

MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

MONDAY 12TH MAY 2014



Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

Dear All - Welcome to the first MedEd newsletter of 2014. This issue is packed with information about opportunities to learn more about learning and teaching. On pages 1 & 2 detail local learning and teaching seminars and meetings and on page 3 with have details of upcoming local and international conferences. The current topic in Faculty is *Blended Learning* as we move into a 3-year project to improve the delivery of our curricula by fully integrating our online and face to face teaching and encouraging students to learn in this new way. Also note the current round of UNSW and OLT grants coming up. Please contact me if you need any advice on this. I hope to see you at the MedEd meetings! RT (Ed.)

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Upcoming conferences

ANZAHPE 2014
7-10 July, Gold Coast

HERDSA 2014

5th Biennial Threshold Concepts Conference 2014
9-11 July, Durham University, UK

AMEE 2014
30 Aug- 3 Sept
Milan, Italy

What is Blended Learning?

An often cited definition is: “a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online learning, with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace; at least in part in a supervised physical environment; and the modalities along each student’s learning path within a course are connected to provide an integrated learning experience.” ([Staker, H and Horn, MB, 2012](#)).

The faculty is undertaking a 3-year project to introduce Blended Learning across all programs and courses. Watch out for further MedEd seminars and special workshops on Blended Learning organised this year.

Our MedEd meeting in April, *Encouraging students (and their teachers) to engage in the online classroom*, introduced this topical issue to a packed room. Speakers presented on how blended learning can be used to make the most of both the online and physical teaching environments, touching on key elements that affect engagement, specifically in online discussions. The full slide-show and Blackboard Collaborate recording is available in our Moodle group (see p4 on how to access this).

UNSW’s own MOOC Learning to Teach Online <https://www.coursera.org/course/ltto>

Moving Feedback Forward: Innovation and Opportunity

UNSW Learning and Teaching Forum held on May 9th 2014

The Forum focus was: “How can I enhance learning through assessment and feedback?”

This was very well attended by UNSW staff including many Medicine faculty staff. The provision of feedback is a key step in assuring overall quality and improvement. This forum explored the relationship between technology-enhanced assessment and feedback practices, well-supported learning experiences and student development. Featuring: some excellent, thought-provoking posters and 3 concurrent streams where UNSW academics share their assessment and feedback practices.

Approaches to giving feedback

1. *Helping students navigate uncertain terrain: enabling complex feedback*: Dr Lyria Bennett Moses & Thomas Molloy, Law.
2. *Improving approaches to feedback in a final year project-based course*: Dr Rudrajit Mitra, School of Mining Engineering.

Making the most of peer review in assessment and feedback

1. *Students as reviewers and lecturers as editors: using a peer review model for student assignments*: Dr Daniel Schlagwein, School of Information Systems and Technology.
2. *It's great...but too vague: refining ideas through peer feedback*: Dr Sigi Jottkandt, & Alicia Hiew, School of the Arts and Media.

Exploring the feedback loop through formative and summative assessment

1. *UNSW Medicine: Innovative approaches to feedback*: Dr Fiona Naumann, Gary Velan & Dr Nalini Pather, School of Medical Sciences.
2. *Feedback: a multi-faceted diamond*: Medical Education Group, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya.

If you missed the forum but want to catch up with the posters and presentations - go to the UNSW Teaching Gateway <http://teaching.unsw.edu.au/> or click [here](#).

SOTL and Professional Development

L&T@UNSW

Meet your Faculty's Learning and Teaching Support Team:

- Jan McLean, Academic Developer
- Sonal Bhalla, Educational Developer
- Belinda Allen, Educational Developer

Some projects or initiatives that we are currently involved in include; Moodle Transition Project, Research Teaching Nexus Project, professional learning programs (Connections series of workshops), resources and use of technology to support assurance and improvement of quality in learning and teaching, ePortfolios and development of MOOCS. We are also involved in a range of programs which include the Foundations of University Learning and Teaching (FULT), the Graduate Certificate in University Teaching & including introduction and evaluation of online/blended FULT for Post-Docs and/or sessional and conjoint staff.

Jan McLean is a Senior Lecturer and Academic Developer. Her research interests centre on academic work and development and improving practice and policy in areas related to teaching, academic careers and development.

Contact: Jan.mclean@unsw.edu.au T: 9385 2509

Sonal Bhalla is an Educational Developer at the Learning and Teaching Unit. Sonal's interests are in curriculum design, enhancing student learning experience, assessment and exploring innovative use of educational technologies to create an effective learning environment.

Contact: S.Bhalla@unsw.edu.au T: 9385 6188

Belinda Allen is an Educational Developer with a focus on TELT, and has supported enhancement of learning and teaching with technologies at UNSW since 2000.

