

MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

FRIDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2012



Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

Dear All,

Welcome to the November newsletter. We are nearing the end of Semester 2, but there is still plenty of activity around learning and teaching to give you some relief from the marking and end of semester wind-down. Notably the L&T Connections seminars continue and L&T have also invited two well known L&T experts to run workshops: Professor Sue Clegg (ex Leeds Uni, England) and Eunice Friesen (University of Manitoba, Canada). Both will be excellent value if you can attend (details - page 2).

Also, don't forget to put the Faculty L&T Annual Forum in your diary for Wed 5th December (see below). The forum is a great opportunity to see what is going on in the faculty around education and research plus great for sharing your 2012 work or to discuss your project plans for 2013. If you are interested - please send in a title /brief abstract. Lunch provided after teaching awards presentation at 1pm. RT

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Upcoming conferences

4-7 February 2013: [ODLAA 2013](#)

Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia - Education Summit, Manly, Sydney. Registration open.

24-28 June: [ANZAHPE 2013](#)

Melbourne. Submissions open soon. Registrations open Dec.

1-4 July 2013: [HERDSA 2013](#)

The place of learning and teaching. Submissions open 12th Nov. Registration opens Dec 3rd.

2012 Faculty Teaching Awards

Nominations deadline extended to Friday (16th November)

- Award for Teaching Excellence (One award)
- Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Maximum of Three awards)
- Award for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (One award)
- Award for Excellence in Enhancing the Student Experience (One award, specifically for Professional and Technical staff)

For further details please [click here](#).

The awards will be judged by an internal panel and recipients invited to receive the awards at the Faculty Learning and Teaching Forum 2012, Wednesday 5th December.

For more information or assistance, please contact and discuss with your Department Head / Head of School, or Dr Rachel Thompson on 938 58038, email: rachel.t@unsw.edu.au.

Medicine Learning and Teaching Forum 2012

Wednesday 5th December

9:00am to 2:00pm

Lunch at 1pm following the Medicine Teaching Awards ceremony

Location: Scenario Group Rooms 6-8, Level 1, Mathews Building ([campus map ref F23 PDF](#))

Call for abstracts

Call for education research projects, curricular designs, or innovative learning activities

Don't miss this annual opportunity to present your learning and teaching innovations, curriculum development experience or evaluation, or present your education research project or innovation ideas in a friendly forum!

Presentation options:

Paper: 15 mins + 5 min Q&A, e.g. presentation of L&T funded project results, new curricular designs, evaluations – e.g. of innovative learning activities/ curricular change etc.

or

Short presentation slot: 5 mins presentation and 5 mins discussion: for presentation of new ideas, progress reports of L&T projects, pilot results, etc.

Please send title and 1 paragraph abstract to Rachel (rachel.t@unsw.edu.au) by Monday 26th November. Details on how to register to attend will be circulated in mid-November. *Video-conferencing will be available.*

SOTL and Professional Development

L&T@UNSW Connections Seminars

'Threshold Concepts': where students get stuck

Facilitated by Belinda Allen, Learning and Teaching Unit

Monday 12th November, 1pm to 2:30pm, John Goodsell Building (F20), room LG29

This slightly extended connections session is an opportunity for participants to catch up with Threshold Concepts as a theory, and see how it is being approached here at UNSW.

Presenters include:

- Louise Lutze-Mann (BABS) - *Separating the Chaff from the Wheat: Threshold Concepts in Higher Education Assessment*
- Margaret Blackmore and Pam Freeland (Library) - *Serious Play: Threshold Concepts, Information Engagement and Game Design*
- Rachel Thompson (Medicine) - *Criticality as a Threshold Concept, Defined and Limited by Disciplinary Power*
- Rosanne Quinnell (University of Sydney); Rebecca LeBard (BABS) and Rachel Thompson (Medicine) - *Academic Numeracy: Challenging Thinking Dispositions to Enable Students to Enter and Cross the Liminal Space*
- Belinda Allen (LTU) - *Creativity as Threshold - Learning and Teaching in a Liminal Space*

Register [here](#) for this session

Workshop: Characteristics of Effective Teaching

22nd Nov 2012, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Eunice Friesen (University of Manitoba, Canada)

Using a concept map based on Hildebrand's research, the workshop participants will have an opportunity to engage in discovery around the knowledge required for effective teaching, the opportunities for practice, mentorship and feedback as well as the correlations between student feedback and factors of effective teaching.

