

Healthlink

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Dean's Welcome

Healthlink plays an important role in providing information about new developments, changes and achievements of the Faculty of Health Science. Our Faculty offers international levels of excellence in research and teaching and through partnerships with our linked Hospitals, is informed by a wide ranging and stimulating clinical environment. Regular readers will have noticed a "changing of the guard"; I am delighted to have just taken up the role of Dean of the Faculty, replacing Professor Carmichael who has made significant contributions to the University overall as well as the Faculty in this position for the last 14 years. I would especially like to thank him for the warm welcome he has extended to me.

I thought it might be useful to briefly introduce myself, my background interests and my initial thoughts regarding the future. I graduated from St Bartholomews Medical School in London with a medical degree (MB, BS) and obtained clinical accreditation in general medicine and gastroenterology. I have particular clinical interests in inflammatory bowel disease, oesophageal reflux and Barrett's oesophagus. I have followed a clinician scientist career, funded by both the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust, obtaining a PhD, and a DSc. I continue to be an active researcher; examining how the body repairs itself and the role of growth factors in these processes. I am also interested in the link between food products (nutrition) and their use as drugs (pharmaceuticals) a research area known as (nutriceuticals).

I was previously Chairman of the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology, a member of the Medical Research Council College of Experts and a member of the editorial board of the Journal, Gut. These additional roles have been useful in teaching me the importance of delivering a curriculum that is fit for purpose and that Research and Education are not separate activities. I consider a key role of our Faculty is to disseminate knowledge by providing inspirational and high quality teaching programmes to a diverse community of talented undergraduate and postgraduate students. The courses we deliver must provide our students with the most up to date information as well as teaching the method of self-directed learning. Equally important is to ensure that every curriculum being delivered enables our students to be 'equipped for purpose' when they leave us to pursue their chosen careers.

UTas is a research-led organisation and with the implementation of Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) now firmly embedded in Higher Education, we must ensure that our research strategy delivers high quality research of health relevance.

As the sole university for the state, we have a particular responsibility to ensure our local community is looked after and is also well represented on relevant National and



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International bodies. It is through systems such as these that our members of staff and students can provide leadership in areas of public interest.

I look forward to working with each of you over the coming months and years, to hearing your views and to the successes we can achieve together.

Professor Raymond Playford

Recognition of 14 Years Leadership



Professor Allan Carmichael

The Faculty of Health Science is transitioning from the leadership of Professor Allan Carmichael to Professor Raymond Playford in 2011. During the 14 years of Professor Carmichael's leadership all areas of the Faculty have grown significantly, with each of the schools have more than doubling in size, a necessary development to meet current and future workforce shortages.

The School of Medicine introduced the new 5 year integrated case-based curriculum which has been successfully implemented and the program is now taught across the state, utilising public and private, hospital and community health services.

Along with growth in student numbers and research and program change, has come the need for new and expanded facilities and the School is now well served by excellent facilities. The new MS1 building in Hobart, housing the Menzies Research Institute, as well as the School and the Rural Clinical School buildings in the North-West provide state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities These will be joined later this year by the new Launceston Clinical School in the Launceston Integrated Service Centre, and a new facility at Mersey Community

Hospital. In 2013, the MS2 building in Hobart will provide further space for the School and Menzies Research Institute.

The Simulation and Clinical Education Centre at Newnham was officially opened in 2010. The new complex boast state-of-the-art facilities, the Centre gives Tasmanian health science students and health professionals access to the latest advancements in simulation technology for clinical education. Featuring low and high fidelity simulation technologies, the Centre is based on three levels, with facilities catering for undergraduate and postgraduate health science students, as well as training for external organisations.

The School of Nursing and Miwifery have develop an innovative approach to delivering the Bachelor of Nursing. This degree now delivered in two campuses in NSW and in Hobart as a 2 year degree. This is achieved through delivering the degree over 3 semester per year.

