



# MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2008

Welcome to the 7th newsletter of the Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

This is a busy time of the year with lots happening on the learning and teaching front for teachers as well as the students. However, if you get a spare moment, do start thinking about the MedEd learning and teaching forum (Weds 3rd Dec) - what educational or scholarly L&T research could you present? Or, is there a project that you are working on that you would like to discuss with your peers? An email will go out at in early November to request short papers (5min) and longer (20 min) presentations.

In the meantime, I would welcome any reviews or snippets for our regular newsletter items into the last newsletter of the year.  
RT (Ed)

## MedEd News

### Hot news

- **Vice Chancellor is visiting the Faculty on 23rd Oct** at 12.15 - 1.15pm in Mathews C, Level 3 Mathews Building
- **Seminar on Teaching-intensive positions in Universities** — Jill Cowley (Academic L&T Fellow, Law) Thursday 23 October 2008 at 12-2pm in Room 310, Level 3 Mathews Building
- **A/Prof. Tony O'Sullivan will be speaking on 'Examining professionalism in medical students' at the next MedEd group** on Tues 4th Nov. at 8am in room 305 Samuels, Upper campus (note: room change).
- **The Medical Student Experience Questionnaire Survey 2008** is still under way. Please encourage your med program students to complete this ASAP.

### Report from the October Meeting

The meeting this month saw a lively discussion on the needs and provisions for new teachers and new arrivals to the L&T staff at UNSW Medical Faculty. One of the key problems encountered in providing a structured induction is the sheer diversity of the medical faculty teaching staff: part-time / full-time; non-academic/ academic, non-clinical / clinical and conjoint / demonstrator / facilitator/ lecturer / tutor etc. Another major problem is that new staff arrive or begin teaching throughout the year; there is no one particular intake point. With input from several new arrivals to UNSW / new teachers, the following major suggestions were made during the meeting:

#### 1. "Welcome to Faculty" Sessions

Two half day workshops run at least twice a year with common generic sessions (e.g. admin and IT information) for all new teaching staff plus specific sessions on

teaching (e.g. program specifics plus WebVista / eMed skills; student learning; basic teaching skills)

#### 2. Faculty webpage for L&T induction

#### 3. Induction package sent out with letter of acceptance

#### 4. Fostering of mentoring of varying types (e.g. observing and being observed; both general and specific discipline support)

#### 5. Clinical FULT sessions—under development

#### 6. Tie performance reviews into the induction process

*These suggestions will be reviewed and fed back to the group. In the meantime, a faculty webpage for L&T induction is under construction.*

To conclude, two delegates to the AMEE conference gave an interesting talk on their favourite presentations (see page 3 for more info).

**The next meeting is on Tuesday 4th November at 8am in room 305 on floor 3 of the Samuels Building.**

### Faculty Learning & Teaching Awards 2008

To recognise the contribution of staff to learning and teaching in the Faculty, nominations are called for the Faculty Learning & Teaching Awards for 2008.

These awards are open to academic staff, sessional staff (including con-joints) and professional and technical staff.

Further details on the awards, including criteria and an application form, are available at the following site:

<http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Awards>

Nominations for these awards should be forwarded to [Elena Mankovskaia](mailto:E.Mankovskaia@unsw.edu.au)

at the Office of Medical Education, by 5pm **Friday 31st Oct.**

*The recipients will be announced at the MedEd L&T Forum on Wednesday 3rd December.*

## L&T Resources

The following was sent in as a useful resource for those writing examinations or involved in assessment. This excellent manual on writing exam questions comes from the National Board of Medical Examiners (USA) [Revised edition 2003].

Download the pdf directly:

[http://nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting\\_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf](http://nbme.org/PDF/ItemWriting_2003/2003IWGwhole.pdf)

Or access the website first via:

<http://nbme.org/publications/item-writing-manual-download.html>

## MedEd Interest Group L&T Forum

This forum aims to bring together the many teachers and educationists within the faculty for a networking occasion, and also to give everyone the chance to air their work, present papers in progress and discuss problematic teaching topics.

An email will go out at in early November to request short (5min) and longer (20 min) presentations on a medical education or relevant learning and teaching topic...So get your thinking hats on!

