

UWS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1

University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life



OUR 2012 YEAR 5 STUDENTS



NEVILLE YEOMANS



BRAD FRANKUM

DEAN'S UPDATE

Welcome to 2013!

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 to address critical medical workforce shortages and is strengthening the health system through medical training and research.

The School of Medicine Year 5 Prize afternoon was held on the 7th December 2012. The purpose of this event was to congratulate and celebrate the most outstanding students in the School's 2012 graduating cohort and acknowledge the generous support of prize donors to the School of Medicine who formally present the awards. Further information on this event is available on the School's website.

Marcus Handmer and Aisha Ferkh were presented with a prestigious University Medal in recognition of academic excellence during their Graduation Ceremony, also in December.

The School of Medicine is also delighted to mention that Emeritus Professor Neville Yeomans and Professor Brad Frankum were named in the 2013 Australia Day Honours List. Emeritus Professor Yeomans, the Foundation Dean of the School was awarded an AM for significant services to tertiary education, research and clinical practice in the field of medicine. Professor Brad Frankum, Deputy Dean and Professor of Clinical Practice was awarded an OAM for service to medicine as an educator and administrator. Conjoint Professors Sally Redman and Professor Helen Zorbas were also recognised with AO's for their

contribution to health service delivery development and research.

Congratulations to all Honours recipients.

We would also like to acknowledge Dr Elise Maehler (a member of the 2011 initial graduating cohort) who was a Finalist in the 2013 NSW Minister for Health / Cutcher & Neale Junior Medical Officer of the Year.

The contribution of our Staff, Graduates and Students is commendable.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of our School Newsletter.

Professor Annemarie Hennessy
Dean

RESEARCH & TEACHING

Dr Kingsley Agho received an Australia Leadership Award Fellowship 2012-13: *Maternal and child undernutrition in Tanzania* which funded a group of Tanzanian Fellows to attend training here in Australia.

RESEARCH

Professor Annemarie Hennessy presented new research on hypertension during pregnancy which brings us a step closer to identifying women who are at risk of developing this condition. The results of this research were presented at an international conference in Sydney which attracted national media coverage.

Professor Hennessy was interviewed on ABC News 24 Breakfast and a news story was broadcast on prime time 7pm news bulletins on ABC 1.

Dr Michael O'Connor, Lecturer, Regenerative Medicine, was recently elected Vice-President of the Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research. He was also one of 4 scientists chosen to present their work as part of the 2012 Science Meets Parliament (SMP) event in Canberra.

RESEARCH GRANTS

NHMRC Success for Department of General Practice

At the end of 2012 the Department of General Practice was successful in gaining two substantial new research grants which will enable them to address key GP teaching and clinical questions related to Aboriginal health. Prof Jenny Reath (the Foundation Peter Brennan Chair of General Practice) will lead a \$1.64m NHMRC Project grant investigating best management of acute otitis media in urban Aboriginal children, a population for which there is little evidence to inform practice. The General Practice team will also lead research funded by Australian General Practice Training investigating the roles of Cultural Educators and Mentors in GP training.



Tanzanian delegation

PUBLICATIONS

Chiu CL, Morgan CT, Lupton SJ, Lind JM. (2013) The parent of origin influences cardiac expression of vascular endothelial growth factor. *BMC Medical Genetics*. In Press.

Lupton S, Chiu CL, Lujic S, Hennessy A, Lind JM. (2013) Association between parity and breastfeeding with maternal high blood pressure. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. In Press.

Lupton S, Chiu CL, Hodgson LAB, Tooher J, Lujic S, Ogle R, Wong TY, Hennessy A, Lind JM. (2013) Temporal changes in retinal microvascular caliber and blood pressure during pregnancy. *Hypertension* 61: 880-5

Lind JM, Chiu C. Genetic discoveries in hypertension: steps on the road to therapeutic translation (2013) *Heart*. In Press.

Chiu CL, Lind JM. (2013) Hormone replacement therapy: examining the cardiovascular and clinical impacts of treatment. *Future Cardiology*. In Press.