There has been a major shift in the School's academic staff profile in line with the evolution of the pharmacist's role. Psychologists are now included on School staff to reflect and encourage the adoption of an increasingly patient-centric focus to pharmacy. In terms of curriculum, this has meant the inclusion of more communication in to the Bachelor of Pharmacy, particularly focused on counselling skills. Furthermore, pharmacy management content has also been introduced. This will equip graduates with knowledge of human resource management theory and business management skills for their future career progression.

Our Schools, benefit from the unique Partners in Health agreement between the Faculty and the Department of Health and Human Services and relies on the commitment of the profession to teach and mentor the next generation of health professionals.

The School of Human Life Sciences has grown from a single

degree offering, (Bachelor of Biomedical Science) to a 5 degree suite. The Bachelor of Health Science (BHlthSc) was introduced in 2001 followed by a joint course in Medical Imaging with Charles Sturt University in 2004. The Bachelor of Exercise Science commenced in 2007, and the BHlthSc (Environmental Health) commenced in 2008.

The Faculty would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts and contributions Professor Carmichael has made. His leadership has fostered significant change through innovation.

Volunteers Valued By Researchers

Volunteers from the Launceston community were treated to an afternoon tea in appreciation of their commitment to future discoveries in health related research.

Researchers from the School of Human Life Sciences, University of Tasmania invited over 200 volunteers to participate in the event held at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre at the Newnham Campus.

Study participants have been involved in either one or multiple studies led by researchers and academics within the School. The focus of these studies has been on nutrition (tomatoes, olive oil, chillies, and chickpeas) and/or exercise and its effect on various risk factors for heart disease. Results from these studies are regularly presented at national and international conferences and published in various internationally renowned scientific journals.

The Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust has been the key supporter of these studies with the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Milne delivering a welcome address to attendees.

Community involvement is highly appreciated by the researchers within the School as without this, the studies would not be possible. The relationship between community members and the University is mutually beneficial – the University has the advantage of access to volunteers for their research and participants benefit from the knowledge they have contributed to finding answers to health problems.

Ongoing and future projects include the following:

Research Study 1 – SALT STUDY

This study is requiring participants aged between 30–70 to take part in a study to compare the effect of different salts on blood pressure and blood vessel function. Participants will be able to access their cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure results at the completion of the study.



From Left: Dr Kiran Ahuja, Peter Milne, Prof. Madeleine Ball, Dr June Hazzlewood, Dr Andrew Williams, Jane Pittaway, Dawn Bruinewoud, Keith Bruinewoud, Anne Young.

Research Study 2 – CHILLI AND ASPIRIN STUDY

This study is requiring participants (who are not currently taking prescribed aspirin medication) to compare how chilli and low dose aspirin affect blood pressure and the clumping of blood platelets.

Research Study 3 – THE EFFECT OF CHILLI INGESTION ON HEALTH AND RISK FACTORS FOR HEART DISEASE

This study is seeking participants (35–70 years) who have been diagnosed with either impaired glucose tolerance and/or Type 2 diabetes (no insulin use) for a two week study into the effect of chilli ingestion on health and risk factors for heart disease. At the end of the study, participants will be given some of their test results such as cholesterol, glucose, insulin, and blood pressure.

To be involved in any of the above studies or to submit your contact details on a register for involvement in future studies please contact Dr Kiran Ahuja on 6324 5478 or by email; kiran.ahuja@utas.edu.au

A Rural Experience for our Second Year Medicine Students



20 of the students who attended the Glamorgan Spring Bay municipality with Dr Naidoo, Dr Johnson and Mayor Cadart.

Healthcare professionals and medical resources have been in short supply in rural and regional areas for many years. To help change this situation the School of Medicine introduced rural week into the second year curriculum.

Research has provided evidence indicating if students are exposed to a rural experience during their education then they are more likely to opt for a rural position after graduating. Professor Craig Zimitat, School of Medicine education director said “the program gives students practical insight into the rural health care system”.

“It helps them to understand where the rural GP fits within the whole range of health services that are available. Students will learn clinical skills by working alongside health professionals, following practitioners and engaging with the patients”.

