

# GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

FEBRUARY 2006

## INFORMATION BULLETIN No 6.

### GREEN LIGHT FOR 2007

### WELCOME

to Information Bulletin No 6 for the University of Wollongong's Graduate School of Medicine.

I am delighted to inform you that we have successfully completed Stage 1 of the Australian Medical Council's accreditation process and been given the go-ahead to enroll our first students to start in February 2007.

Achieving Stage 1 Accreditation is a significant milestone which gives us a definite timetable to work with as we finalise our curriculum, complete our building program and continue recruiting staff.

The accreditation process will continue with the AMC throughout the year, but passing Stage 1 has given us the certainty and starting date we needed to complete our staff recruitment.

It is an exciting time for everyone involved in the GSM, as we begin the countdown to the arrival of our first students.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed so magnificently to getting us to this point. The support we have received from the medical communities of the Illawarra and Shoalhaven in particular has certainly been an important element of our submissions to the AMC.

On that note, I am pleased to confirm that one of our greatest supporters in the Shoalhaven, Dr Lyndal Parker-Newlyn has been appointed Assistant Director of Teaching and Head of the GSM, Shoalhaven Campus and made an

Associate Professor of the University. Her experience and network of contacts in rural health issues will be invaluable as we seek to fulfill our charter of training doctors who are equipped to work in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia.

This newsletter outlines our GSM structure, introduces two of our key academic appointments, and outlines our training program for doctors who will be providing components of our clinical training.

Our Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) will have four themes which will run through the four phases of the course.

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Professor John Bushnell and Associate Professor Nicky Hudson (pictured above), have taken up their senior academic roles at the GSM. Professor Bushnell is Director of Teaching and Deputy Dean. He was formerly Associate Dean of Medical Education at Otago University's School of Medical and Health Sciences in Wellington, New Zealand. Professor Hudson was previously Senior Lecturer in Clinical Education at Adelaide University and Director of Clinical Studies at Adelaide's Queen Elizabeth and

Lyell McEwin Hospitals. Prior to that she was a foundation staff member at Peninsula Medical School in England.

Both agreed that the opportunity to help build a new Medical School "from the ground up" attracted them to UOW. "This will be one of the most innovative medical schools in the world, at the cutting edge of medical education," Professor Bushnell said. "Helping to set it up is an exciting opportunity."

## GSM STRUCTURE

As most of you would be aware, the GSM has to date been guided by a small planning team led by the Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at UOW Professor Don Iverson.

Professor Iverson's secondment to head the GSM planning team ends in January 2007, when he will return to his substantive position as Faculty Dean. The GSM is a School within Professor Iverson's Faculty, and he will also continue to take an active interest in its development.

As Foundation Dean of the GSM, I have been working closely with Professor Iverson through the planning process. The Foundation Dean's position also "dissolves" in September this year, by which time the position of Dean will have been advertised and filled.

Four Divisional Directors report to the Dean.

**1: TEACHING:** The Division of Teaching is headed by Professor John Bushnell, who is also Deputy Dean. Professor Bushnell has overall responsibility for the development and delivery of the curriculum. Theme Coordinators, Phase Directors and the Assistant Dean at the Shoalhaven Campus will all report to Professor Bushnell.

**2: CLINICAL EDUCATION:** Associate Professor Nicky Hudson heads the Division of Clinical Education. This position has overall responsibility for all clinical learning, including the skills laboratories at our Wollongong and Shoalhaven campuses and in the clinical placements. All clinical academics will report to Professor Hudson.

**3: BASIC AND MEDICAL SCIENCES:** Associate Professor Peter McLennan (Physiology, Pharmacology, Biochemistry) is coordinating the Division of Basic and Medical Sciences pending the appointment of a Director. The Director's position will have responsibility for overseeing and mapping the delivery of biological, psychological and population sciences. Darryl McAndrew (Anatomy) and Teresa Treweek (Genetics, Microbiology) have joined the Division, and further positions are being advertised.

**4: EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** A key member of our planning group, Dr Lori Lockyer, is the Acting Head of the Division of Educational Development. A permanent position will be advertised shortly. This position is responsible for developing the technology to support and enhance curriculum delivery, for developing and delivering teacher training, and for the assessment processes. Martin Olmos has been appointed Education Technology Manager within this Division.

We have advertised for the positions of Professors of Medicine, Surgery and Psychiatry, and applications are being considered. An acting part-time Professor of Anatomical Pathology, Norman Carr (ex Southampton) has been appointed for nine months. The position of Professor of Medicine (General Practice) will be advertised shortly. Part-time academic leaders in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Geriatrics and Pathology will also be advertised in the near future.

## ADMINISTRATION

Keith McMullen is our Phase 1 Manager. He has 10 years prior experience in senior administrative positions with the University of Sydney Medical School.

Other administrative positions that have been filled include:

Administrative Officer: **Margaret Brown**

Dean's Assistant: **Dayna Meades**

Project Officer: **Jan James** (seconded)

Administrative Assistant: **Deborah O'Leary**

Assistant to the Directors of Teaching and Clinical Education: **Belinda Muir**

## TEACHING THE TEACHERS

UOW has started special programs in teaching techniques for the doctors who have joined the GSM in honorary academic positions.

Late last year the first group of 30 Illawarra General Practitioners undertook a 2½-hour orientation session which will lead to more formal teacher training. The orientation program will be rolled out to all our honoraries to help them develop the teaching skills they will need.

The first session was led by Dr Lori Lockyer, a highly skilled educationalist who heads our Education Development Division. It included presentations by Professor Don Iverson, Dr Rod McMahon and Dr Liz Magassy.

The first orientation session was held on a Saturday afternoon, and I would like to acknowledge the doctors' commitment and willingness to give up their free time. It really was an indication of the enthusiasm doctors are showing for the GSM and their involvement in it.

We are well aware of the many demands on doctors' time, and are planning our teaching modules so that they concentrate on precisely what each doctor will be teaching – rather than spending too much time on generic information.

Each doctor involved in the training programs will receive a certificate, while there will be opportunities for those who wish to progress to Diploma-level and eventually post-graduate study.

