

\*\*\*News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine\*\*\*  
Newsletter #24; March 2005  
Edited by Kevin Forde (feedback to [k.forde@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.forde@unsw.edu.au))  
April edition deadline is 31 March, all items to [k.forde@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.forde@unsw.edu.au)

1. Head of School Report
2. Session 1 begins
3. Selection for Medicine 2005
4. Achievements
5. Upcoming conferences
6. New UNSW Website Policy
7. Vietnam Links

---

1. Head of School Report

The tragedy of the Tsunami, and the resilient responses by communities and individuals, was echoed at the local level with the random and recent tragic death of Barbara Ulmer, a School staff member and soon-to-be PhD graduate, and her family's resolute response to celebrate her life and look to the future.

2005 has begun with major challenges:

... substantial numbers of new research grants have been won by members of the School and our associated research Centres ... the annual pressures as research proposals were submitted to the NHMRC and ARC... we bade farewell to one Dean (Bruce Dowton), welcomed our Acting Dean (Richard Henry), and look forward to working with our new Dean (Peter Smith) ... new student intakes all buoyant at undergraduate, postgraduate and research degree levels... new staff members hitting the deck running and working actively on projects and programs.

At the same time, given reductions in overseas student intake, and the rising Australian dollar, tightening of belts will characterise the year across the University. While the Medical Faculty has done well through the new funding formula being used at UNSW, the Faculty also faces substantial costs given the commitment to construct new research facilities, additional costs associated with resourcing the New Medical Program, an inequitable distribution of UNSW income derived from research degree students, and the desire to promote research excellence.

As a School we will need to invest in our future – research and teaching of the highest quality – while living also with significant budgetary constraints. Staff numbers have gone up but our non-salary budget has declined. While we are required and will cut our costs and improve our efficiency, we will also need to invest in strategic issues and direction, developing our research depth, excellence and partnerships, enhancing the quality of our undergraduate programs, postgraduate coursework and higher degree supervision, promoting a more equitable distribution of workload, and working closely with key partners at local, national, and international levels.

In times of strain, we need to focus on delivery in each of our core areas of activity: teaching, research and service – and work together to achieve our shared objectives.

Congratulations to the Postgraduate Coursework Team for kicking off the year with good student numbers and enthusiastic participants who have lauded our customer focus; the Research Strategy Group for a celebration of achievements in the past year and new foci on research capacity building; the Research Degree team for their new skills development program and smooth review program underway; the Undergraduate Team for ongoing commitment to developing and delivering the New Medical program; and last but not least, to our General Staff who keep the School functioning and moving and maintain our links with students, staff, and the wider community.

The year will hold multiple challenges for us all – let us work together to successfully negotiate and navigate them.

Anthony Zwi  
[Hos-sphcm@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Hos-sphcm@unsw.edu.au)

---

## 2. Session 1 begins

Karin Banna has taken time off from answering student queries to give the following report: Session 1 2005 has now started and the residential week for Health Management and Public Health postgraduate students was held last week. Staff in the postgraduate office have been working very hard to make the start of year as smooth as possible for students and we have had very positive feedback about the customer focus of the School. Students and staff alike can now look forward to a productive academic year! Since 2003 a cohort of Auckland University staff have enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Education at UNSW each year. For the third year, a new cohort of 10 staff in Auckland have commenced the program and we look forward to collaborating with Auckland University in providing clinical education training for their staff. The 2004 Prizes for undergraduate and postgraduate students of the School have been confirmed and details of the awards and the nominated prize winners are listed on our School website at: <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstudents.awards>

---

## 3 Selection for Medicine 2005

Justine Brindle has provided the following statistics on this year's intake into first year medicine:

- 45 Students of rural background were selected for Medicine 2005 through the Rural Student Entry Scheme
- 4 Indigenous were selected through the pre-med program
- 50 International students were selected
- 135 students were admitted the through standard entry process

### **RURAL INTAKE**

#### **Gender Balance**

28 females

18 males

#### **UAI**

Highest UAI: 99.95

Lowest UAI: 91.07

Mean: 95.77

#### **UMAT**

Highest score: 220/300

Lowest score: 136/300

Mean UMAT score: 167.04/300

#### **High School/Non High School**

20% non-school leavers

80% high school leavers

### **STANDARD ENTRY INTAKE**

#### **Gender Balance**

66 females

69 males

Highest UAI: 100.00

Lowest UAI: 95.40

Mean: 99.30

#### **UMAT**

Highest score: 237/300

Lowest score: 162/300

Mean: 190.02/300

#### **High-School/Non High-School**

9% non-school leavers

91% school leavers

---

#### 4 Achievements

There have been numerous staff achievements over the past few months, including:

**Jeffrey Braithwaite** received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence 2004.

**Jan Ritchie** will be co-editor of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia with with Dr Chris Rissel (Editor in Chief) and Prof Adrian Bauman.

