



# MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2009

## Welcome back to the Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

Following the success of the MedEd meetings last year, new seminar topics are planned for 2009. We launched the seminar series with a fascinating talk from a visiting Canadian medical educational expert (see below) and have many more exciting meetings planned for the coming year (see page 3). Watch out for the conferences available throughout the year (see below)—this is a great way to meet and build networks with teachers from other universities and another way to generate interest in your work. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Weds 8th April at 11.30am—1.00pm (rm 241 Samuels). Bring along your lunch! Regards RT (Ed)

### Peer review of teaching for promotion and professional development purposes

If you are interested in this topic but unable to attend the ALTC workshops on Thursday 2nd April (previously advertised via MedEd email) you should find some useful material here:

<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/clpd/peerreview/>

This is a useful web-link from the Centre for Learning and Professional Development at Adelaide University.

There are plenty of medical schools where this is the norm now (e.g. Leeds UK: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/meu/cpd/peer.html>).

*We shall be discussing this topic in one of our MedEd seminars later on in the year. (See page 3 for a list of other proposed topics).*

### Report from the MedEd Meeting in March —

Dr Jason Frank is the Associate Director of the Office of Education, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the Director of Education in the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Ottawa. His time during his visit to Australia this month to visit Sydney and we were fortunate to hear him speak at a few meetings at UNSW a couple of weeks ago. At the MedEd meeting on Thursday 12th March, he gave a fascinating overview of medical training in Canada and the origins in the early 1990s of the CanMEDS competency framework and the implementation of this in Canada and abroad. He also gave a useful summary of clinical assessment tools. Information on CanMEDS is available at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and Canada site:

<http://rcpsc.medical.org/canmeds/index.php>

**Details of the 2009 MedEd Seminar series is given on Page 3 inside.**

### Check out the 2009 Conferences

#### ANZAME

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston, Tasmania, 30 June—3rd July. Abstract submissions have closed but early bird registration still available (til 1st May).

<http://www.cdesign.com.au/anzame2009/>

#### International Clinical Skills Conference

Prato, Tuscany, 1-4 July 2009. Early bird registration & abstract submissions have closed.

<http://www.internationalclinicalskillsconference.com/Default.aspx>

#### HERSDA conference

Darwin, NT. Abstract submissions closed.

<http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2009/>

#### AMEE

Malaga Spain, 29 August to 2 Sept

<http://www.amee.org/index.asp?tm=57&cookies=True>

#### ISSOTL 2009

Bloomington, Indiana, USA. Closing date for proposals is May 15.

<http://issotl09.indiana.edu/>

## Journal Reviews

### Test-enhanced learning in medical education

A review written by Larsen, Butler and Roediger III on Test-enhanced learning in medical education, was published in [Medical Education 2008: 42 : 959–966](#). This review provides a rationale based in cognitive psychology for the learning benefits of frequent testing (even on a lecture-by-lecture basis) with constructive feedback. This might stimulate some ideas regarding integration and evaluation of frequent testing within the Medicine program.

The review also makes the point that while MCQs and open-ended questions are equivalent for the purposes of assessment of factual knowledge, if assessment is intended to not only evaluate but also to promote learning, open-ended responses or perhaps EMQs and/or key-feature problems might be better suited. **Gary Velan**

### Current journal issues:

[Medical Education](#), vol 43, issue 4 (April 2009) is out now and available through the uni library. This issue contains some interesting articles, including a literature review on the usefulness of virtual patients in health professional education. There are 3 other issues already out this year—so plenty of reading material if you are keen!

The [Academic Medicine](#) March edition 2009, focuses on post-grad training but there are some interesting articles there including one on teaching better patient hand-off (hand-overs).

*Please send in your reviews of 100- 200 words on journals, books, workshops or conferences for the next MedEd newsletter issue ASAP to Rachel ([rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au))*

## SOTL and Professional Development

### **Biology Thresholds Concepts Workshop Friday April 17th**

We would like to invite you to participate in a National Workshop on Threshold Concepts to be held at the University of Sydney on Friday 17 April, 2009. While there will be a focus on Biology in some of the presentations, the discussion session topics will be adjusted to address the discipline makeup of the participants and so this workshop should be of interest to teachers from all disciplines who are interested in the ideas of threshold concepts, troublesome knowledge and the like.

This free Workshop is funded by The ALTC and is part of a research project on 'Using Threshold Concepts to generate a new understanding of Teaching and Learning Biology'.

The objective of this project is to use the idea of troublesome knowledge and threshold concepts in biology to enable the development of teaching that is appropriate for diverse learning strategies. We want the project to be as inclusive as possible with the aim of developing extensive network of university teachers who collaborate on creating and evaluating teaching activities which enhance student learning.

If you would like to know more about this project please visit our website:

[http://bugs.bio.usyd.edu.au/thresholds\\_in\\_biology/](http://bugs.bio.usyd.edu.au/thresholds_in_biology/)

We would particularly like to encourage those of you who have just started your teaching careers to attend. If you are already using the idea of Threshold Concepts in your teaching we invite you to share your experience with us by bringing along a poster or handout.