**Wednesday 3rd December**

**9.30am—1.30pm**

**Venue: SG rooms 6-9, Mathews Basement**

**Lunch will be provided**

**All welcome**

Contact Rachel for more information: [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

## SOTL and Professional Development

### Support from L&T@UNSW

#### What's on this month?

#### **'Seminar on Teaching-intensive positions in Universities'**

Jill Cowley (Academic L&T Fellow, Law) will present her thoughtful and timely paper, *Teaching-intensive appointments in law schools: Is this the way to recognise and value excellence in teaching?* This is a current issue recently discussed at Academic Board here at UNSW. Jill looks forward to comments, questions and lively discussion around the relevant issues.

#### **Venue & date:**

Mathews Room 310, Level 3 Mathews Building  
Thursday 23 October 2008 (12-2pm)

**Workshop and events registration page:** [http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event\\_rego/events.cfm](http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event_rego/events.cfm)

#### **Research Showcase #3:**

Jacqui MacManus and Nida Denson

#### **Venue & date:**

L&T workshop room 416, Level 4, Mathews  
Weds. 15th October 2008 (1230-2pm)

Bring your own lunch

**Read about the workshops and events at L&T@UNSW at the following address:**

[http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/workshops\\_events/about\\_events.cfm?ss=2](http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/workshops_events/about_events.cfm?ss=2)

**For the workshop list for October /November and to register for these workshops, please see:** [http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event\\_rego/events.cfm](http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event_rego/events.cfm)

### From UNSW Library

#### **Get your free copy of EndNote**

Useful for referencing and citation but also in keeping track of useful articles, books and other publications on your L&T, discipline or research topics. **Downloadable from the UNSW Library via:**

<http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/skills/endnote.html>

#### **ENDNOTE CLASSES**

EndNote Webinar classes are being offered at times suitable for Australia. These sessions are conducted live via Webex so although not face to face, they are interactive. Details of the next sessions in October:

#### **Building an EndNote Library**

(9:30 a.m. Sydney time, Oct. 30 Australia):

<https://thomsonscientific.webex.com/thomsonscientific/j.php?ED=110903877&RG=1&UID=0>

#### **Using EndNote in Word**

(11:30 a.m. Sydney time, Oct. 30 Australia):

<https://thomsonscientific.webex.com/thomsonscientific/j.php?ED=110904097&RG=1&UID=0>

**If you have can't make these interactive online workshops there is an online tutorial accessible from:**

<http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/~biomed/endnote5/lib.htm>

### Review of this Month's Publications

This month, [Academic Medicine](#) leads the supplement (Vol 83(10) October 2008, Supp pgs. S1-S116) with three articles on medical students and professionalism. This is a good opportunity to read up on this topic prior to A/Prof Tony O'Sullivan's talk at the next MedEd seminar (4th Nov). [Note- use Ovid full text when accessing the article via ink above]

There is also a very interesting article (pp S13-S16) titled "Setting Standards for Performance Tests: A Pilot Study of a Three-Level Angoff Method" by Yudkowsky et al from University of Illinois, Chicago, USA. This article is an in-depth report on research into potential biases of this form of standard setting for performance based clinical examination (as mentioned by Phil Jones at the last Phase 3 Committee).

There are two articles on computer based assessment in this month's [Medical Teacher](#) (Vol. 30, Issue 7, 2008) which would be useful for those who set assessment online. For those of you in a more theoretical frame of mind, there is a fascinating article by Paul Hager, Professor of Education at UTS on "Learning and Metaphor". Plus lots more to get your teeth into. [Note- use Informa link via SFX link above—you should get free access this way].

(RT)

## Next seminar meeting: Tues 4th November 8-10 am

A/Prof Tony O'Sullivan has returned from a UK sabbatical and will present on:

### "Examining professionalism in medical students"

**Date:**

Tues 4th November at 8-10am

**Venue:**

Room 305 in Samuels Building, Upper Kensington campus  
**(please note change of venue)**

*There is time for another couple of short presentations if anyone is interested in discussing or presenting a project that they are working on or writing up— please contact Rachel: [rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au).*

*A map of the upper campus is available at the MedEd web-site.*

*Tea, coffee and a breakfast snack will be provided. Please email Rachel [rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au) if you hope to attend, or just turn up on the day.*

## For Your Diary this year— next year's will be circulated in Dec

The MedEd group hosts a monthly seminar series in 2008 with a forum at the end of the year. Presentations welcome on medical education or learning and teaching research or reviews from UNSW and clinical schools, at any stage of conception or progress. Email Rachel Thompson at [rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au) if you would like to present at a meeting or have a topic for discussion.