**The Professional Education Group** received a grant of \$250,000 from the College of Radiologists.

**Anne Bunde-Birouste** has completed two Health and Conflict Issues Papers, they are available both electronically on the School's website and in hard copy from Anne. Staff were invited to offer suggestions for collaboration with Anne on new projects.

**Jill Guthrie and Anton Clifford** received NHMRC scholarships.

**David Sutherland** received \$250,000 for research into developing and promoting health career opportunities for indigenous students.

The following grants received by **CHETRE** (The Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation):

- \* NHMRC grant of \$1 million from NSW Health for a period of three years
- \* \$780,000 for 3 years (Practice capacity building)
- \* \$450,000: ARC Linkage
- \* NHMRC Scholarships awarded to two scholars, Tim Shortus and Ching Wan.

**Anthony Zwi** has received a NHMRC Capacity Building Grant of \$2.3 million over 5 years (Injury Risk Management); includes Ros Poulos working on research policy and transfer issues.

A good news story - part time students do actually graduate. **Kim Begely** enrolled 1997 and 8 years later has had his PhD accepted. The title of his thesis is "A Behavioural Model of Protease Inhibitor Non-Adherence: Theoretical and Clinical Implications". He was a model student - enthusiastic, intelligent, hard working (he also held a senior counsellor's position at Albion Street HIV Clinic) and attempted to sort out problems then come with a solution for discussion. Congratulations Kim for surviving 8 years of PhD supervision.

---

#### 5 Upcoming conferences

SHAPE – the Society for Health Administration Programs in Education is holding its annual symposium in Wellington, New Zealand on July 7 and 8. The Society will be offering a scholarship for a student to present a paper at the symposium. The scholarship will pay the expenses associated with attending the symposium– ie airfares, accommodation and conference registration. This could be particularly interesting to several PhD students in the School. For further information contact Kevin Forde – [k.forde@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.forde@unsw.edu.au).

TUFH International Conference on Making Primary Health Care Work: Challenges for the Education and Practice of the Health Workforce

Ho Chi Minh City/Vietnam November 12 - 17, 2005

<http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/default.asp?id=20&aid=20>

Post-Conference Excursion on Community-based Health Professions Education November 18 - 20, 2005  
Can Tho/Vietnam

<http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/default.asp?id=21&aid=21>

---

#### 6 New UNSW Website Policy

There is a new Website Policy for all of UNSW that was recently signed off by Academic Board. If you manage or maintain any web pages you should ensure that you have read this policy and it's associated standards, specifically the "Acceptable Content" standard. The website policy can be found at:

[http://www.its.unsw.edu.au/policies/pol\\_web.html](http://www.its.unsw.edu.au/policies/pol_web.html)

---

Anna Whelan spent three weeks in Vietnam evaluating how the eight main Medical Universities had implemented changes to their undergraduate curricula - introducing public health and community-oriented teaching and more active teaching methods.

The evaluation involved stakeholder interviews with the Ministries of Health and Education and Training; the funding body, Royal Netherlands Embassy; the Project Steering Committee and Team (based in Hanoi Medical University); plus site visits to each of the eight universities (Hanoi, Hue, HoChiMinh City, Cantho, Tay Nguyen, Thai Nguyen, Thai Binh and Haiphong Medical Universities).

A worldwind trip (also called rapid assessment) involved interviewing the Deans (or Rectors) of the Universities; the Project Teams in each university; Department staff who had been involved (mix of clinical and public health); some departments that had not been involved; visiting field placement sites for students and interviewing staff there (in Commune Health Centres and also District Hospitals); reviewing courses and teaching materials; interviewing students about their experiences and understandings; observing a range of classroom and field teaching. *Whew!! (And I bet you still found time to do some shopping – ed.)*

The findings were amazing with many lessons learned for all. Deans and Project leaders were flown up to Hanoi for the debriefing with the Embassy at the end of the project. Many great links with UNSW have been forged - expect follow up and interest in our program and work in future. For anyone interested in more detail, Anna will be presenting to the PEG (Post grad Education Group) seminar series on April 5th. (I am really interested in discussing how such large scale evaluations can be improved!!)