disadvantage of those in Greater Western Sydney community. As medical students we feel we have a social responsibility to assist, support and make a difference to the community that has welcomed our establishment," says Brian Fernandes, Community President of GHAWS.

Professor Annemarie Hennessy, Dean of the School of Medicine, feels the award nomination is well deserved by the Medical Society.

"UWS medical students understand the disparities and disadvantages faced by the community and are passionate about making positive contributions to the area," says Professor Hennessy.

"The students have managed to translate their understanding of social issues into direct action aimed towards the betterment of the community and this award nomination recognises their commitment to building and maintaining inclusive communities."

CONNECT, ENGAGE, INSPIRE

In August, five UWS students accompanied by Penny Lee, the Student Support Officer from the School of Medicine travelled to Creswick, Victoria for the National University Rural Health Conference. Over the weekend they were encouraged to connect with health students from across the country, engage in conversation about rural health and be inspired by the experiences of fellow students, health professionals and a number of keynote speakers.

During the conference, guest speakers Catherine King, Warren Snowdon and Lou Andretta provided students with an insight into the political discussion of rural health, and rural doctors. Dr Claire Hepper and Dr Ashraf Takla were able to share their stories and experience, inspiring all to consider a career in rural medicine. We were also very interested to

hear from Tim Rowe, a mentor in the Indigenous Marathon Project and Michael O'Halloran who dedicates his skills to health promotion and community development at the Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation. Students were impressed by Michael's work and the success of his hip hop health promotion video clips on trachoma and smoking that were written and produced by the local people he works with.

Students were given the opportunity to attend a number of small group sessions addressing issues such as rural mental health, indigenous health and health advocacy. Practical skills sessions focused on rural emergencies and rural dentistry skills, where students learnt about the importance of such skills in small communities and walked away with some very useful knowledge.

Not only did students get to hear from esteemed professionals, they were also able to learn from their fellow colleagues about how to get involved with rural health at Uni. From rural high school visits, to research projects and rural placements all around the country, other students shared their experiences and lessons, encouraging us all to be involved with our local rural health clubs and the vast array of opportunities available.

Alan Dyason and Jason Wu were presenters at the conference. Alan raised many interesting questions about the future of medical school education and the place of technology in the learning environment, igniting some serious discussions between students of various universities. Alan, who is a second year student and co-chair of the UWS rural health club, RHUJWS, was also nominated for an award for outstanding contribution to a rural health club. Jason, a fourth year medical student currently studying at the Bathurst Clinical School, used his experiences in the UWS and Bathurst Teddy Bear Hospital Programs to encourage and guide other rural health clubs into developing similar programs to engage their local community and tackle 'white coat anxiety' among primary school children. Alice Fraser from second year, is now our resident professional photographer after taking home 2nd prize in the NURHC 2012 Photo competition, 'Country Capture' with this stunning photo of Turner's Vineyard in Orange. She was also nominated for the Janie Dade Smith award, recognising students contributing to rural, remote and Indigenous health.



PAEDIATRICS & CHILD HEALTH

SARAH SMITH PAEDIATRIC ORATION

The 2nd Sarah Smith Paediatric Oration was held on the 27 August at Campbelltown Hospital. Clinicians across all medical specialities within the hospital and private practice were invited.

The speaker was Dr Maureen Rogers who put paediatric dermatology in Sydney on the international map. She graduated from Sydney University in 1966 and became a Consultant Dermatologist at the Children's Hospital in 1974. She progressed to become Councillor of the Australasian College of Dermatologists, Secretary of Australian Dermatopathology Society and member of the Editorial Board of Paediatric Dermatology. She has been a popular presenter at interstate and international meetings and was awarded by the American Academy of Paediatrics. Recently retired, her photographic skills have moved from human skin to micro-images from nature. Dr Rogers spoke on her experiences in the development of paediatric dermatology.

The Sarah Smith Oration is named after the 8 year old Sarah who died and was buried in Campbelltown in September 1823. Hers is the first recorded paediatric death in the region. The Oration is intended to recall developments in paediatrics and encourage the need for excellence.