Further details and to register click [here](#)

Workshops with Prof Sue Clegg

(Former Head of the Centre for Social and Educational Research across the Life Course, Leeds Metropolitan Univ):

On the problem of theorising

Date: Wed 28th November, 9:30-11:15am

Situating your research within the broader tradition

Date: Wed 28th November, 11:30am-1:00pm

Writing for publication

Date: Fri 30th November, 10am-12pm - Writing for publication

For further details and to register click [here](#)

Please remember that [registration](#) for all sessions is essential.

Please note: No lunch will be provided at these events. Please bring along your own lunch if you wish. You must register to attend Connections seminars.

Questions or themes to suggest?

Contact Natasha Moore: ltevents@unsw.edu.au, ext 58636.

Visit the [L&T website](#) for information on assessment, teaching portfolios, professional development.

UNSW Network of Work Integrated Learning Educators (WILEd)

The UNSW Network of WILEd, developed by Learning & Teaching @ UNSW and Careers & Employment. Final 2012 meeting date is:

Thursday 22th November, Law School Staff Common Room, Level 2, Law Building (F8)

For further information or to RSVP for meetings, [click here](#)

For further information about WILEd, [click here](#)

Upcoming Learning & Teaching Events / Groups

The Foundations of University Learning and Teaching (FULT) program for UNSW teaching staff

An introduction to a range of topics and issues in learning and teaching that impact on the teaching roles of academic staff at UNSW. The program is free for all UNSW staff with a current teaching role. Registrations as follows:

- **FULT 4:** 15-16 and 19-21 November, 2012 (*Wait list only*)

Dates for 2013 (*Expressions of interest being taken now*)

- **FULT 1:** 18-22 February, 2013
- **FULT 2:** 24-28 June, 2013
- **FULT 3:** Fridays, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 August, 2013
- **FULT 4:** 14-15 and 18-20 November, 2013

[Click here](#) for further information and link to register or contact

FULT@unsw.edu.au.

Graduate Certificate in University Learning & Teaching (GCULT)

Designed to assist those who are new to teaching as well as more experienced academics to develop a scholarly approach to teaching. It is an accredited program available to teaching staff at UNSW free of charge. It is coordinated by the Learning & Teaching Unit and offered through the School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. [Click here](#) for more information or contact Debbie Owen (d.owen@unsw.edu.au).

Master of Philosophy in Higher Education – taking enrolments for 2013 now!

A research degree designed to develop research capability in the field of higher education. The program combines a thesis with coursework component and maximises opportunities to disseminate research by the option of thesis by publication. It is coordinated by the Learning & Teaching Unit and offered through the School of Education, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

For further information, [click here](#) or contact the program administrator Debbie Owen (d.owen@unsw.edu.au).

UNSW Library

For library research support and help with UNSWorks, etc., speak to our [Outreach Librarians](#):

Kate Dunn - T: 9385 1012 M: 0434 181 908

Email: kate.dunn@unsw.edu.au (Mon-Wed).

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, Conjoint, & liaison with Hospital Libraries

Jonathon Valentine -T: 9385 1039 Email: j.valentine@unsw.edu.au

Covering: Medical Research Centres & Institutes

SPOTLIGHT on local Learning & Teaching Research

Project Report: Assessment and development of Teamwork across all Phases of UNSW Medicine Program

Chinthaka Balasooriya, Asela Olupeliyawa, Tony O'Sullivan, Philip Jones, Rachel Thompson, Peter Harris, Silas Taylor, Elizabeth Tancred, Edna Koritschoner, Chris Hughes.

The Teamwork Project was a faculty-funded project that aimed to generate innovative teamwork learning and teaching methods within the UNSW Medicine Program. The project aimed to identify student perceptions of teamwork-focussed learning activities and generate student recommendations for the development of effective educational strategies.

