



# G.S.M. Matters..... keeping your finger on the GSM pulse

## What's On?

### July

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Visit to GSM by NSW Medical Deans
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July Phase 3 Induction - Students
- 2007 Cohort commence Phase 3
- 2008 Cohort commence Phase 2
- Admissions Portfolios Scored
- Documentation for 2010 cohort available from ACER for ranking by Admissions Team

### August

- 110 top ranked applicants invited to Admissions Interview

### September

- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Admissions Interviewer training
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Wollongong Campus Pre-admissions information Day
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Shoalhaven Campus Pre-admissions information Day
- Admissions Interview Week - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

## A Note From the Deputy Dean

*Professor John Bushnell*

The GSM is about to send students entering Phase 3 of the MBBS into regional, rural and remote areas throughout NSW. There is strong evidence that this type of longitudinal integrated clinical placement is highly effective in terms of developing the knowledge and skills, and also the attitudes and behaviour that make it more likely that students will survive and return to thrive in rural medicine.

For more than 10 years there has been a similar smaller programme at Flinders University. This programme has shown that students who undertake a year-long placement in a rural community in which they work in both primary care and hospital-based medicine do better academically than their urban colleagues and they develop a stronger sense of themselves as a doctor, with a deeper appreciation of the intimate links between patient, doctor and the community.

In preparation for the long rural placement, students complete the second phase of the MBBS with rigid examinations. These include 2 written exams and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This occurred all day on



Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>, with the assistance of 56 local clinicians and 50 patient volunteers. The examination process, in which each student rotates through 13 different assessment stations covering Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Psychiatry was exhaustive (and exhausting).

Five students performed at an unsatisfactory level on the OSCE and four on the written exam.

The GSM is very grateful to the clinicians who gave their time to the process of examining the students, and is very pleased to have clear evidence on which to base decisions about student progression. As a result, we can be confident that for those students who do progress to tackle the challenges of Phase 3, a satisfactory level of competence has been established with strengths and relative weaknesses identified.

*\*Photos from the OSCE appear on the final page of the newsletter*

## GSM Committee Meetings for June, July, August & September 2009

Committee	Time	June	July	Aug.	Sept..
Assessment	12:00-1:30pm	1	6	10	7
Clinical Academic Appointment	5:30-6:30pm	24	22	19	23
CTLC- Illawarra (Wollongong Hospital)	4:30pm	18		20	
CTLC- Shoalhaven(Shoalhaven Hospital)	7:30am		29		30
Curriculum	8:30-10:00am	11		6	
Executive	8:30-10:00am	18		13	
Phase 1	8:30-10:00am		16		17
Phase 2	10:30-12:00pm	19	17	21	18
Phase 3	8:30-10:00am	25	23	2-	24
Phase 4	8:30-10:00am	19		21	
Quality Assurance & Evaluation	9:00-10:00am		2	27	
Research	9:00-10:00am		9		10

## Community partnerships in action in Narrandera

Professor Nicky Hudson, Theme Leader Clinical Competency, Professor, Community-Based Health Education

The Graduate School of Medicine's Phase 3 programme, under the local leadership of Dr. Wade Mitchell, the Murrumbidgee Academic Coordinator, Ms Liz Elwin, the Placement Facilitator and Mr Keith McDonald, the CEO of the Murrumbidgee General Practice Network (MGPN), is forging new partnerships in the western Murrumbidgee town of Narrandera. As a result of collaboration between the MGPN, the GSM, the Narrandera Council, the Bendigo Bank and the local "Men's Shed" project, a local council house was 'made-over' and furnished for the benefit of long-term medical students in the area. This was the culmination of several years work between the school and these community partners, a collaboration initiated by Mr Keith McDonald and supported by Professor John Hogg, the Foundation Dean and Professor Nicky Hudson, the Professor of Community Based Health Education.

Professor Hudson, Mr McDonald and the local GSM team gathered together with a range of community partners and citizens in Narrandera on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate the achievement of the project and witness a formal handing over of the keys to the house by the Mayor of Narrandera to the first GSM student who will take up residence in mid-July, 2009. She will live and work in Narrandera for one full academic year, based in the local General Practice but learning in all regional settings where patients receive health care. The student and her husband expressed their appreciation for the house and the warm welcome they had received from the community. In addition to the contribution of a senior medical student to health care in their town, the community were delighted to also welcome her husband to a teaching position in the town. The GSM is very pleased with the outcome of these community partnerships for rural health training and education.



