



# MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST 2008

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

We are back in the swing of things after the mid-year break. Our members have been off to conferences or have even had holidays! There are some interesting events coming up, so please take note of those that interest you.

Enjoy the read and pass it on to others who may be interested. Don't forget to send in more snippets, reviews, ideas and tips for the September newsletter.  
RT (Editor)

## News and current events

### Uni News and Coming Events

- **Next MedEd meeting is on professional development and support for publication of scholarly L&T work.**

*Jacqui McMannus, the Senior lecturer in Capacity Building and Leadership at Learning and Teaching @ UNSW will be talking and discussing this on Tuesday 2nd September at 8am in SGR6 Lower ground floor or Mathews Building.*

- **The Medical Student Experience Questionnaire MEDSEQ 2008** is being developed by PEIG to be released to students in September this year (see details adjacent).

### Last Week's Meeting

There was a good turnout with nearly 20 people turning out early on a very chilly July morning to learn more about the Learning Centre from Dr Ian Collinson and also to hear from Suzanne Mobbs (OME) about new changes to eMed and how the Turnitin system works in detecting plagiarism in the Faculty. An interesting discussion focused on plagiarism and its major causes and the difficulty in detecting it. See <http://www.turnitin.com/static/training.html> for a brochure on Turnitin and some useful videos.

We did not have time for discussion of the July conferences, although many MedEd members attended and / or presented at the ANZAME conference (at UNSW) and RT presented the 2nd International Threshold Concept Conference held in Kingston, Canada. ANZAME brought together medical educators and teachers from around Australia and New Zealand, with some fascinating accounts of putting theory into practice. The

full conference program pdf is available from RT. If you would like to feed back on your conference experience, please send in a short piece to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

### The Medical Student Experience Questionnaire (MEDSEQ 2008)

The Program Evaluation and Improvement Group (PEIG) will be asking all Medical students to complete the Medical Student Experience Questionnaire (MEDSEQ) in mid-September 2008.

The MEDSEQ was successfully piloted in 2006 and provided valuable information on how students across all years of medicine at UNSW viewed their experiences. The same questionnaire will be used in 2008 to provide a longitudinal assessment of students' views of their experiences.

Further details on the MEDSEQ 2008 will be provided in the next MedEd newsletter along with the key findings of the MEDSEQ 2006. For further details contact Helen Scicluna 93851766 [h.scicluna@unsw.edu.au](mailto:h.scicluna@unsw.edu.au)

### Another Sydney conference:

#### 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>).

Deadlines for most proposals are still 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

Contact Rachel Thompson if you are interested and would like some assistance with a proposal for the conference ([rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au))

## Book Reviews & Recent Publications

### A new publication in Academic Medicine from our Program Evaluation and Improvement Group PEIG, at OME:

Gibson, K, Boyle, P, Black, D, Cunningham, M, Grimm, M and McNeil, P. (2008). Enhancing Evaluation in an Undergraduate Medical Education Program. *Academic Medicine*, 83, 787-793. This article describes the evaluation of the new Medical Program at UNSW, including the 2006 MEDSEQ survey. Well done PEIG!

### *Academic Medicine*, 2008, Vol. 83, Issue 8.

#### "Pyramid of Professionalism"

This August issue contains the paper (above) from OME plus an interesting article from Parker et al at the School of Medicine at the University of Queensland. Parker et al describe the methods used at QU to teach, develop and assess professionalism in students and to how they manage unprofessional behaviour. This article touches on the teaching of ethics and professional practice, detailing the challenges that face the medical administrators in dealing with unprofessionalism and offering some useful insights into methods to address these issues,

### *Medical Teacher*, 2008, Vol. 30, Issue 6.

#### "12 tips on rural medical placements: what has worked to make them successful"

This issue of the Medical Teacher has a variety of articles, but the one that stood out for me was this brief paper from the Northern Rivers Department of Rural Health, Lismore Australia (University of Sydney). It lists 12 sensible tips that the authors (Page and Birden) have "gleaned" from their experiences in providing rural attachments to medical students.

Other articles touch on: the student voice in recognizing the hidden and informal curriculum in medicine; the adoption of the Bologna Declaration in medical education; and a positive article (from the USA) about the impact of lecture recordings on first year medical student study.

**Note: You can access the current and past issues of these journals through the links above or by accessing them through UNSW library e-Journals**

**If you come across a good book or useful article, please share this by sending in a short piece on it (100-200 words) to the editor at [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)**

## SOTL and Professional Development

Dr Kerry Howells is visiting L&T@UNSW next month and will be running a couple of interesting seminars with lunch provided. She currently works in the Faculty of Education at the University of Tasmania where she teaches in the Bachelor of Teaching, Bachelor of Education (in-service) and Honors programs. Working within the broad field of philosophy of education, Kerry's main research interest is that of existential and identity dimensions of student engagement and the teacher's impact on this. She has theorised an approach to learning and teaching called "A State of Preparedness" where she argues that if students and teachers are more prepared in their "inner attitude" before the learning activity takes place, greater student engagement can occur. Kerry's work addresses the negative impact that an inner attitude of complaint and dissatisfaction (of the non proactive kind) may have on education processes and suggests pedagogy where practices of gratitude could have more positive effects. Her approach has been applied in the contexts of university transition programs, tutor-training, academic staff development and high school education.