Bobek G, Stait-Gardener T, Surmon L, Makris A, Lind JM, Price WS, Hennessy A. (2013) Magnetic Resonance Imaging detects placental hypoxia and acidosis in mouse models of perturbed pregnancies. *PLoS ONE* 8:e59971

Mathieu E, Barratt A, Carter S, Jamtvedt G. (2012). Participant experiences

of Internet-based research. *BMC Research methodology*. 11:159

Mathieu E, Barratt A, McGeechan K, Herbert R. (2012). Internet based randomised controlled trials: A systematic Review. *JAMIA*. Online first 13 October 2012.

Broderick C, Herbert R, Latimer J, Barnes C, Curtin J, Mathieu E, Monagle P, Brown S. (2012). Risk of bleeds associated with physical activity in children with hemophilia. *JAMA*. 308(14): 1452-1459.

Mathieu E, Barratt A, McGeechan K, Herbert R. (2012). Blinding participants in trials assessing the impact of caffeine withdrawal on health outcomes: The results of a randomised controlled trial. *Australian Epidemiologist*. 19(1): 26-32

Broderick C, Herbert R, Latimer J, Mathieu E, Van Doorn N, Curtin J. (2012). Feasibility of short message service to document bleeding episodes in children with haemophilia. *Haemophilia*, 1-5.

Dr Melanie Taylor's journal article publication "Communication Breakdown? – The roles of the media and public health officials during public health crises". The article was published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* (MJA) 197 (10) · 19 November 2012).

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Dr Vincent Ho has received \$36,531 in funding from the Western Interdisciplinary Clinical Training Network (ICTN) Local Project Fund for a project evaluating the use of the Flexicam Mobile System in innovative interdisciplinary student learning. The Flexicam Mobile system is a state-of-the-art imaging system that utilises a high resolution medical grade camera with an integrated LED light source. The system comes equipped with a new Video Naso Pharyngoscope (V-scope) which is planned to be used in interactive education by interdisciplinary students attending Vincent's live gastrointestinal physiology clinics.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

UWS has been working over the past several months with the Nepean Blue Mountains Medicare Local (ML), the Local Health District (LHD), also with the University of Sydney's Western Clinical School to engage with consumers in each of the local regions in this area. Whilst the ML and the LHD have been talking about their new structures and seeking consumer input to their strategic planning, Professor Tim Usherwood (University of Sydney) together with Professor Jenny Reath and Dr Louella McCarthy (University of Western Sydney) have been discussing with consumers attending these meetings about community roles in teaching and research. The Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre (LMNC) has become a partner in the Community Partners Program. LMNC participates annually in the Student/Patient Interviews initiative by recruiting local residents who fit the School's criteria to meet with students at our Centre for the purpose of interviews. The School appreciates its continuing partnership with LMNC.

UWS BATHURST DONATES \$10,000 TO HELP BATHURST PATIENT'S ACCESS SPECIALIST MEDICAL SERVICES



Bathurst Rural Clinical School answered a community call to support a transport service for cancer patients seeking specialised treatment at Orange, for radiotherapy at the hospital's new linear accelerator, with a \$10,000 donation to Bathurst Community Transport.

Recently UWS has also increased its support to the Oncology Service at Daffodil Cottage and will support the funding of two Orange-based doctors who will provide new services in Bathurst in 2013 and play a key role teaching UWS medical students.

WATER WELL DONATION PROGRAM



The School of Medicine's Anatomy Department ran its first anatomy trivia night on 15 October 2012, over 120 students battled it out against the academic table of Professor Wendy Hu, Drs Joanne Lind, David Mahns, Vincent Ho. The most notable achievement of the night however, was raising money to build a water well in Bangladesh. This well has just been completed and is now in operation hopefully for many years to come to provide clean drinking water to over 120 local villagers. Due to the success of the night, a similar event is planned specifically for the second year students in preparation for their upcoming anatomy exam. This time though, the Anatomy Department are hoping to build a well in Afghanistan which is a little more expensive, if anyone wishes to donate to this project please email Matthew Barton (m.barton@uws.edu.au).