GSM team, community partners and student celebrate the formal handing over of the keys to the house by the Mayor of Narrandera

Photo courtesy of the Narrandera Argus

## Student News

**Critical Care, Anaesthetics, Surgery, and Specialist Interest Group (CCASSIG)-Shona McKay**

*Are you interested in helping?*

CCASSIG is a Critical Care, Anaesthetics, Surgery, and Specialist Interest Group that has been created by medical students at The University of Wollongong. It has been established to provide students with the opportunity to explore specialist professions by attending specialist seminars, taking part in clinical workshops and enjoying easy access to a Specialty Advisors Database.

The main focus of CCASSIG is to provide students with additional knowledge about a specialty of interest and to allow students access to valuable expertise from well established and esteemed colleagues. We would greatly appreciate it if you would consider joining our advisors database for possible contact from interested students.

As a registered advisor, you may be contacted by UOW students regarding queries in your field of expertise. Students will be made aware that registered advisors are often busy and may not respond instantly to email requests. Being a registered advisor will not demand any formal commitment from yourself but will only allow students to request information from you via email contact. If you are interested in becoming an advisor for the CCASSIG Specialty Advisor Database please contact Shona Mackay at [sm831@uow.edu.au](mailto:sm831@uow.edu.au).

CCASSIG also hopes to establish an Advisor Seminar Database for those individuals who may wish to share their expertise through future seminars. If you are interested in offering your services for a future date please advise us through email. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



Being a graduate school means many UOW GSM students have interesting and relevant life experiences to share. The Student Seminar Series makes that happen. Each month (usually on a Monday at 12:30pm) two half hour presentations on a variety of topics take place.

You are welcome to join us to enjoy the following informative presentations.

In July, Romina Ilad will take charge of the Student Seminar Series. Romina and the 2009 cohort will continue with the excellent monthly presentations, started one year ago by Christopher Ball, Tristan Rutland, and the students of the 2008 cohort. Watch this space for news on upcoming student seminars.

## Library News and Updates

Not quite finished with your UOW Library books and want to keep hold of them for longer? You can extend the due date on most Library books and resources and don't need to visit the Library to do so. You can renew via the Library website – anytime, anywhere!

Access your borrowing record by using the [Check your Library record](#) link on the UOW Library homepage ([www.library.uow.edu.au](http://www.library.uow.edu.au)). You can view all the items you have on loan and either opt to renew all items or only items that are due. We send you a handy reminder email the day before a book is due, making this process easy.

### Featured Resource – Lange Case Files

To help prepare for exams, why not take a look at real clinical cases to test your knowledge. Copies of the Lange Case Files series are available in the Library and GSM collections, covering topics such as anatomy, biochemistry, surgery, microbiology, neurology, pathology, obstetrics and gynaecology. For a listing of the titles in this series, visit the Library Catalogue and perform an author search on Toy Eugene

Please note: a small selection of the Case Files is also available in our Access Medicine database. Visit our Medicine guide at <http://uow.libguides.com/medicine> and click on the link to Access Medicine – from there you can click on the section “Case Files for Students” or click on the “Case Files” tab located across the top.

For help with our Library resources, please contact Jen Lyons, Medical Librarian on (02) 4221 5595 or email: [jen\\_lyons@uow.edu.au](mailto:jen_lyons@uow.edu.au)



*GSM Librarians Nadine Clark (left) and Jen Lyons (right)*

## Clinical Academic Profile

### Dr Ann Ellacott



Dr Ann Ellacott came to Wollongong as an intern and resident after doing medicine at Sydney University. She has now been working in general practice at Thirroul for 29 years and is proud to say that some of her patients have been coming to the Thirroul practice for 60 years.

Some of the most enjoyable aspects of Dr Ellacott's working life include being part of a group practice and the learning and camaraderie that happens from being part of that group, and treating patients over many years, patients who come back and advise if the treatment has worked or not. Dr Ellacott and her colleagues have covered many years of their own after-hours sessions, treated patients at Bulli and Coledale Hospitals and worked at Lawrence Hargrave Hospital. She is currently VMO at the Sexual Assault Unit, having completed a Diploma of Forensic Medicine from Monash University.

Among Dr Ellacott's many roles as a Clinical Academic of the GSM, she enjoys teaching Phase 1 students in her practice, as well as mentoring, and tutoring and assessing students in the Clinical Skills Centre. She has attended numerous Faculty Development Programmes in order to support her roles for the GSM, including Preceptor Training, Large Group Teaching, Mentoring, Assessing Clinical Competence and Small Group Facilitation. In 2009, a Phase 3 student commences long-term placement at the Thirroul practice.

In her spare time, Dr Ellacott is a fanatical skier and a Girl Guide leader, both of which she credits with 'keeping her sanity'.

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## Admissions Update

*-Jenni Broadhead GSM Admissions Officer.*

The Admissions process for our next cohort has commenced with a flurry.

