



# MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

TUESDAY 10TH JUNE 2008

## Welcome to the fourth MedEd Newsletter from the Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

This month's newsletter contains plenty of new resources and tips for your teaching. The ANZAME conference is at UNSW next month (details are given below) and details of another conference is included overleaf.

Enjoy the read and please send in more snippets, reviews, ideas and tips for the next newsletter. There is a break in July with the next MedEd seminar on Tues 5th August and the fifth newsletter is due out after that. Best wishes if you have a holiday in July. RT (Editor)

## News and current events

### Uni News and Coming Events

#### • **Next MedEd meeting**

is on Tuesday 5th August (we are having a break in July). Dr Ian Collinson will be talking to us about what the Learning Centre can offer staff and students.

#### • **There is still time to register for ANZAME 2008—it's on your doorstep!**

The Australian and New Zealand Association of Medical Educators (ANZAME) 2008 conference is at UNSW—from 11-13 July (plus pre-conference workshops on the 10th).

Register for from 1-3 days.

Take a look at the website: <http://www.anzame.iamerents.com.au/>

### Last Week's MedEd Meeting

Despite the current "flu-bag" taking its toll amongst staff, the meeting on Tuesday saw three ANZAME presentations, including one from an ILP student. Speaking on behalf of the presenters, I would like to thank the tolerant audience for its critical feedback. The topics covered were:

Chathuri Wijasayena (ILP student) and Leah Bloomfield. *Measuring Reflection*. (a study of 3802 Medical students' perceptions and interpretations of reflection within the medical courses).

Sophie di Corpo. *Graduate capabilities: developing and embedding a set for the Master of Public Health Program @UNSW*. (For a workshop session: overview and discussion about embedding graduate attributes into a post-graduate degree program).

Rachel Thompson. *Sexing up stats: dealing with numeracy issues and threshold concepts in an*

*online medical statistics course*. (A paper presentation on the complexities of identifying and overcoming barriers to learning in the online stats modules in the 3802 Medical Program).

### ANZAME Conference

Don't forget this upcoming conference at UNSW—a great opportunity to find out what is happening at UNSW and across the country/NZ.

### UNILT workshop series

Learning&Teaching@UNSW is beginning a series of UNSW Network in Learning and Teaching (UNILT) workshops, commencing this week.

UNILT provides a framework within which you can engage in learning and teaching focused discussions through the sharing of experiences, ideas and strategies among colleagues to develop your teaching practice.

This week's workshop will be interactive and practical, focusing on ideas and strategies that help to achieve better student engagement

and deeper learning through integrating on-line learning approaches in a large class context.

The facilitators will demonstrate how their creative use of online environments and assessment tools enhanced their students' learning experience and transformed students' attitudes towards large and difficult courses (in these cases, a faculty-wide first year engineering design and first year business mathematics course) from disengaged to more enthusiastic and interested.

### UNILT workshop: *Blending online and face-to-face learning approaches in large class teaching*

**Facilitated by:** Carl Reidsema and Judith Watson

**Time:** Friday, 13 June, 10am-1pm  
**Location:** Kensington Campus, Matthews Building, Level 4, Learning & Teaching Workshop room (416)

**Please register** for the workshop by sending an email to Debbie Owen ([d.owen@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.owen@unsw.edu.au))

## Book Reviews & Recent Publications

### casesjournal.com

A new and interesting online journal that aims to build up clinical case knowledge by creating a searchable repository for clinical cases. Cases from any area of medicine can be submitted. These are then reviewed and considered with the following criteria: a report should be "understandable, ethical, authentic" and include "all information essential to its interpretation". Accepted cases are then entered into a searchable database that is free to access once registered.

<http://www.casesjournal.com/home>

### Berg, B.L. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. Pearson International Edition (6th ed.). Allyn and Bacon; Boston.

This valuable book takes the prospective researcher right through the qualitative research process from A to Z with particularly good chapters on the benefits of qualitative research, the why, what and how of focus groups, and the process of content analysis.

### Benjamin, A. (2008). *Audit: how to do it in practice*. *BMJ*, 336, 1241-1245. doi:10.1136/bmj.39527.628322.AD

In this article from last week's BMJ Benjamin presents the principles and practice of audit in a straightforward but comprehensive manner. This will be useful in teaching and supporting students or interns in carrying out audits but also remember that a simple audit can be a good way to evaluate your own teaching.

