



MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Welcome to the sixth newsletter from the Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

It's a busy time of year and in this newsletter you will find plenty to add to your diary but also to save your time and keep the blues away.

Enjoy the read and pass it on to others who may be interested. Please send in more snippets, reviews, ideas and tips for the October newsletter.
RT (Editor)

MedEd News

Uni and Faculty News

- **What do you think is needed to support new teachers in the medical faculty?** *The October MedEd meeting is an open discussion on this plus AMEE (Prague) delegate feedback. Tuesday 7th October at 8am in SGR6 Lower ground floor of Mathews Building.*
- **The Medical Student Experience Questionnaire MEDSEQ 2008** *is being released this month — please encourage your med program students to complete this. The key findings from 2006 are detailed below.*
- **An ALTC funded survey on understanding Academics staff belief about graduate attributes** *is being sent out this week to all teaching staff. See inside—page 3- for more information*

The September Meeting

Another encouraging attendance and good to see some newer faces too. Many thanks to Dr Jacqui McManus who spoke about Learning&Teaching@UNSW, introducing us to the many varieties of support that are being developed for teaching and scholarly practice in teaching at UNSW. See inside (page 2) for more info.

The October meeting is timetabled during the school holidays but will go ahead on the planned day: Tuesday 7th Oct. This session is open to any one who would like to air their views on how we can support new teachers better. The AMEE delegates are invited to feed back their experiences of one of the biggest medical education conference in the Northern hemisphere this year, held in Prague, Czech Rep.

If you would like to feed back to the group on a conference experience, discuss recent work or would like to present or discuss a paper in progress, please email Rachel rachel@unsw.edu.au

Faculty Learning & Teaching Awards

To recognise the contribution of staff to learning and teaching in the Faculty, nominations are called for the Faculty Learning & Teaching Awards for 2008.

These awards are open to academic staff, sessional staff (including con-joints) and professional and technical staff.

Further details on the awards, including criteria and an application form, are available at the following site:

<http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Awards>

Nominations for the 2008 Faculty Learning & Teaching Awards should be forwarded to Elena Mankovskaia at the Office of Medical Education, by Friday 31st October.

The recipients will be announced at the MedEd L&T Forum on Wednesday 3rd December.

MedEd Interest Group L&T Forum

This forum aims to bring together the many teachers and educationists within the faculty for a networking occasion, and also to give everyone the chance to air their work, papers in progress and discuss problematic teaching topics.

An email will go out at in early November to request short (5min) and longer (20 min) presentations on a medical education or relevant learning and teaching topic...So get your thinking hats on!

**Wednesday 3rd Dec
9.30-1.30pm
Lunch will be provided**

All welcome

Contact Rachel for more information: rachel@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) during 7 October to 24 October 2008. Please encourage students to complete the questionnaire during this period.

The MedSEQ was piloted in 2006. Its key findings were:

- 83% of students indicated their overall satisfaction with their experience at UNSW
- Students indicated a strong satisfaction with the resources provided
- Students indicated that they required more feedback on their learning

If you would like to review the full report on MedSEQ 2006, or would like further information on MedSEQ 2008, please contact:

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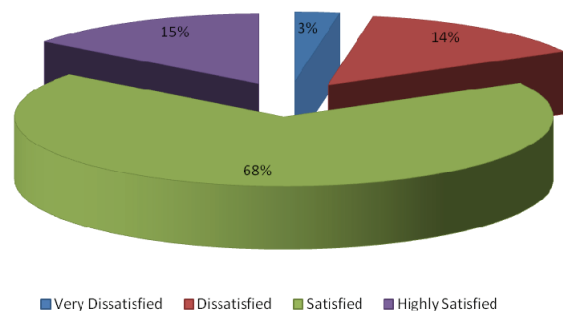


Figure 1: Distribution of Levels of Students' Overall Satisfaction

A large proportion (83%) of students responded positively (i.e. they were either satisfied or highly satisfied) to Question 42 in the survey, which sought a rating of students' overall satisfaction with their experience as a student in Medicine at UNSW.

SOTL and Professional Development

Support from L&T@UNSW

What's on in the coming months?

Workshop on Applying for Ethics Clearance 25th Sept 12-2pm :

Dr Ute Vollmer-Conna and Prof Leong Chan will be running a workshop on applying for ethics approval for L&T research—this is probably aimed more at the social sciences / arts disciplines but would be useful to the someone who wishes to apply for the first time for ethics approval for a study or evaluation of teaching etc. It is important to remember that ethics approval is required for evaluations that you carry out as a teacher, and especially if this is intended to be published.

Research Showcase #3 (October):

Jill Cowley (Law L&T Fellow) will present her paper on teaching intensive posts on Weds 15th October at 12.30-2pm in the L&T workshop room on Level 4 of Mathews Building.

The UNSW L&T Forum:

The planned forum has been postponed until early next year (details should be out soon and will be reported here)

For the workshop list for September and to register for these workshops, please see:

http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event_rego/events.cfm

Read about the workshops and events at L&T@UNSW at the following address:

http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/workshops_events/about_events.cfm?ss=2

What's on the L&T@UNSW website?