The students gain an understanding of rural life and gain insight into the patient doctor relationship. Rural doctors get to know their patients better than those working in the city. The program gives students the opportunity to gain a broader perspective of medicine. They meet people, some real characters and they learn that in rural general practice medicine is not the only thing you have to learn. You have to learn about people to.

This is a one week program with students attending rural locations across the state from the North West, Northern Tasmania, Flinders Island, Southern Midlands, Derwent Valley and the East Coast. The program is proving to be a success and based on this the University would like to send more senior students to these areas so they can complete longer clinical placements with our rural GP’s.

Pharmacy Investigates Interprofessional Education to Improve Quality Use of Medicines

The School of Pharmacy, UTAS, the University of Newcastle and University of Western Sydney are collaborating on an Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) funded project focused on enhancing interprofessional education (IPE). Academics from the disciplines of pharmacy, medicine, nursing and midwifery are involved in the project which aligns closely with the School of Pharmacy's objectives for excellence and innovation in teaching, as well as with the School's research goal to enhance quality use of medicines.

Communication between health care professionals is the primary cause of the majority of medication errors. IPE is critical in preparing nursing, pharmacy and medical students for their complementary and collaborative roles in the medication team. Despite universities expressing commitment to educational benefits of IPE, it is seldom used in undergraduate health education owing to logistical or administrative barriers. Factors such as timetabling restrictions, resource implications and large and at times geographically dispersed student cohorts restrict opportunities for collaborative learning opportunities.

The project will develop and implement a range of multimedia resources that engage students with interactive and authentic patient scenarios. The scenarios will juxtapose positive and negative examples of communication between health professionals, and between health professionals and

patients, providing the opportunity for students to evaluate interprofessional communication and its role in promoting medication safety.

A pilot project, run at the University of Newcastle, demonstrated the positive impact of such a resource on the learning experiences of nursing students. Of over 400 students involved in the pilot, 83% agreed or strongly agreed that the scenarios helped them to recognise gaps in their knowledge, and 75% indicated that the scenarios motivated them to learn.

Professor Greg Peterson, Head of the School of Pharmacy, is leading the School's involvement in the project. Professor Peterson says that "reducing medication errors and improving quality use of medicines is a critical issue facing all health professionals. Introducing IPE at an undergraduate level is vital to shaping the quality of interdisciplinary communication in the future. If this project helps overcome the barriers to implementing IPE in university programs it will have made a significant and positive impact on health education and practices more broadly".



Progress of the project can be followed at the project website, or by subscribing to the project newsletter. For more information go to www.ipeforqum.com.au.

Congratulations to Dr Gerard Gill an Outstanding UTAS Graduate

GP Dr Gerard Gill has served the Launceston community as a GP for three decades. For 31 years he has cared for patients at the Northern Suburbs Medical Centre at Mowbray. The next step in Dr Gills career is a new position at Deakin University as professor of rural and regional general practice, an area he is passionate about.

Dr Gill is Tasmania born and graduated in medicine from the University of Tasmania in 1975. After post graduate training

he joined a medical practice in Mowbray in 1980. He holds the DRANZCOG, the FRACGP and the FAFPHM and has been an examiner for all three organisations. He was awarded the Master of Applied Epidemiology in General Practice Evaluation degree from the Australian National University in 1996.

Sponsored by a NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship, in Dec 2006 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Tasmania, for a thesis entitled "General Practice

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Health Assessments of Older Australians: Equitable Effective or Improved Care?” Dr Gill was the first GP in Launceston to gain a PhD.

Dr Gill has also served as the state medical officer for St John Ambulance, and worked for the Launceston city council as an immunisation officer. He has published ten peer reviewed

publications and made 37 conference presentations. He sits on the Scientific and Research Committee of the Clifford Craig Foundation, is a reviewer for the Australian Family Physician and has reviewed a number of NHMRC grant applications.

We wish Gerard well for the future in his next career stage.