Contact: Belinda@unsw.edu.au T: 9385 2851

Upcoming LTU Connections Seminars [<http://teaching.unsw.edu.au/connections>]

May 13, Tuesday - [Global Citizenship, Community of Practice](#)

May 19, Monday - [Criteria-based approaches to giving feedback](#)

June 4, Wednesday - [Assessment Analytics: should we do it, and, if so, what might it look like?](#)

Subscribe to the L&T [e-Bulletin](#) to keep informed of upcoming seminars

Email ltevents@unsw.edu.au to make suggestions for future seminar topics.

Interested in starting a postgraduate degree in health professional education?

Check out this 2014 update on post-doc possibilities for health professionals. [Tekian, A. \(2014\). Doctoral programs in health professions Education. Medical Teacher, 36, 73–81.](#)

Interested in a PhD in medical education at UNSW? Contact [A/Prof Boaz Shulruf](#) For more information take a look at: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/medical-education-research>

UNSW Medicine Publications 2014-2006:

<http://med.unsw.edu.au/learning-and-teaching-publications>

Couse-based education also available at UNSW:

<http://teaching.unsw.edu.au/studies-higher-education>

SoMS Coffee Club for Teachers

SoMS is full of creative, dedicated teachers, but we all struggle with new software, student loads, time pressures... The Coffee Club is a fun way for us to get together informally, to share hints, tips and news related to teaching.

Meetings are half-an-hour, once a month, and feature real coffee and possibly cake - unlike a few virtual coffee clubs....

Meetings will be very casual, and discussions could cover: tips for using technology (Moodle, Smart Sparrow, Echo360, clickers); systems to administer/develop casual teachers; ideas for lectures, assessments; coping strategies; developments on the educational landscape horizon. If someone wants to present, or has a question they would like advice from the group on, they can contact Richard Vickery in advance. The basic idea is to disseminate the many wonderful practices already in place in SoMS but that are not widely disseminated outside individual groups or disciplines.

Our first meeting was a success with a dozen or so people enjoying coffee and cake, and discussion around teaching issues including engaging students with quizzes. This included Rakesh Kumar explaining his Formative Assessment lectures, which essentially compile questions logged over a series of lectures and use the clickers to allow students to engage with the material. For our May meeting, Trevor Lewis showed us some features of his Moodle course as our talking point.

Meetings will alternate between Wednesdays and Fridays to try and open it up to as many people as possible. They are scheduled for 11.00AM at the Level 3 Wallace Wurth kitchen table.

The next meeting will be 11-11.30am Wednesday 28 May.

Other members of Faculty are very welcome to drop in. (Call 93851676 if you are having trouble negotiating access to WW).

UNSW Library

We now have access to the [BMJ Learning Foundation Skills modules](#). (Students should register for a BMJ username and password to access BMJ Learning.) "This course includes 22 procedure based modules covering key skills from the foundation curriculum. These modules feature computer generated animation to give a clear view of each procedure, with questions to test your knowledge."

For library research support contact our [Outreach Librarians](#):

Kate Dunn - T: 9385 1012

Email: kate.dunn@unsw.edu.au

Covering the Schools of: Public Health and Community Medicine, Medical Sciences, Psychiatry, Women's and Children's Health and affiliated Centres.

Emma McLean -T: 9385 3674

Email: emma.mclean@unsw.edu.au

Covering: Clinical Schools, Conjoints, & liaison with Hospital Libraries

Jonathon Valentine -T: 9385 1039

Email: j.valentine@unsw.edu.au Covering: MRC & Institutes

SPOTLIGHT on Learning & Teaching

Interview with Dr Joel Rhee, SPHCM

Faculty Teaching Award 2013: Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

How long have you been with UNSW? I spent almost all of my youth at UNSW. I did my undergraduate Medical studies at UNSW, did hospital-based training at a UNSW-affiliated hospital, did some of my vocational training at a UNSW-affiliated clinical unit, and then came back in 2008 to do teaching and research. I have been in my current position since 2011.

How long have you been teaching?

Since my internship. I loved teaching medical students and had them following me around in my after-hours shifts.

What courses do you teach / convene? I convene the Primary Care course in Phase 3 of the Medicine program. I am also involved in teaching students in the Phase 2 Society and Health course, and the Clinical Transition Course.

What do you most like about teaching?

Seeing the sparkle in student's eyes when they make new connections and discover new ideas.

What do you most dislike about teaching?

Didactic teaching where I do all the talking and students furiously copy down the answers.

What surprises you most about teaching?

The more I teach the more I realise how little I know. As a clinician that scares me sometimes!

If you had all the resources possible available to you (i.e. a "blue sky" situation), what would you most like to achieve in your main area of teaching?

Devoting sufficient resources to help clinical supervisors to spend time with the students. Enough funds to equip all our teaching clinics with dedicated teaching rooms, computer access for students, paid time for supervisors to teach.

