WELCOME

to Information Bulletin No 5 for the University of Wollongong's Graduate School of Medicine. These bulletins are designed to keep stakeholders up to date with developments as we continue our process of accreditation with the Australian Medical Council.

In this bulletin we announce the appointment of key staff, including our Director of Teaching/Deputy Dean, Director of Clinical Education and Phase 1 Manager.

We also celebrate the appointment of more than 200 honorary academics from within the ranks of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven medical fraternity.

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KEY ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The University of Wollongong has announced two key medical education appointments for the new Graduate School of Medicine (GSM).

The GSM’s Director of Teaching and Deputy Dean will be Professor John Bushnell, who is joining UOW from Otago University in New Zealand, where he was Associate Dean of Medical Education and Chair of the Faculty Curriculum Committee.

Associate Professor Judith Nicoll (Nicky) Hudson has been appointed Director of Clinical Education, joining UOW from Adelaide University where she was a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Education and Director of Clinical Studies at Adelaide’s Queen Elizabeth and Lyell McEwin Hospitals.

Both academics will be taking up their appointments in January.

The two appointments are an important milestone in the development of the GSM.

John Bushnell and Nicky Hudson both have very strong backgrounds in medical education, and precisely the kind of experience and skills that we need.

They are excited about the opportunity to help develop a new and innovative medical curriculum, and we are delighted to have people of their experience on board.

We will be interviewing candidates for the position of Phase 1 Clinical Director in January, have advertised the positions of Professor of Surgery and Professor of Medicine, and will shortly advertise for a Professor of Psychiatry.

INTRODUCING OUR PHASE 1 MANAGER …

Meet Keith McMullen (below), who has joined the GSM Development Unit from the University of Sydney to manage Phase 1 of our curriculum.

As Phase 1 Manager, Keith will be responsible for the overall preparation and delivery of Phase 1, which covers the first year and a half of the curriculum.

Keith spent the past 10 years with the University of Sydney Medical Faculty, where he was Manager of the Medical program Administration Unit. He assisted in introducing Sydney’s Graduate Medical program in 1997 and was also involved in the development of the school’s new curriculum.

Keith, who lives locally, says he’s going to enjoy four hours less travel time per day, as well as being involved in the creation of a new Medical School.

Keith McMullen
HONORARIES LIST EXCEEDS 200

More than 200 Illawarra and Shoalhaven doctors have been appointed to honorary academic positions with the GSM. We already have 209 honorary academic appointments – 171 from the Illawarra and 38 in the Shoalhaven.

We’ve had a great response, which reflects the interest the region’s doctors have in being involved with the GSM and seeing it succeed. They recognise that a successful GSM based in Wollongong and the Shoalhaven will play a key role in securing the future of medical care in the region.

We’ve had strong support from the Divisions of General Practice in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, and I have no doubt this has played a significant part in the very encouraging response we’ve received.

The doctors will be involved in training the medical students in various aspects of medicine, sharing their experience and expertise through clinical placements, or by being involved in tutorials and lectures.

‘PROBLEM DAYS’ A HUGE SUCCESS

While we’re on the subject of the region’s doctors demonstrating their commitment to the GSM, I’d also like to thank the more than 90 clinicians and University academics who gathered over a Friday and Saturday recently to review the clinical problem blueprints that form the backbone of our curriculum.

As you may be aware, a key element of our curriculum is based around 90 undifferentiated clinical problems. The list is based on one developed by the University of Sheffield Medical School in England and is being reviewed by our clinicians and medical scientists to reflect the local context. Problems have been added that have particular relevance in the Australian environment (for example skin cancers).

The two days spent reviewing our list of clinical problems were a sensational success, with great input from many people.

A small committee of Professor Don Iverson, Dr Lyndal Parker-Newlyn from the Shoalhaven Division of General Practice and myself have edited the revised blueprint to create consistency in style, and I think the new blueprints are outstanding. I have no doubt our colleagues in Sheffield will be vitally interested in studying our blueprints and adopting key elements of the changes we have made.

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS PROJECT

The Illawarra Division of General Practice (IDGP) under the direction of Chairman Dr Rod McMahon has commenced a major project to ensure the sustainability of the GP training component of the GSM curriculum.

Much of the clinical training will take place in General Practice clinics in Phases 1 and 3 of the curriculum, and we’ve had an excellent response from GPs interested in participating in the clinical placements program.

The IDGP has appointed one of its officers, psychologist Kellie Marshall, to manage the project which is for recruitment, training and support of GPs providing clinical placements for Phase 1 which will take place in the first 18 months of the GSM degree, and Phase 3 placements which will occur in the third year.

BUILDING PROGRESS

Builders are making good progress with the two Graduate School of Medicine buildings being constructed at our Shoalhaven and Wollongong campuses. The Wollongong building (above) should be completed by October 2006 while the Shoalhaven building (below) is due for completion in late March/early April.