Date and time	Seminar Topic	Speakers	Location
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 0800-1000	Examining professionalism in medical students	A/Prof Tony O'Sullivan on returning from his UK sabbatical	Room 305 in Samuels Building, Upper Campus
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 0930 -1330	<b>L&amp;T RESEARCH FORUM</b> — presentation of proposed, current or finished research in Medical Education or Learning and Teaching @UNSW	Open to MedEd group and other interested parties	SGS6-9 under Mathews Building, Upper Kensington Campus

## AMEE Annual Conference, Prague, Aug 30- 3 Sept 2008

### Complexity Science in Medical Education

Professor Stewart Menin gave an interesting presentation on complexity and chaos theory and how this relates to medical education. A brief summary would not do justice to his talk that featured around fifty slides and went on for longer than an hour, but I thought that I would share a few of his ideas that I found particularly interesting.

During his talk Prof. Menin asked for a few volunteers and got them to demonstrate the idea of self-organisation and how this idea from complexity science may apply to medical education. This is an idea that if a group of organisms or people were given a few simple but clear rules and boundaries, and some sort of energy or control parameter, then this will lead to self-organisation. The reason that this occurs is because students will recognise differences and gradients between what they know and what they need to know, and will organise themselves until the equilibrium is reached. The teacher or the educator's role would then be to simply facilitate the group to encourage this self-organisation to take place. In the medical education context, the energy or the control parameter would be in the form of assessments, or a problem or a case.

Another interesting idea that Professor Menin presented was about self-similarity. This is an idea in complexity science where the whole has a similar shape as its parts. Lots of things in nature are self-similar – in human body, the bronchial tree is an obvious example. This can be applied to the medical education context in the form of self-similar curriculum where the week to week timetabling of student's activities follows the same structure as their monthly timetable; that then has a similar structure to the yearly curriculum; which then has a similar structure as the overall curriculum. This will lead to a curriculum that is coherent, structured, logical, yet surprisingly simple.

There is a copy of Prof. Menin's PowerPoint presentation available online for interested readers— please email Joel if you would like further details: [J.Rhee@unsw.edu.au](mailto:J.Rhee@unsw.edu.au). **The Conference Booklet and a compendium of the complete Abstracts are available in PDF download from:** <http://www.amee.org/index.asp?tm=51&cookies=True>

**Joel Rhee (Lecturer in General Practice, SPHCM)**

## MedEd Contact and Newsletter editor

Dr Rachel Thompson  
L&T Fellow  
Medical Faculty  
OME  
30 Botany St  
Phone: 02 938 58038  
Fax: 02 938 51120

**Email:** [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

The MedEd Interest Group formed in November 2006 following a research presentation forum held at UNSW. It aims to bring together medical faculty staff interested in education issues to support scholarly practice, encourage research and create new networks amongst its members.

Our main activities include a monthly seminar series, this monthly newsletter, and a twice yearly research forum. We will keep you in touch with upcoming grants, conferences, awards and new L&T publications, innovations and lots, lots more...

## Feedback requests

### Hot Seminar Topics

Please send your ideas /requests for seminar topics or suggested speakers to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

### For your Newsletter

Please send in book reviews and interesting publications, new or exciting L&T or medical education websites, and your "Teaching tip of the Month" (<100 words please).

What else would you like to see in the Newsletter?

Send ASAP to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

### And...

Let us know what else you think that the MedEd group should be doing.

**Please keep your details up to date for the MedEd mailing list** If your email has changed or you wish to be join our mailings, please update the mailing list by sending your name, email address and current research/area of interest to: Vicki Truskett on [V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au](mailto:V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au)

## Take a look at the MedEd Website!

Find it at: [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au)

*Info on meetings, conferences and lots more  
under "For Staff" /Learning and Teaching*

### Quote of the month:

*A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.*

W.H.Auden.

### Web-link of the month:

***Anatomy of a Medical Journal Article- what's included and where to find it.***

**From the University of Vermont, U.S.A**

<http://library.uvm.edu/dana/guides/test.html>

***A rather simple, but straightforward tutorial in Flashplayer: useful for UG and PG students but also for L&T scholars writing their first paper (note good refs)***

**Share your fav L&T websites with the MedEd group!**

### How about joining the UNSW Med Ed Google Group?

A Google Group has been set up for contact and discussion in-between meetings, for hot topics, sharing of recent developments and innovations and also for networking and needs new members to get us going! If you would like to join up, send your details (name and email address) to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au). See <http://groups.google.com.au/> for info.