Any advice about going for teaching awards?

Be proactive and start early. Don't leave things to the last minute, especially with student evaluations.

What was your best ever holiday destination and why would you recommend it? New York City. Great food and so many things to see and do! Tip: avoid going to the ballet unless you are really into it; it was one of the slowest 2 hours of my life...

For more information about the Faculty Teaching Awards – see: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/awards-and-recognition>

Publication of the month:

Proceedings of the 4th Biennial Threshold Concepts conference 2012.

"The proceedings of the 4th Biennial Threshold Concepts conference, *Threshold Concepts: from personal practice to communities of practice*, are now available to download. Featuring close to 50 papers, this publication comprises a selection of conference papers and workshops along with keynote presentations and posters.

The publication encourages teachers in Higher Education to focus on building students' understanding of key concepts rather than teaching an ever-expanding list of topics. It includes descriptions of innovative pedagogic approaches to helping students grasp threshold concepts, it highlights how the idea of Threshold Concepts can be used to advance student learning not only within, but also between disciplines, and it addresses the potential use of this idea in professional development programmes."

An online version of the publication is available to download from the NAIRTL website, www.nairtl.ie and videos of the keynote presentations also accessible at www.nairtl.ie/conference2012.

Easy publication Download: <http://www.nairtl.ie/index.php?pageID=23&publicationID=66&skipCode=87266>

Upcoming Medical Education Conferences 2014-2015

ANZAHPE. 2014. Developing Health Professional Educators: Connecting Science and Theory with Learning for Clinical Practice. Griffith Health Centre, Griffith University, Gold Coast. 7 - 10 July.

HERDSA 2014. Higher Education in a Globalized World. Hong Kong. 7 - 10 July.

5th Biennial Threshold Concepts Conference. Threshold Concepts in Practice. Durham, England. 9 – 11 July.

AMEE 2014. Excellence in Education. The 21st Century Teacher. Milan, Italy. 30 August – 3 September.

12th APMEC Conference 2015. 12th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC) and 3rd International Conference on Faculty Development in the Health Professions (FDHP). Singapore. 4 February – 8 February 2015.

For your diary

If you can't make a meeting, you can attend *virtually* or view the recording by joining our Moodle group (details below) for online access via Blackboard Collaborate.

Alternatively, resources from MedEd meetings are also available at: <http://med.unsw.edu.au/meded-meetings-seminars>

Date	Time	Topic	Location
Tuesday 13 th May	12 – 1pm	Smart Sparrow and Moodle – How they can work together. Lincoln Gomes, (Project Officer, LTU), will present on adaptive elearning - Smart Sparrow in Moodle and the Moodle Lesson tool.	Wallace Wurth Ground Floor Room G15
Tuesday 10 th June	12 – 1pm	Making the most of Learning analytics. (TBC) Negin Mirriahi (Lecturer, LTU) presents the 'big picture' of what is happening with learning analytics at UNSW, plus a demonstration of how to use Moodle tracking.	Samuels Building Level 3 Room 305
Mid-year break: no seminar in July			
Tuesday 12 th August	12 – 1pm	Standards based assessment and how to get the graduate attribute expectations into a scale that can document a student's overall performance. (TBC)	Location TBC
Tues 9 th Sept	12 – 1pm	Teaching and Assessing Reflection (TBC)	Location TBC
Tues 7 th Oct	12 – 1pm	TBC	Location TBC
Tues 11 th Nov	12 – 1pm	TBC	Location TBC
Wed 10 th December	9am – 2pm	UNSW Medicine Learning and Teaching Forum	Location TBC

The MedEd Interest Group formed 7 years ago and now has over 120 members. The group aims to bring together medical faculty staff interested in education, to support scholarly practice, encourage research and create new networks amongst its members. Our main activities include a monthly seminar series, a newsletter, and an annual research forum. We will keep you in touch with upcoming grants, conferences, awards and new L&T publications, innovations and lots, lots more...

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Doctors are just the same as lawyers; the only difference is that lawyers merely rob you, whereas doctors rob you and kill you too." Anton Chekhov

Why not join our MOODLE group?

For up to date information, recordings of the seminars and many more resources:

Go to the link:

<http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/course/view.php?id=6305>

Log into Moodle with your zID/zPass if not already done so.

Enter the key "MedEd" under 'enrol as student'.

And keep up to date with our newsletter - subscribe to the MedEd email group!

Please fill in your details and submit the [subscriber form](#).

This is your newsletter: Please contribute— write a brief (<100 word) book review; send in info on new L&T research or useful resources or teaching tips that you come across to rachel.t@unsw.edu.au.

The MedEd website has support for new teachers, resources to help you teach, previous seminar and training recordings, and lots more!

See < Learning and Teaching > under "For Staff" on the faculty website:

<http://med.unsw.edu.au/learning-teaching>