CONTRIBUTION OF HEALTH WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA (HWA) GOODS AND SERVICES FUNDS TO BILA MUUJI TO SUPPORT REGIONAL GP POSITION

The School of Medicine has a long term commitment to our Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) partners and has invested in further partnership development. Aboriginal communities through their Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) are providing experience and staff expertise to expand the School's understanding so that we can further build strong, viable relationships with our ACCHO partners, and their local communities. As part of this process the School of Medicine encourages AMS to have back to base support for both supervisors and students.

We are collaborating with Orange AMS as part of a HWA grant in the employment

of a Regional GP supervisor who will be engaged in supervising our students. This position will be a pilot model conducted within the 10 Bila Muuji Services. Currently 6 Bila Muuji members host our students.

Our main focus is to promote the teaching relationship of AMS staff with our students and to explore the possibilities of teaching support for an increased Registrar presence in the Bila Muuji services. As a complementary initiative we have allocated funds from the HWA grant to fund or upgrade the provision of videoconferencing equipment to each Service. This Infrastructure will support the AMS in student supervision, for their own internal staff training and in future proposed Telehealth initiatives.

CLINICAL SCHOOLS

LISMORE - UCRH



In early 2013, students based in Lismore were able to participate in Conference week through the facilities of the University Centre for Rural Health (UCRH). Lectures were delivered by videoconference and skills sessions and small group learning were held onsite in Lismore. Students were able to participate in workshops facilitated by clinicians who are their regular tutors and local GP supervisors. Feedback from the students was that they benefited from the practical workshops and access to the presenters.

BATHURST RURAL CLINICAL SCHOOL

The inaugural Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting was held at the Bathurst Rural Clinical School in December 2012, with attendees from 15 local organisations. The response to the CAG initiative has been very positive and the meeting generated some very useful ideas.

When the CAG commences formally in 2013, election of a Chairperson and the Terms of Reference will be finalised by members. BRCS is hoping the group will then be able to start implementing some of their ideas within orientation for the new cohort of 2013/14 students.

Bathurst Rural Clinical School continues to grow and develop particularly in Research and are happy to welcome new appointments to their academic and professional teams.

A/Prof Kumara Mendis, Rural Health and Research; A/Prof Wendy Stevens, Rural Health and Research; Tegan Edwards, Research Officer; Jill Driscoll, Rural Operations & Financial Co-ordinator



MACARTHUR CLINICAL SCHOOL

Congratulations to the 2012 winners of the Clinical Dean's Award for excellence in teaching and supporting students on their clinical placements: The awards were presented to Year 1 students - Dr Annette Tognela, Year 2 students - Dr Rashid Goolam, Year 3 students, Medicine - Neurology Team, Surgery - Dr Tim O'Carrigan

INDIGENOUS DOCTORS COMING TO A HOSPITAL NEAR YOU



Anysia Den, Angus McNally, Rachel Farrelly and Paul Saunders, four high-achieving Indigenous medical students have all completed the University's intensive five-year Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program and made the transition to university graduate, hospital intern and junior doctor.

The Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Health, delivered the Occasional Address at the December 20 graduation ceremony and took the opportunity to congratulate the doctors on their achievements.

Professor Annemarie Hennessy, Dean of the School of Medicine, says the University understands the importance of having doctors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background. "By helping more Indigenous people become capable doctors, who are able to go out and make a difference in Australian communities, UWS is helping to 'close the gap' between the life expectancy of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians."

STUDENT NEWS



UWS School of Medicine students recently supported the Macarthur Cystic Fibrosis Swimathon for Cystic Fibrosis NSW. Swimming over 10 kilometres at the Wollondilly Leisure Centre on Saturday 16 February were third year students Paul McLucas, Mitchell Purser, Leon Ong and Al Dyason, and second year students Lilia O'Connor, Corinne Ipt, and Millie Schoenfeld. Team UWS Med also made a huge splash in the Water Bombing Competition, with Paul and Mitchell both impressing the judges and carrying off prizes for their efforts.