Support for new teaching staff:

A page dedicated to new staff with links to useful support and resources.

Foundations in University Learning and Teaching (FULT):

Those of you who have been asked to register for FULT will find more information about it here. The 2008 workshops are full but 2009 dates will be posted shortly. This is a great way to learn more about student learning and how to teach well and also to network with others. There are usually 4 (5 day) programs a year but they fill up quickly = so keep an eye out for next year's dates and register early.

Graduate certificate in Learning and Teaching:

This page gives you more information about the grad cert.

MPhil in Higher Education:

For those interested in taking their own education further; information about the proposed Masters program at UNSW which should be starting later on in 2009/2010.

Peer Observation:

Some interesting advice on peer observation of teaching being used to gain feedback on teaching.

The Exchange

The Exchange is a place to establish links to colleagues in other faculties in exploring, sharing learning & teaching ideas and experimenting with new teaching approaches. There is information 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.

Publication of the month

Colliver, JA, Kucera, K and Verhulst, SJ. (2008). Meta-analysis of quasi-experimental research: are systematic narrative reviews indicated? *Medical Education, 42 (9), 858–865*

This article presents a useful insight into medical education research for those of us trying to reconcile the requirements of scientific experimental methodology in this field.

The authors address the question in the title through an analysis of a recent meta-analysis on problem-based learning. The article highlights the intrinsic deficiencies associated with quasi-experimental research methodology in medical education but at the same time argues for approaches to improve its validity. The authors acknowledge the necessity of quasi-experimentation in medical education and, in other articles by the same group, have proposed methods for assessing "threats to validity" associated with this approach.

In this paper, they reassess the findings of a recent meta-analysis on PBL which had concluded that PBL had significant positive effects on understanding of the principles that link concepts. In their review of the original data, the authors identified constant biases and/or confounders in the majority of the studies included in the meta-analysis. The conclusions of the meta-analysis were disputed given that these constant factors could have accounted for the observed differences in outcomes contrary to the belief that a meta-analysis will adjust for bias and confounders in individual studies. (PJ)

Next seminar meeting: Tues 7th October 8-10 am

The next seminar meeting is on **Tues 7th October at 8-10am in Scenario Group Room 6** underneath the Mathew's Building, Upper Kensington campus.

Are you new to teaching or new to UNSW?

This session is open to those new to teaching or who are new arrivals to the teaching staff at UNSW, but also those who provide support (formally or informally) at present. What do you wish to see in place to support you in your teaching and for orientation to teaching, the faculty, the university? Would formal mentoring or peer observation be a good option for support and feedback? Also, delegates returning from the Summer AMEE conference in Prague will be presenting / discussing their favourite presentations and keynotes.

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 to find you.

Tea, coffee and a breakfast snack will be provided. Please email Rachel 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 if you would like to present at a meeting or have a topic for discussion.

Date and time	Seminar Topic	Speakers	Location
Tues 7 th Oct 0800-1000	A special seminar to welcome our newer lecturers, conjoints and facilitators- a discussion on how best to support new and sessional teachers— "What support do you wish to see in place?" plus feedback from the AMEE delegates returning from Prague	New teachers encouraged to attend AMEE delegates	Scenario group room 6 under Mathews Building, Upper Campus
Tues 4 th 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 rd Dec 930am -130pm	RESEARCH FORUM — presentation of proposed, current or finished research in Medical Education or Learning and Teaching	Open to MedEd group and other interested parties	SGS6-8 under Mathews Building, Upper Kensington Campus

Understanding academic staff beliefs about graduate attributes

All UNSW academic staff who teach and/or assess undergraduate or postgraduate student coursework have been invited to participate in a national survey that focuses on staff beliefs about graduate attributes, their relevance to their discipline, and their thoughts about factors that may influence their integration in curriculum.

The survey is part of a national, cross-institutional project, involving 16 Australian universities, sponsored by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (former Carrick Institute).

Contact: Helen Dalton for more information about the project (h.dalton@unsw.edu.au) or visit the project website: <http://bfactor.cqu.edu.au/>

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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...

Feedback requests

Hot Seminar Topics

Please send your ideas /requests for seminar topics or suggested speakers to 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

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

Take a look at the MedEd Website!

Find it at: www.med.unsw.edu.au under "For Staff" /Learning and Teaching

Info on meetings, conferences and lots more

Web-link of the month: **BMJ Learning**

at: <http://learning.bmj.com/learning/main.html>

Register at this site for access to over 50 free tutorials:

E.g. Parkinson's disease - initial assessment and referral: in association with the Parkinson's Disease Society; Injectable medicines: prescribing, preparing, and administering - in association with the NPSA; Sexually transmitted infections: in association with NICE and many more...

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

Teaching tip of the month

A spoonful of sugar...

If you have problems with engagement in a class environment due to a complex, dry or disliked topic, try delivering short bursts of content interspersed with an activity or discussion, or even a spot assessment. This should liven it up enough that the content goes down better without detracting too much from your purpose..

Please send in your own tips for next time!!

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. 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 it needs a bit of a push to get it going) however, I have devised a plan to get this going properly—so when I get my act together this should develop into a more active discussion! (RT)