PAEDIATRIC SPECIAL SCHOOLS COMMUNITY PARTNERS NETWORK

A networking group for the Paediatric Special Disability Partner Schools has been organised with the first of the Network Group coming together at the School of Medicine, Campbelltown Campus on the 11 October.

The network is to provide a setting for like minded special educators across Western Sydney to share ideas and programs that each of their Schools has running and to receive input/advice/updates on medical matters regarding disabilities, from Prof. John Whitehall and A/Prof. Matt Edwards. It will also create opportunity to discuss the different approaches that each partner have adopted to implement our medical paediatric program within the different schools.

Currently our students spend two of their nine week paediatric rotation in one of six special schools to observe and participate. This is supported by special lectures on disabilities during their term. A 'case study' is submitted for assessment on a particular child after talking with parents, exploring the effect of the disability and its management.

The Network Group will consist of staff from KU Starting Points, Macarthur; Mater Dei School, Camden; Tallwood School, Kellyville; William

Rose School, Seven Hills; Mater Dei Early Invention, Camden and Beverley Park School, Campbelltown.

CLINICAL SCHOOLS

MACARTHUR CLINICAL SCHOOL

The Macarthur Clinical School would like to recognise and congratulate their newly appointed conjoints for their dedication to student teaching. Welcome to Dr Vivian Fernandes, Dr Marcus Dreosti, Dr Bilyana Stancheva-Konstantinova, Dr Tady Kordian and Dr Manoshi Weerasinghe.

Campbelltown Hospital is undergoing a \$139 million redevelopment to expand health services. Currently under construction is Stage 1 which will include 90 additional inpatient beds; 11 new emergency beds; two-room Cardiac Catheterisation Lab and expansion of ambulatory, outpatient and allied health services. Plans are currently being developed for a new Macarthur Clinical School in the masterplan.

BATHURST RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL

The 2011/2012 Rural School Students bade farewell in May as they progress into their final 6 months. Once again we enjoyed the monthly "student grand rounds" presentations. At the end of the year the "Machattie Shield" award is presented for the best overall presentations. Congratulations to Denise Nyugen on becoming only the second winner of the coveted shield!

The staff then got ready to welcome 10 new students in July for an action packed academic year.



A very successful orientation week kicked off with guest lecturers including a talk by Member for State Parliament, Mr Paul Toole; a farm visit to discuss



farm safety, conducted again, by Local GP Dr Ross Wilson: a great introduction to Rural life; defensive

driving lessons – to help our students adapt to country driving; beyond Medical Education and Medicare Local talk; Indigenous Orientation with Staff from Orange AMS; a trip to Orange Health Service – where oncology placements are undertaken; a trip to the Neighbourhood Centre and to CSU where some of our students now enjoy the use of sporting facilities at the CSU campus.

STUDENT NEWS

ADMISSIONS

Applications for next year's intake to the MBBS have now opened with just over 2000 applications already received.

MBBS interviews will be held from Monday 5 to Thursday 8 November inclusive and Student Support Services is always happy to receive interest from anyone wishing to become an interviewer. Feel free to contact Penny Lee at the School if you would like to become part of this exciting and important process.

AWARD CEREMONY

A Combined Schools Prize Night was held with the School of Science and Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Medicine



on 3 July for students who completed Years 1, 2 or 3 in 2011. The evening was attended by Academic and Professional staff from all three schools, as well as, by Donors, Students and their guests. Congratulations to all our prize winners for your hard work and dedication to your medical education. We also thank our Donors for their generous support and interest in the success of our students.

The School of Medicine is very proud to be recognising the achievements of students across academic excellence and professionalism, both of which are highly valued by our staff, conjoint supervisors and your future patients.

More information on prize recipients is available on



the School website and the UWS online gallery. Please visit -

<http://www.uws.edu.au/medicine/som/news>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/givingtouws/sets>



The musical interlude on the evening was provided by two current Year 2 students from the School of Medicine, Mr Alex Garner on Guitar and Ms Danielle Klingberg on Clarinet

To learn more about how you can support and inspire UWS students through prizes and scholarship, please visit www.uws.edu.au/giving

FIRST POST GRAD STUDENT FAREWELLS UWS



We farewell David Harding, who commenced at the School in 2006 as one of our first PhD candidates. Under the supervision of Prof Ian Wilson he completed his research on medical student selection and

professionalism in 2012. He also contributed greatly to the PBL teaching program as a regular tutor. David will be taking up the position of Lecturer in Assessment at Sydney University medical school. We congratulate David and look forward to further developing our collaborations with Sydney University.