The team raised over \$900 to support kids living with cystic fibrosis in the Macarthur region, and contributed to a total of over \$105,000 raised at the event.

PhD student, Melissa Mangala, has won a competitive placement in the 2013 Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience.



Two year 3 students, Natasha Lau and Nile Ulgen wrote a poem following their experience interviewing patients with disabilities. "One Moment" was picked up by Camden/Campbelltown Hospital's Communication Strategy and Customer Service Working Group and features proudly on the noticeboard with a very strong message.

ADMISSIONS



Following interviews in November, 2012 and January, 2013, the admission process for our 2013 intake into Year 1 of the MBBS was completed. In addition to domestic students, we have also welcomed international students from countries including Kenya, India, UAE, Canada, England and Bosnia. There are 3 new students commencing in Year 3 of the program from IMU, Malaysia. A welcome lunch for our new International cohort was held in the Hub.

SCHOOL STAFFING

We would like to welcome the following staff to the School of Medicine

CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Dr Bich Tran, Research Fellow and
Marlee Bower, Research Assistant

CLINICAL SCIENCES UNIT

Kylie Parker, Administrative Officer

DEANERY

Melanie Simon, Indigenous
Student Support Officer

GENERAL PRACTICE

Dr Trent Reardon, Research Officer;
Dr Ruth Morgan, Senior Project Officer;
Dr Penny Burns, Senior Lecturer;
Dr Penny Abbot, Senior Lecturer;
Dr Kelly Watt, Academic Registrar

MACARTHUR CLINICAL SCHOOL

Dr Vivek Thakkar, Clinical Sub Dean

MEDICAL EDUCATION

A/Prof James Kwan;
Dr Ryan Dashwood, Lecturer in
Indigenous Health;
Dr Iman Hegazi, Lecturer;
Dr Laura Surmon, Lecturer;
Dr Shaun Wan, Associate Lecturer;

Dr Tony Succar, Associate Lecturer;
Verona du Toit, Research Fellow

MEDICINE

A/Prof Kevin Spring, Oncology

OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

A/Prof KaLai (Clara) Shek

PAEDIATRICS

Rebecca McCulloch, Administrative Officer

PATHOLOGY

Dr Irani Dissanayake, Clinical Fellow

PHARMACHOLOGY

Dr Erika Gyengesi, Research Officer

SURGERY, BLACKTOWN

Professor Michael Edye,
Professor of Surgery

EVENTS

The University of Western Sydney played host to the Third Annual Health Informatics “Summer School” which ran from the 4 to 8 February 2013. Summer School consisted of a series of short courses addressing the numerous changes brought about by Health Informatics (eHealth).

The School of Medicine Curriculum Conference, a biennial event for staff, students, conjoint and partners to discuss and debate the future direction of the MBBS program was held on the 23 and 24 April 2013.

The annual UWSMS Twilight Festival, an event which allows our gifted medical students to display their musical and performing talents was held on the 29 April in the School of Medicine Hub. There was food, friendly faces and many wonderful performances.

A Combined Schools Prize Night will be held with the School of Science and Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery and School of Medicine on the 22 July 2013, for students who have completed Years 1, 2 or 3 in 2012. The evening will be attended by Academic and Professional staff from all three schools, as well as, by Donors, Students and their guests.

The graduating cohort of 2013 will be holding their Graduation Ball on Thursday, 19 December 2013. More details will be available on the School's website.

IT UPDATE

The University has distributed 11,000 iPads to every new student and academic staff in 2013 to support learning and teaching innovations across the curriculum and in informal learning environments. With digital technology revolutionising how we connect and interact with the world, university study should be no different,” says Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, UWS Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education). “This initiative will not only readily equip our students and academic staff with mobile tools to enhance learning; it will also help them to engage with an ever-increasing online world.”

Professor Krause said the iPad initiative was just one part of a comprehensive curriculum renewal strategy at UWS, which includes implementing more flexible study options for students and a blended learning model for all UWS degrees from 2013 and beyond.

SCHOOL LOCATIONS

CAMPBELLTOWN

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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 enquiries: +61 2 6331 4773