Scholarship Program Ensures Health Professionals for NW Coast

A scholarship program has been designed to ensure the North West retains university graduates who are trained to operate specialised equipment including a future MRI machine and linear accelerator.

Round One of the Elphinstone Scholarship in Medical Radiation Sciences was jointly launched in 2010 by the University of Tasmania, the Elphinstone Group, the Tasmanian Government and the North West Area Health Service, at the University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School.

The \$1.2 million bonded scholarship program will run for six years and is co-funded by the Elphinstone Group and the Tasmanian Government. The scholarships will provide significant financial support to health science students to pursue Masters studies in medical radiation sciences covering all HECS fees, accommodation, transport and other associated costs, including text books, for the duration of the students' studies.

In return, the students will enter into a contract with the North West Area Health Service (NWAHS) to work in the North West region for a three year period, beginning within five years of graduation, subject to employment positions being available within that time.

The 2010 scholarships were successfully won by a Grade 12 student - Sarah Johnstone and two students who had just completed the second year of the course at UTAS - Thomas Graham and Dylan Pettingill.



Scholarship Launch ; L-R : Prof Judi Walker (CE Rural Clinical School), Dale and Cheryl Elphinstone, Prof Madeleine Ball (School of Human Life Sciences) and Jane Holden (CEO North West Area Health Service)

Successful scholarship recipients will also be given employment within the NWAHS during university holidays to encourage them to retain links with the region.

The first two years of this scholarship program, applications will be open to second year Medical Radiation Science students as well as Year 12 students, so as not to disadvantage those students who had already begun their degree.

Round 2 Applications will be open again in late November 2011. To access an application form for the Elphinstone Scholarship in Medical Radiation Sciences, visit University of Tasmania Foundation.

UTAS Offers Leading Edge Clinical Education

The University of Tasmania's multi-million dollar Simulation and Clinical Education Centre (SCEC) at the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Launceston has state-of-the-art facilities, that give Tasmanian nursing and health science students access to the latest advancements in simulation technology for clinical education.

The SCEC uses low and high fidelity simulation technologies, with facilities catering for undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students, as well as a diverse range of health professionals.

The technologically advanced teaching spaces include:

- Latest wireless human patient simulation technology mannequins (SIM MAN 3G) replicating human biological symptoms
- Three 12- bed simulation wards with human patient simulators
- 3 interchangeable simulation consult rooms
- Primary and mental health flexible learning spaces
- Midwifery delivery suite
- Distance and postgraduate education centre
- Multiple seminar rooms
- Wet laboratory
- A 2 bed intensive care unit
- 2 bed accident and emergency department and operating theatre;
- Simulation research laboratory.

The centre's manager of simulation operation and development, Nigel Chong, said "The success of our curriculum, research and innovative approach to simulation-based education, along with educating current healthcare professionals, has gained us national and international recognition as a leader in simulated education in nursing and midwifery".

"Like our facility, our approach to simulation based clinical education is innovative, contemporary, new and exciting for the participants and academics alike. Our approach is multi faceted and inter-professional to allow for collaborative development of practice relevant programs to meet the needs of the healthcare system".

"This new facility will allow us to expand our current program to meet the growing needs of our partners, health workforce, undergraduate and post graduate nursing students."



The UTAS Simulation and Clinical Education Centre (SCEC)-Newnham campus Launceston



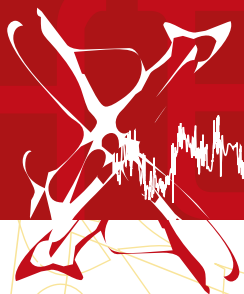
Simulated accident and emergency department



Pediatric simulation



Nigel Chong



Contact Details

Faculty Manager

Private Bag 99
Hobart, Tasmania Australia 7001

Clinical School
43 Collins Street Hobart

Telephone 03 6226 4741
Facsimile 03 6226 4747

Email: Faculty.Secretary@healthsci.utas.edu.au
www.healthsci.utas.edu.au

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