Invitations to interview prospective students for 2010 have been extended to our GSM community and we have had an extraordinary response. These interviews will take place from Tuesday September 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Over 120 people have volunteered to take part in this process. We are very much aware of the contribution and time commitment made by our community and the busy schedules of many who wish to participate. It is for this reason we call for nominations well in advance, thus enabling us to confirm participation as early as possible.

All interviewers have been allocated to one or two of their preferred times, and subject to attending the training sessions on the 12<sup>th</sup> September at the Wollongong campus, all interview sessions will be covered. Due to the unprecedented response, not only will we cover all interview stations, but will be able to allocate observers to all stations, thus maintaining the quality assurance of this process.

An email will be sent in early September reminding participants of compulsory training times.

As a result of Associate Professor Lyndal Parker-Newlyn's visit to North America earlier this year, we have made the first 8 of a total of 12 offers for international places to the GSM for 2010. These first round international places will be finalized by the end of July, with the remaining 4 second round places being offered later in the year.

All domestic candidates vying for a place in our school for 2010 were required to apply to ACER, and to submit their portfolio highlighting their ties to regional, rural or remote Communities to the GSM by 5<sup>th</sup> June.

This year the number of portfolios submitted has increased significantly on last year. Our trained portfolio scorers will soon commence the important task of reading and assessing each one. To date our response to the feedback from both interviewers and interviewees has resulted in a process that is constantly improving. This is indeed a process that is reliant on a supportive environment. I am sure that this year, as in previous years, this will continue and the accommodating and compassionate nature of all participants in the Admissions Process will ensure our candidates will have a positive experience whether or not they ultimately are offered a place here at UOW GSM.

I look forward to catching up with all our interviewing participants for what will once again be an exciting time.

## Update from the Southern Highlands

*Alice Pinn-Clinical Placement Facilitator, Southern Highlands*

Over the last 12 months, the Graduate School of Medicine activity and student placements in the Southern Highlands region have been expanding at a rapid rate.

Clinicians, health services and the community have been very enthusiastic about partnering with the medical school to support the development of future doctors, many of which we hope will choose to undertake further practice in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia.

University of Wollongong medical students first went to the Southern Highlands in June 2007 for an Interdisciplinary Clinical Experience (3 week) placement in the region. They were placed with Community Health and the Southern Highlands Private Hospital Rehabilitation Unit, under the supervision of Dr Michaela Mair, the former Regional Academic Coordinator, who has been integral in the development of the medical school in the region. Five students completed this Highlands placement in 2008, and another group are expected in June, 2009.

Students are now also undertaking Phase 2 hospital based rotations in surgery and paediatrics in the Southern Highlands, and have been very satisfied with the range of learning experiences and the dedication of their clinical tutors and teachers who are facilitating their placements. Since the start of the year, we have been able to be included in the Sydney Children's Hospital and Prince of Wales Grand Rounds, which are of a very high quality and provide great exposure for our students to cases and clinicians in both major teaching hospitals.

The next few months promise to be very busy but it will be an exciting time, especially with the start of the first cohort of the Phase 3 Programme in July 2009. Six UOW students will be undertaking longitudinal integrated clinical placements in the region, primarily from a base in a general medical practice, but working with patients and clinicians in a range of community health services, including the local hospitals. The six practices involved are: Hilltop Surgery, Mittagong Medical Practice, Bowral Street Medical Practice, Walker Street Medical Practice, Bowral Medical Practice and the Moss Vale Medical Centre. All doctors and practice managers have now participated in training modules for Phase 3 led by Prof Hudson and the Community Based Health Education Team, and are eagerly awaiting their students.

Dr Ann Parker has recently taken up the post of GSM Regional Academic Coordinator for Southern Highlands, in particular, focusing on the Phase 3 Programme. Dr Parker is working

closely with the UOW in relation to student curriculum and student orientation to the region (from Monday 13 July), which will include a welcome ceremony by our local Mayor.

While Dr Parker and I work closely with students in the hospital and community, UOW Moss Vale Education Centre provides state of the art meeting and education facilities in the region.

If you are interested in finding out more about the medical school in the region, please contact 02 4861 1571 or email [apinn@uow.edu.au](mailto:apinn@uow.edu.au).



*Alice Pinn-Clinical  
Placement Facilitator,  
Southern Highlands*

## International Award for GSM Clinical Academic

*Dr Mark Haber- orthopaedic surgeon*

Wollongong-based doctor, Mark Haber has won the esteemed Richard B Caspari Award at the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery & Orthopaedic Sports Medicine held in Japan in April 2009.

Dr Haber, an orthopaedic surgeon, was selected from 1,200 entrants as the winner of the award for his research on rotator cuff repairs (shoulder).