HALFWAY DINNER



A fantastic turn out by academics, staff, close family and friends as they joined Year 3 students at the UWSMS Halfway Dinner on Friday 27th July. Held in the beautiful surrounds of Harrington Grove Country Club, guests enjoyed a delicious two-course dinner and were entertained by the musical talents of fellow Year 3 students, Dean Zinghini, Prasanthi Purosothaman and Luke Harvey.

Year 3 Co-ordinator, Dr Mark McLean, gave a heartfelt welcome address, sharing memories

from his time as a student and young doctor and we were delighted with the poetry of Hussain Al-Ramadani, who was able to include the whole year group in a clever rhyme.

During a busy year of clinical rotations, the evening was a special chance for Year 3 students to catch up and celebrate with their supportive family, friends and staff who have been on the journey thus far. The night ended with cake cutting and a rocking dance floor! A great night had by all. Thank you to Harrington Grove for a wonderful venue and the many academics and staff who were able to join Year 3 in celebrations.

OVERCOMING HURDLES

The Sydney Morning Herald recently interviewed fourth-year medical student Dana Slape, a Larrakia woman, mentors other indigenous students at the University of Western Sydney. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students has increased dramatically in the past decade and now matches the ratio of indigenous to non-indigenous people in Australia for the first time. Last year, 80 of Australia's 3241 domestic first year medical students were indigenous - 2.5 per cent, up from 0.8 per cent in 2004.

The milestone is being celebrated by Medical Deans and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association because 2.5 per cent of Australia's population is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Dana said she was thrilled about the recent milestone because it showed universities were getting better at recruiting indigenous students. Having been told during high school that she was unlikely to get into medicine, Ms Slape, 28, said it was important for young indigenous people to see people overcoming hurdles to achieve their goals. "We're aware that as we grow our numbers of doctors, lawyers and teachers, more kids will be inspired to do the same."

SHORT-FILM "PIECE TOGETHER YOUR FUTURE"

A Short film by three University of Western Sydney medical students, advocating to their classmates the advantages of general practice as a career path over other specialties, has won the annual joint AGPT and AMSA video competition.

The winning team was able to draw on second-year medical student Kath Mayer's knowledge and experience in graphic design, which she gained while completing undergraduate and postgraduate studies in music and design. Together with her friends Cristina Murphy and Danielle Klingberg she created a fun and evocative short-film called Piece Together Your Future.

Each filmmaker won \$1500 by artfully depicting the opportunities offered by a career in general practice.

UWS MEDICAL PHD STUDENT IS FINALIST IN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Matthew Barton UWS, School of Medicine PhD student, has been named as a finalist in Jorge Cham's competition to select a handful of thesis topics from around the world to animate. Matthew had a lot of international competition and there are not many Australians on the voting list so this is a very significant achievement. Congratulations Matthew!

SCHOOL STAFFING

COMINGS AND GOINGS

It's been a busy time for the Medical Education Unit, with a number of farewells – and welcomes! Sasil Almendrala from the Macarthur Clinical School is about to take a well-earned break for three months, so Lorena Hough will be taking on Sasil's role as Curriculum Support Officer, Placements, in Sasil's absence. For now, we say a temporary farewell to Lorena Hough, who has seen the School grow from its very beginnings. Lorena will be gaining experience at our Clinical Schools in placing medical students, a practical example of the interconnectedness of our campus and health based curriculum.

Whilst Lorena is taking on her new role, Debbie Glover and Ruth Goldsmith will be supporting the Unit acting in the positions of Year 1 Curriculum Support Officer and Year 2 Curriculum Support Officer, respectively. We also welcome Charmaine Hernandez who has stepped in to take on the School's reception duties.

