I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Noel Tait as our Foundation Professor of Surgery.

Professor Tait is presently at the Australian National University Medical School and conducts his academic and surgical practice at The Canberra Hospital, Calvary Hospital and Calvary John James Hospital in the ACT. He is a general surgeon with special expertise in surgical oncology of the breast and upper gastrointestinal tract.

Noel also has a long experience as a medical educator. He has previously been on the academic staff of the University of Sydney at Westmead Hospital where he was involved in the development of the University of Sydney GSM. Whilst at Westmead and Sydney University, he was responsible for establishing the Outreach Undergraduate and Postgraduate Training Programmes in surgery at Broken Hill. Since then, he has been involved in the establishment of the ANU Graduate Medical School where he was appointed Associate Professor and Sub Dean of the Calvary Hospital of the Clinical School of the ANU.

Noel is on the Board of Examiners of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, he is currently Director of General Surgery in the ACT Public Hospitals and has also served as Chairman of the Clinical Health Improvement Programme for ACT Health at Calvary Hospital, he has been instrumental in developing the clinical audit programme in the ACT public hospitals and has been chairman of the Medical Staff Council at Calvary Hospital.

Noel is married with three children, two of whom are students at the University of Wollongong. Their admiration for Wollongong and the University was decisive in encouraging Noel to take this position.

He will be taking up the position in February 2008.  

John Hogg – Foundation Dean
A very special thank you goes to the following Clinical Academics for their contribution to our key academic committees.

**Executive Committee:**
- Phil Clingan
- Liz Magassy

**Clinical Academic Appointment Committee:**
- Phil Clingan
- Ed Vogl
- Liz Magassy

**Curriculum Committee:**
- Paul Allin
- Lucie Stanford

**Assessment Committee:**
- Chris Pouls

**Admissions Committee:**
- Allan James
- Roger Baxendale
- Adrian Taylor
- Paul Allin

**Phase 1 Committee:**
- William Pratt
- Rod McMahon

**Clinical Teaching & Learning Committee – Illawarra:**
- Barry Elison
- Jan Potter
- John Riordan
- H. John Fardy
- Anna Di Marco
- Rod McMahon
- Karen Trethowan
- Peter Kristidis

**Clinical Teaching and Learning - Shoalhaven:**
- Adrian Taylor
- Paul Allin
- Martin Jones

**Research Committee:**
- Robert (Bob) Moses
- Rowena Ivers
- Mark De Souza
- Margaret Rose

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**MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN**

As we approach the end of our first year, and as I approach the end of my tenure as Foundation Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine, it is gratifying to reflect on the successful start we have made. The vision of our Vice-Chancellor, first expressed in 2003, for a medical school dedicated to addressing the health needs of regional, rural and remote Australia is now a reality. The fact that we achieved this in a little over two years from the time of Commonwealth approval is an enormous tribute to all those who contributed to the creation of a course unique in its totality, but who’s every component has been tried and proven elsewhere. With the help of feedback from staff, students and the community, we continue and will always continue to improve the course, but it is a credit to the visionaries who designed our course that their vision remains intact, and that the feedback we are getting on our course and on the influence it is having on our students is overwhelmingly positive.

We are clearly going to produce doctors second to none, with the knowledge, skills and behaviours which will fit them to go on to practice excellently in all areas of medicine.

It has been a deeply rewarding experience for me to be Foundation Dean of a Medical School created with a clear and compelling vision, and to have been able to work in a university particularly suited to supporting the creation of an innovative medical school designed to meet the health challenges facing our country.

Our School is already a success, thanks particularly to our staff and to our clinicians who continue to contribute so willingly.

Much remains to be done. From January we have a new Dean, Liz Farmer, who has already worked with us for the last 2 years, and is deeply committed to our goals.

Liz brings qualities and experiences which are ideally suited to guiding the school through the challenges ahead.

This School is fundamentally important to our regions, our practices and our university, and it exists because of the commitment and contribution of my university colleagues, my clinical colleagues, many members of the community, expert consultants, and the generosity and sharing of other universities who have been such a help to us. All have contributed so much to giving our School such a successful start and to making my time as Dean so enjoyable and so rewarding.

I thank you all, and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*John Hogg – Foundation Dean*