### O'Sullivan, A and Toohey, S. (2008). *Assessment of professionalism in undergraduate medical students*. *Medical Teacher*, 30, (3), 280.

For those of you who missed Tony O'Sullivan's fascinating presentation about this research at the MedEd meeting in November last year, here is a chance to see the full paper. A questionnaire containing 24 vignettes testing essential components of professionalism (ethics, morals, honesty and integrity) was taken by UNSW medical students in years 2, 4 and 6 and compared to the answers given by Academics. The results will stimulate and interesting debate in quality and safety circles as well as in our own clinical schools.

A/Prof O'Sullivan will be presenting an update on this research at the MedEd meeting on 4th Nov following his return from a UK Sabbatical

## SOTL and Professional Development

### In Medical Education Journals this month:

#### *Medical Teacher, 2008, Vol. 30, Issue 3.*

This month *Medical Teacher* has a plethora of articles on less commonly discussed areas: medical student well-being (mental and financial), their professionalism and even their empathy levels. There are also articles on: the problems tutors encountered in using portfolios in undergraduate training in Manchester, UK; the gaining of clinical and communication skills; and how responsibility can drive learning in intern rotations in general practice.

#### *Academic Medicine, 2008, Vol. 83, Issue 6.*

Some interesting articles and good "Teaching and Learning Moments" in this month's issue: e.g. a good paper on how to teach bedside manners to medical students and another article on the social and economic impact of partnerships between medical schools and their clinical associates

### Another conference in Sydney—

#### **International Consortium on Experiential Learning (ICEL) Conference**

'The Identity of Experience' will be held on December 8th-12th at UTS. Visit the website for more information:

(<http://www.education.uts.edu.au/icel/index.html>).

Paper proposals are open until June 20th. Workshop proposals until September 30th. Registration is now open.

The conference theme - The Identity of Experience - focuses on current and future challenges for experiential learning. These challenges include:

- the challenge of integration
- the challenge of difference
- the challenge of research investigation
- the challenge of application

### Teaching Tip of the Month...

...is on the classroom discussion which sounds easy in principle but can be hard to facilitate in practice. This excerpt is taken from Roy Killen's *Effective Teaching Strategies. Lessons from Research and Practice*. (4th ed.) Thomson Social Science Press; Melbourne, Australia. P139. This is a great book for beginners and experts alike.

#### Some simple rules for classroom discussions

- Everyone must have a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- Only one person may speak at a time.
- Learners may ask questions of one another and of the teacher, or they may provide factual statements or offer opinions.
- Learners may 'pass' if they do not wish to respond to a question or comment at that time.
- All contributions will be valued and none will be ridiculed.
- All contributions should be relevant to the topic.
- No conclusions should be reached until everyone who wants to contribute has had an opportunity to do so.
- Each contribution must be shorter than one minute (or some other agreed-upon time).

***Send in your favourite teaching tips for the next time!***

#### **L&T@UNSW**

The L&T website has been updated so take look:

#### **Curriculum matters:**

information / resources that will help you in your course and program development activities

**For UNSW L&T workshops and events visit the Workshops and Events Page**

#### **Links to some key L&T organisations:**

ANZAME <http://www.anzame.unsw.edu.au/> *Conference mid July at UNSW!*

AMEE <http://www.amee.org/index.asp>

ISSOTL <http://www.issotl.org/>

#### **Web-link of the month:**

**A website linking to the research repositories of most of the major Australian Universities:**

**<http://www.arrow.edu.au/repositories>**

## Next seminar meeting: Tues 5th August 8am SGR6, Matthews

The next seminar meeting is **Tues 5th August at 8-10am in Scenario Group Room 6** underneath Matthew's Building, Upper Kensington campus.

### The Learning Centre:

Dr Ian Collinson (Learning Advisor at the Learning Centre) will be attending the meeting to outline the services that the Learning Centre can offer us and our students. There are several new services and a wealth of information in the unit's website (e.g. on writing reports, plagiarism and referencing).

### eMed:

Suzanne Mobbs will demonstrate some of the newer properties of the eMed system that can make your life easier!