His research was conducted at the Royal North Shore Hospital's Murray Maxwell Biomechanics Laboratory in Sydney in conjunction with Dr Richard Appleyard and Dr Eran Dolev. The series was also co-authored by Dr Daniel Biggs.

Dr Haber said: "This award is a great recognition of the outstanding work done by the whole research team. Once again it shows that although Australia has a small population we are well represented in the world's medical and surgical achievements by relying on originality. This prize is the greatest achievement in my professional life."

Having trained at the University of New South Wales and working in private practice as a clinical orthopaedic surgeon for 15 years, Dr Haber was unsatisfied with the failure rates and conventional techniques associated with rotator cuff repair. Over 12,000 rotator cuff repair surgeries are performed annually in Australia with nearly half of these failing structurally, often within the first 12 months.

Dr Haber developed an improved technique for arthroscopic (key-hole) repair of tendons in the shoulder.

Implementation of the new technique saw it gain international interest when it was presented to one of the most prominent American orthopaedic surgeons, Dr Richard Hawkins, at the Australian Shoulder and Elbow Society Biannual meeting in 2006. Dr Hawkins adopted the method and presented the technique at the Instructional Course Lecture held by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 2007, acknowledging it as the "Haber Technique".

Dr Haber is an Associate Professor, University of Wollongong and has presented this research at many international meetings across Europe and Asia. He has also performed live surgery, broadcast to an audience of orthopaedic surgeons, in Denmark and England as well as cadaveric teaching labs in Germany, Denmark and England as well as numerous clinics in Australia.

### **About the Richard B Caspari Award**

Established at the 2003 ISAKOS Congress in Auckland, New Zealand, the award is a monetary prize in honour of Richard B Caspari. It is awarded to the best upper extremity paper read at the scientific program of the congress and judged by a panel of members from the ISAKOS Upper Extremity Committee.

## Will Your Rural Community Need GPs In The Future?

Help train the next generation of rural doctors - 2 weeks per year over 4 years - with the John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP). Qualified rural GPs are needed to mentor undergraduate medical students – to open their eyes to the challenges and rewards of rural practice.

GPs require no special training or facilities to mentor JFPP students – just the desire to share your experience and skills as a rural medical practitioner.

Student accommodation and social support are arranged and paid for through the JFPP management team.

300 fresh medical students, selected for their interest in and aptitude for rural and remote medicine, seek placements in communities throughout Australia, to commence later in 2009, at a time suitable to you.

You can make a real difference to the future of rural health in Australia.

To find out more contact Narelle Howarth, Community Relations Officer, John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP).

Email: [jfpp@acrrm.org.au](mailto:jfpp@acrrm.org.au)

Phone free call: 1800 231 231

## Patient Volunteers News

The GSM Shoalhaven campus welcomed 10 new patient volunteers to a training session on 15<sup>th</sup> April, with a large number of the group from the local area being from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.

Thanks to members of the local community for their continued support of the Patient volunteer programme. Thank you also to Zaga and Jan for welcoming us to their perspective group meetings, also to Marygrace from the local Italian community of Shoalhaven for helping the Community Engagement Project to be underway.

The vision of the project is to engage members of the local multicultural communities in the Patient Volunteer Programme, enabling us to offer our students the opportunity to develop their various skills with members of the diverse community in which they will be practising in the future. The Project received funding from the UOW Community Engagement Grant Scheme 2008.



*New Patient Volunteers at Shoalhaven Campus*

## Up and coming sessions at the Skills Centre

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students will be learning about 'Heart Sounds & Murmurs'. We desperately need some more patients who have heart murmurs or interesting heart sound. If you know of anyone please get them to contact:

Isabelle Potter (Wollongong) 4221 5118 or

Judy Hayes (Shoalhaven) 4429 1506

## Phase 3 Workshop 1 June 2009, Bowral,

Finalising preparations for the roll out of the Phase 3 Programme in July 2009



*Broken Hill (Honor Beck)*

*North Coast (Victoria Mathew & Dr Jane Barker, Naree Hancock)*

*Murrumbidgee (Dr Wade Mitchell and Liz Elwin) Shoalhaven (Dr Francis*

*Antonio & Sue Ronayne) Illawarra (Dr Russell Pearson & Julie Joughin)*

*Southern Highlands (Dr Ann Parker (not in pic) and Alice Pinn) Mudgee*

*(Gary Moore) CBHE Management Team (Nicky Hudson, Belinda Smith,*

*Keith Smith, Bridget Dijkmans-Hadley) Jodie Douglas (taking pic!)*

## A Successful OSCE-

*photos from "A Note From the Deputy Dean"*



*56 local clinicians who contributed to the success of the Inaugural GSM OSCE at the examination pre-brief.*



*Students being escorted from their examination pre-brief to the OSCE.*