### Session 1: The practice of gratitude in higher education on Monday 1 September, 10.30-1.30 (lunch provided)

This first workshop has a more general focus on the concept of gratitude and how to develop the practice of gratitude for broad application in your (working) life.

**Session 2: Attending more fully to students' engagement in their learning on Tuesday 2 September 10.30-1.30 (lunch provided)** Do you ever feel that students are "absent" in their learning and wonder what can be done about it and whose responsibility it is to get them to be present? This seminar will address these questions and offer an approach to student learning where students are prepared in their "being" before and during academic tasks. The issue of how teachers' "being" impacts on their students' ability to engage will also be explored. Outcomes will be presented from students' application of this model to their learning while partaking in classes a variety of academic disciplines.

Please advise via e-mail to Debbie Owens ([d.owens@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.owens@unsw.edu.au)) if you wish to attend either workshop – clearly identifying which one you will attend! The workshops will be held in L&T@UNSW rooms, Level 4 Mathews Building – the room number will be confirmed closer to the day.

### L&T@UNSW -----

#### Take a moment to look at the new updated L&T website:

##### The Exchange

The Exchange is a place to establish links to your colleagues in other faculties in exploring, sharing learning & teaching ideas and experimenting with new teaching approaches that promote program coherence, development of graduate attributes, valuing of diversity, and the appropriate redevelopment and use of learning spaces, both physical and virtual. There is information on this site about the L&T communities at UNSW; a showcase of good teaching practice and case studies at UNSW; some useful L&T resources and a new page that will contain L&T publications from UNSW.

##### Journals

Listing of the top journals on learning and teaching in higher education ranked by the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Initiative. Useful if you are looking to publish in a general L&T journal.

### Teaching tip of the month

We've had quite a few difficult teaching problems surface this teaching period so I thought that I would give you a link to a useful site from TAFE NSW that has many solutions and suggestions for improving your teaching and assisting with those difficult issues:

[http://www.icvet.tafensw.edu.au/resources/teaching\\_tips.htm](http://www.icvet.tafensw.edu.au/resources/teaching_tips.htm)

**Please send in your own tips for next time!!**

## Web-links of the month:

***This week:*** three peer-reviewed, international dissemination outlets of learning resources that can aid in your teaching and scholarly practice and may be used to promote and share your own practice

### HEAL = [www.healcentral.org](http://www.healcentral.org)

A rapidly expanding, searchable resource outlet that reviews and compiles offered educational resources for download (some are free and some cost \$\$). Some useful material here, especially for clinical and biomedical teaching. For example, "[Steroid Hormones in Circulation](#)" is available for download. This is an interactive animation that enables the user to see steroid hormones in circulation by body region and has great user ratings.

### MedEdPortal = [www.aamc.org/mededportal](http://www.aamc.org/mededportal)

This repository is also a free site with peer-reviewed resources. It is run by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). These resources appear to be broader scoped and are of a high standard. Some are free and accessible via URL. For example, a case of dislocated knee written as a PBL case by M. Fitch at Wake Forest University (USA): <http://www1.wfubmc.edu/NR/rdonlyres/E3034C6C-7BAE-4475-BA5E-90161C2A8F2E/0/FitchPBLCase.pdf>

### MERLOT = <http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm>

Merlot is the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching. There are sections on health sciences and allied technical health. There are plenty of resources available here—although some are not peer-reviewed and most are copyrighted. However many are free to access. For example: a learning resource on "Maintaining the Body's Chemistry: Dialysis in the Kidneys" by Casiday, R and Frey, R at Washington University: <http://www.chemistry.wustl.edu/~edudev/LabTutorials/Dialysis/Kidneys.html>

**Share your fav L&T websites with the MedEd group!**

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

The next seminar meeting is **Tues 2nd Sept at 8-10am in Scenario Group Room 6** underneath Mathew's Building, Upper Kensington campus. We have brought forward the session planned for October due to popular demand!

**Dr Jacqui McManus from L&T@UNSW will attend to present the recent developments in L&T@UNSW current that support professional development and support for faculties, and for individual academics in producing and publishing their scholarly work.**

*There is room for one 15 mins presentation (with 15 mins discussion) if anyone wishes to present work in progress, prior to publication or recently published work in the medical education field. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Thompson: [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)*

*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*

*[rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@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 [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@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 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 Mathews 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:rachelt@unsw.edu.au">rachelt@unsw.edu.au</a> if you wish to present	Scenario group room 6 under Mathews 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 Mathews Building, Upper Campus
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 0800-1000	Professional development and support for L&T scholarship at UNSW: at the faculty, school	Jacqui McManus from L&T@UNSW All welcome	Scenario group room 6 under Mathews Building, Upper Campus
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct 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>	Plus input required from the "old hands"	Scenario group room 6 under Mathews 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 Mathews 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 soon

## MedEd Contact and Newsletter editor:

Dr Rachel Thompson  
L&T Fellow  
Medical Faculty  
OME  
30 Botany St  
Phone: 02 938 58038  
Fax: 02 9385 1120

**Email:** [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

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

*So far, this has been quite an inactive group (I take the blame as this needed a bit of a push) however, I have devised a cunning plan to get this going properly—so watch this space! (RT)*

## 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)