WELCOME

to Information Bulletin No 4 for the University of Wollongong’s Graduate School of Medicine (GSM). These bulletins are designed to keep stakeholders up to date with developments as we continue our process of accreditation by the Australian Medical Council, in preparation for the first intake of students scheduled for February 2007.

Bulletin No 4 contains details of our building program for the GSM buildings at our Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses, information about our recruitment program for senior staff and an appeal to the medical community of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven to help us get the word out as widely as possible to colleagues both in Australia and overseas that there are exciting positions coming up at the GSM.

PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT GSM OPPORTUNITIES

We are close to announcing appointments for the key academic positions of Director of Teaching/Deputy Dean, and Director of Clinical Education after interviewing a number of outstanding candidates in September.

We have also begun advertising our next round of key appointments, including the positions of Professor of Surgery and Professor of Medicine and will soon add a Professor of Psychiatry to the list.

I urge you to help us spread the word about these important positions. Please alert your medical colleagues around Australia, and indeed the world, if you feel they may be appropriately qualified.

Naturally we would like to draw the widest field possible so that we can appoint the best staff. We know how effective word of mouth can be.

We also feel it is important that prospective candidates feel they will be entering a supportive and welcoming medical community, so any assistance you can give us in this regard would be much appreciated.

We have been very impressed by the high standard of candidates that we have already interviewed, and by their obvious interest and enthusiasm for the approach we are taking to training the next generation of doctors. Candidates we have already interviewed tell us they are attracted by the prospect of helping to build a Medical School that is truly of the 21st century, with an innovative approach that will set us apart from other Schools.

They are also attracted by the prospect of joining a relatively young and vibrant university that is clearly "going places", building an exemplary reputation both in Australia and internationally.

And finally there’s the attraction of living and working in our beautiful coastal region.

I’d like to think doctors already living and working in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven will be happy to endorse the many positives of being part of the GSM, and the lifestyle that is available in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven.

Details of the available salaried positions are available at recruiting@uow on the UOW website www.uow.edu.au

Professor John Hogg
Foundation Dean
Graduate School of Medicine
Ph: (02) 42214803
Email: jhogg@uow.edu.au
The formation of this committee is another strong sign of the support we are receiving from the SESIAHS.

REGION’S DOCTORS SUPPORT CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

Sixty Illawarra medical practitioners and 38 from the Shoalhaven have signed up to provide clinical placements in their surgeries and clinics to our students in the first two phases of their course. This is a very encouraging response from the region’s General Practitioners, and as the students will work in pairs it means that we will already have enough doctors committed to the program to provide the required student places for GP clinical experience in Phases 1 and 2 in 2007 and 2008. This is a solid foundation from which we can work to guarantee student placements when our first students enter Phase 3 in July 2009, and to provide Phase 1 and 2 placements on an on-going basis to successive student intakes.

We would welcome the participation of more GPs. If you are interested please speak to your local Division of General Practice representatives Eve Craddock (Shoalhaven) and Andrew Dalley (Illawarra) to discuss how you could become part of this program. There are many benefits for participating doctors, but most importantly you’ll be making a real contribution to training the next generation of doctors.

GSM CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN WOLLONGONG, SHOALHAVEN

Construction is underway on our two buildings at UOW’s Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses.

The Wollongong facility will house the GSM’s administrative headquarters, clinical skills laboratories, large and small learning rooms and learning resource facilities.

The Shoalhaven Campus facility at West Nowra will include a clinical skills centre, tutorial rooms, common room and offices.

Construction of the Shoalhaven facility started in September and should be completed by March or April, 2006. Construction of the Wollongong facility started in August and is scheduled to be finished by October next year.

GSM REPRESENTED ON INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The GSM is a founding member of an international network of Medical Schools called NAME – Network for the Advancement of Medical Education.

In September, UOW’s Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Dean Professor Don Iverson, one of our key consultants Professor David Newble, Dr Lori Lockyer and I represented the University at a meeting in Sheffield where NAME was formed.

The other founding members are Britain’s University of Sheffield Medical School, Sweden’s Karolinska Institute and Lunde University, Ireland’s Royal College of Surgeons and the University of Singapore.

We share a common philosophy on medical curriculum and other issues, and are committed to maintaining regular dialogue and working together on an on-going basis to carry out research that will advance medical education.

CLINICAL TEACHING LIAISON COMMITTEE

The South East Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service hospitals in Wollongong and Nowra will play a key role in providing clinical training opportunities for GSM students.

We have joined with the SESIAHS to form a committee to identify and create opportunities to enhance the teaching, learning and training experiences of our students at the two hospitals and other SESIAHS facilities across the region.

The Clinical Teaching Liaison Committee includes representatives of hospital administrations, hospital medical staff, nurses and allied health professionals.

The committee’s role will be to develop the strategies and resources needed to provide excellent and sustainable learning opportunities for UOW medical students in our public hospitals.

The formation of this committee is another strong sign of the support we are receiving from the SESIAHS.