We welcome Lyndal McCulloch into the role of Manager of Medical Education. While Lyndal's focus remains the operational aspects of the admission process, she will also have oversight of operational aspects of curriculum delivery on campus, and use considerable experience in university administration to improve our teaching program.

We also welcome Erin Mathieu, Lecturer in Community Research. Originally trained as a teacher, Erin completed her PhD in 2012 in public health – on using the internet to conduct randomised controlled trials. Erin teaches in the Year 4 Community Research project and is conducting research on physical activity. Erin, together with Mark McLean and Wendy Hu, also supervises Angela Hsiao, whose PhD is on culturally tailored educational interventions.

Finally, we welcome Prof. Wendy Hu, who joined the Unit in September as Professor of Medical Education and Director of Academic Program. Wendy joined the School as the Associate Professor of General Practice in 2010, from The Children's Hospital at Westmead, where she was

Director of Education. Wendy brings expertise in curriculum design and evaluation, management in education and qualitative research. She is currently researching assessment of clinical skills and the impact of supporting students on medical school staff, for which she recently gained grants from the Australian Collaborative Education Network and the Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators.

Melinda Wolfenden has joined the team in General Practice as Administrative Officer. Melinda has over 25 years of senior administrative experience in the corporate, industry and government sectors, the last four of which have been spent working in a variety of roles for UWS School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Medicine.

Bathurst Rural Clinical School welcomed its new staff members Mr Ian Kennedy who takes up his role as Indigenous Placement Support Officer and Mr Herman Hofman, Rural IT and AV Officer.

EVENTS

LOTS OF BUZZ AT THE BRAIN BEE CHALLENGE

124 of the brightest Year 10 students in NSW converged on the University of Western Sydney's School of Medicine to compete in the State Finals of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge in July.

Individual and team competitors battled out each round, to the sounds of their school cheer squads, with the ultimate prize of Brain Bee NSW State Champion ultimately being awarded to Vivienne Qingyu Zhang.



Second and third places were awarded to Suvercha Khattar from Blacktown Girls High School and Jasmine Nguyen from Cabramatta High School, respectively. In the team competition, James Ruse Agricultural High School was awarded first place, Penrith High School second place, and Baulkham Hills High School secured third place.



As the winner of the State Final, Vivienne will compete as the NSW representative at the National Finals in Melbourne in February 2013, during the annual Australian Neuroscience Society conference. The top three students will receive conditional academic excellence scholarship offers, providing \$5000 per year for up to four years study at UWS.

Professor Vaughan Macefield, from the UWS School of Medicine and NSW Coordinator of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge, says the competition was a great success.

HERITAGE BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT

There was great excitement at the announcement of the UWS suite in the Heritage Building (redevelopment at the Bathurst Hospital) which is now operational and open for business. We have two administrative and educational precincts within Bathurst, this will enhance teaching space and facilities for students and staff. It will help accommodate anticipated new staff members and increased student numbers, in the future.



TEDDY BEAR HOSPITAL AT THE ROYAL BATHURST SHOW 27 – 29 APRIL 2012

The first Teddy Bear Hospital at the Royal Bathurst Show was initiated by 5th year UWS medical students based in Bathurst, coordinated by Jacqueline Loprete. This initiative was inspired by an annual University of Newcastle venture. Local Children were encouraged to bring along their favourite teddy to the show to be checked for



ailments. The aim was to encourage a positive relationship between children and health professionals, to assist students in further developing their communication

skills with children, to increase community awareness of the UWS Rural Medical School programme in Bathurst and to foster cross-disciplinary relationships with nursing, paramedic & allied health students attending Charles

Sturt University. 56 Teddies & other species were examined at the hospital with a variety of conditions.



The students worked alongside each other and the hospital was very popular and well received. For her efforts, Jacqueline was awarded the inaugural Ben Chifley Community engagement award. This will become an annual award for the Bathurst student who demonstrates a high level of Community engagement and involvement. Many thanks to all students who assisted.

SCHOOL LOCATIONS

CAMPBELLTOWN

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University of Western Sydney
Locked Bag 1797
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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 enquiries: +61 2 6331 4773