*A map of the upper campus is available at the MedEd website. If you get lost - please call ext (938)51146 and someone will come and find you.*

*Tea, coffee and breakfast snack will be provided.*

*Please email Rachel [rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au) if you hope to attend, or just turn up on the day.*

## For Your Diary

The MedEd group hosts a monthly seminar series in 2008 with a forum at the end of the year. Presentations welcome on medical education or learning and teaching research or reviews from UNSW and clinical schools, at any stage of conception or progress. Email Rachel Thompson at [rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au) if you would like to present at a meeting or have a topic for discussion.

Date and time	Seminar Topic	Speakers	Location
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> March 0800-0930	L&T AWARDS	Helen Dalton LTU Chris Hughes OME	WW room 501
Tues 1st April 0800-0930	Feedback from OZZAWA conference delegates <a href="http://www.ozzawa13.com/">http://www.ozzawa13.com/</a>	Delegates to OZZAWA	WW room 501
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> May 0800-1000 with tea and coffee and breakfast snack	More OZZAWA feedback How to get the most out of the UNSW Library Effective e-learning: WebVista, eMed and using online tutorials	OZZAWA delegates Kate Dunn – Medical Faculty Outreach Librarian & Suzanne Mobbs from OME	Scenario group room 6 under Matthews Building, upper campus
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 0800-1000	Those attending the ANZAME conference @UNSW in July may present /discuss their papers, posters, etc	ANZAME delegates please email <a href="mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au">rachel@unsw.edu.au</a> if you wish to present	Scenario group room 6 under Matthews Building, Upper Campus
Was scheduled for July	<b>RESEARCH FORUM</b>	POSTPONED TIL DECEMBER—AS CLASHES WITH ANZAME CONFERENCE	
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> August 0800-1000	What can the Learning Centre offer you and your students? Helpful tips for eMed	Dr Ian Collinson, Learning Centre Suzanne Mobbs	Scenario group room 6 under Matthews Building, Upper Campus
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 0800-1000	A special seminar to welcome our newer lecturers, conjoints and facilitators with tips for teaching and suggestions for professional development— <i>please email RT with topics that you wish to discuss</i>	All welcome Plus input required from the "old hands"	Scenario group room 6 under Matthews Building, Upper Campus
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 0800-1000	What can Learning and Teaching @UNSW offer you as a teacher and for your career?	L&T@UNSW	Scenario group room 6 under Matthews Building, Upper Campus
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 0800-1000	Examining professionalism in medical students	A/Prof Tony O'Sullivan on returning from his UK sabbatical	Scenario group room 6 under Matthews Building, Upper Campus
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2hrs@Lunchtime	<b>RESEARCH FORUM</b> — presentation of proposed, current or finished research in Medical Education or Learning and Teaching @UNSW	Open to MedEd group and other interested parties	Time and location to be confirmed



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The MedEd Interest Group formed in November 2006 following a research presentation forum held at UNSW. It aims to bring together medical faculty staff interested in education issues to support scholarly practice, encourage research and create new networks amongst its members.

Our main activities include a monthly seminar series, this monthly newsletter, and a twice yearly research forum. We will keep you in touch with upcoming grants, conferences, awards and new L&T publications, innovations and lots, lots more...

### How about joining the UNSW Med Ed Google Group?

A Google Group has been set up for contact and discussion in-between meetings, for hot topics, sharing of recent developments and innovations and also for networking.

If you would like to join up, send your details (name and email address) to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au).

See <http://groups.google.com.au/>  
for more information about how it works

## Take a look at the MedEd Website!

Find it at: [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au) under "For Staff" / Learning and Teaching

*Info on meetings, conferences and lots more*

## Feedback requests

### Hot Seminar Topics

Please send your ideas /requests for seminar topics or suggested speakers to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

### For your Newsletter

Please send in book reviews and interesting publications, new or exciting L&T or medical education websites, and your "Teaching tip of the Month" (<100 words please).

What else would you like to see in the Newsletter?

Send ASAP to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

### And...

Let us know what else you think that the MedEd group should be doing.

### Please keep your details up to date for the MedEd mailing list

If your email has changed or you wish to be join our mailings, please update the mailing list by sending your name, email address and current research/ area of interest to: Vicki Truskett on [V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au](mailto:V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au)

### Correction:

*The phone number for Reception at Learning and Teaching @UNSW and the L&T lending library is:*

**938 55989**

*(not 938 53889 as given in MedEd Newsletter no. 2)*