**Dr. Vicky Tzioumis Project Officer**

[vicky.tzioumis@bio.usyd.edu.au](mailto:vicky.tzioumis@bio.usyd.edu.au), School of Biological Sciences, F07, The University of Sydney, Tel: 93515786

### **What's on @ L&T@UNSW?**

#### **Foundations of University Learning and Teaching (FULT)**

The FULT program for UNSW teaching staff consists of an intensive five-day workshop and follow-up activities embedded in participants teaching practice. The program targets teaching staff with little experience of teaching in higher education. The program is free for all UNSW staff with a current teaching role and introduces the principles and practices of learning and teaching at university. Participants explore a variety of topics relevant to their teaching role, including the learning process, curriculum development, learning and teaching strategies, educational technology, and approaches to assessment. For further information, please see the L&T@UNSW webpage:

[http://www.learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/content/LT/teaching\\_support/FULT\\_teaching.cfm?ss=2](http://www.learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/content/LT/teaching_support/FULT_teaching.cfm?ss=2)

#### **Follow-up FULT activities:**

For those of you who have attended the 5-day FULT workshops and would like to continue FULT follow-up activities— please go to: [http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event\\_rego/events.cfm](http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event_rego/events.cfm)

#### **From UNSW Library**

We wish our Outreach Librarian Kate Dunn all the best as she goes on maternity leave. Her post is being covered by Toni Gifford [t.gifford@unsw.edu.au](mailto:t.gifford@unsw.edu.au) Tel: 8385 8241, who is happy to take your calls and inquiries re academic library business.

## L&T Resources

**RefWorks** -- repeated by popular demand-- An online research management, writing and collaboration tool -- designed to help researchers easily gather, manage, store, share all types of information as well as generate citations and bibliographies.

If you are not an Endnote /Reference Manager user and are looking for a way to manage your literature research and references, take a look at **RefWorks**. This is an online reference management system that is easy to use and accessible anywhere using your login and password—useful to those of us with several workplaces / computers and those lucky enough to jetset around the world. Students will find it even more useful—so pass the word around.

Access via this link from a UNSW network PC / Mac:

<http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/cgi-bin/local/access/access.cgi?url=http://www.refworks.com/refworks>

To take a look or try the online tutorials, see: <http://www.refworks.com/>

**Please note: users have to individually register to use this resource.**

1. When you link to this resource you will be taken to the 'Welcome to RefWorks' page
2. Off campus users should access via the **'Remote Access'** tab
3. Complete the blank field with our Group Code of RWUONSWales and click on 'Go to Login'
4. If using RefWorks for the first time click on New to RefWorks? 'Sign up for an Individual Account'.
5. Complete the registration page and create an individual log-in and password. Please use your university email address.
6. A confirmation email detailing your group code, log-in name and password will be sent.
7. You will be taken straight into RefWorks to begin research.
8. Each subsequent time you access RefWorks off campus, use the Remote Access tab, fill in the Group Code of RWUONSWales and then use your nominated log-in name and password.

## MedEd 2009 seminar programme

This year's MedEd seminar series will be topic based as well as being a conduit for feedback from medical education conferences. Please contact Rachel ([rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au)) with any further ideas or suggestions or offers of speakers for these or other topics. We have varied the times and days of the meetings in order to allow everyone to attend some of the meetings.

### Topics suggested so far:

#### Guest speakers / workshops / seminars:

- The when and how of ethics approval for teaching evaluation and other MedEd studies
- Evaluating your own teaching
- Professional development– the teaching element
- Peer review of teaching
- Basic statistics for teachers
- Getting published

#### Research Showcases:

- Student learning— theory into practice—presentations from within the faculty
- Aligning Assessment— theory into practice—presentations from within the faculty

## For Your Diary — not to be missed!

Date	Time	Topic	Location
<i>Was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</i>	11.30 - 13.00	<i>Seminar meeting with Dr Jason Frank Canadian expert on Can-MEDS (clinical core competencies)</i> <a href="http://rcpsc.medical.org/canmeds/index.php">http://rcpsc.medical.org/canmeds/index.php</a>	<i>See page 1 for a brief summary of this meeting</i>
<b>NEXT MEETING</b> Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	11.30 - 13.00	Feedback from Summer conferences ANZAME 09 abstracts and papers	Samuels Building room 241 (level 2)
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	08.00 - 09.30	L&T Topic	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	11.30 - 13.00	L&T Topic (ANZAME presentations)	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Mid-session Break			
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	08.00 - 09.30	Feedback from Winter conferences	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	11.30 - 13.00	L&T Topic	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	08.00 - 09.30	L&T Topic	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	11.30 - 13.00	L&T Topic	SGR 6, Mathews UG
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	09.30 - 13.30	MedEd L&T Forum Presentation of Faculty L&T Awards All welcome	SGR 6-9, Mathews UG

*N.B. Please let Rachel know ASAP if you notice clashes with other meetings that might affect our attendance.*

## MedEd Contact and Newsletter editor

Dr Rachel Thompson  
L&T Fellow  
Medical Faculty  
OME  
30 Botany St

Phone: 02 938 58038  
Fax: 02 938 51120

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...

## Feedback requests

### Hot Seminar Topics for 2009

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

**Please contribute**—start writing those book reviews! And if you read some interesting publications, or find new or exciting L&T or medical education websites, then please send them in. What are your best teaching tips? —send them in for “**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)

### 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)

## 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 the key conferences for 2009 is already up!*

## Quote of the month:

Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure. - Confucius

## Web-link of the month:

The UNSW library has rearranged the Subject Guides. The Medical Education Subject Guide is now available at:

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/content.php?pid=8701&sid=287369>

This gives you quick access to the following useful resources on medical education:

**Key Resources:** ERIC, Expanded Academic, Learning & Teaching Unit website

**Key Journals:** Academic Medicine, Medical Education, Medical Teacher, Clinical Teacher, Focus on health professional education, Higher education research & development

*If you think of any other resources that could be added, please email these to Rachel [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)*

**Share the good L&T websites that you come across with the MedEd Google group!**

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

**This is a great way to network and disseminate information and will be relaunched in 2009 with more information going out directly via this route!**

The Google Group is for contact and discussion in-between meetings, for hot topics, sharing of recent developments and innovations and also for networking and needs new members to get us going! 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 info.