The project utilised a unique method, which drew on the skills of student research assistants (RAs) to explore the views of their peers. After careful selection and training on peer interviewing, the RAs (working in pairs) interviewed their colleagues to clarify their perceptions of the effectiveness of currently employed methods, and to explore ideas for potentially more effective methods. Following de-identification of data, the RAs shared their findings through a secure online discussion forum and attended two brainstorm sessions to clarify key themes and develop recommendations.

Key findings: The key themes that emerged focussed on the need to clarify the relevance of teamwork skills to clinical practice, reward teamwork through assessment of individual contributions to group process, facilitate feedback and reflection through peer and self-assessment of authentic teamwork activities, and systematically utilise clinical experiences to support experiential learning of teamwork within health care teams.

Recommendations: Based on these findings, a number of recommendations for stage appropriate teamwork learning and assessment activities were developed. Key amongst these were recommendations to set up a peer-mentoring system for students, to develop more authentic assessment methods, and develop strategies to optimise the value of clinical learning opportunities in developing teamwork skills.

Benefits of a student-led approach: The student-led research process enabled the identification of issues that may not have been otherwise revealed by students and facilitated a better understanding of teamwork teaching and developed ownership of the curriculum among participating students. The project enabled the development of recommendations for designing learning, teaching and assessment methods that were likely to be most effective from a student perspective. The project also resulted in the following outcomes:

1. Conference presentation based on preliminary work (PeArL session at ANZAHPE 2011)
2. Recommendations for Learning/Teaching/Assessment activities for implementation in the three phases, based on the student perceptions uncovered during interviews
3. A research publication with significant input from some members of the student RA group that summarises the project and its recommendations (Publication finalised for submission to 'Education for Health' journal in November 2012).

Funded by an internal UNSW Strategic Learning and Teaching Development Fund grant, administered through the SPHCM. The efforts of the project team, the students RA group, and the student participants, are sincerely acknowledged.

Report by Dr C. Balasooriya

AMEE Conference Lyon 2012

A few faculty members attended this worthwhile annual conference on the theme of 'The Continuum of Education in the Healthcare Professions', this year held in Lyon, France. Pre-conference workshops were reported as excellent and the conference papers – many, varied and of high quality. Especially valued were the networking opportunities that this conference generates.

Dr Michael Tam (Lecturer, Medicine Program, SPCHM) presented a paper on developing an online EBM program for GPs, now published in *Medical Teacher* and also presented at a couple of weeks ago at the GP12 Conference in the Gold Coast:

Tam, C.W.M. and Eastwood, A. (2012) Available, intuitive and free! Building e-learning modules using web 2.0 services, *Medical Teacher*, Ahead of Print: Pages 1-3. Accessed 7th Nov 2012: <http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/0142159X.2012.731105>. A YouTube version of the presentation is available here (gives good 'How-to' instructions): <http://vitalis.com/?p=237>

AMEE Conference 2012 programme and details / downloads, etc., available at: <http://www.amee.org/index.asp?llm=200>

Next year's AMEE conference is on the theme: 'Colouring outside the lines' to be held at the Prague Congress Centre, Czech Republic 24-28 August 2013. For further details see: <http://www.amee.org/index.asp?pg=292>

Article of the month

Determining measures of insight and foresight from responses to multiple choice questions.

Tweed, M., Thompson-Fawcett, M., Schwartz, P. and Wilkinson, T.J. (2012) *Medical Teacher*. Posted online on November 5, 2012. Accessed 7th Nov 2012: <http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/0142159X.2012.733834>

I found this a very interesting study as it aimed to measure quite complex skills of insight and foresight using MCQs. The authors designed a clever method for analysing student responses by providing defined descriptors for student *confidence* in answering a question. This was converted to a score relating their perceived confidence and the level of correct answer was defined by a panel re how safe that answer would be if applied in clinical practice. *Insight* was then measured as self-assessment of confidence vs. correctness of their answer. *Foresight* was measured by examining incorrect high confidence responses that were unsafe. Overall, the authors conclude that their findings suggest that their students had insight but lacked the same level of foresight.

This article is worth a read and a ponder... Is this a good way to measure insight and foresight? Do the results provide us with any insight into medical students and their future practice? The authors seem to suggest that if experience seems to improve both skills, then that is probably a good thing and most students will just improve as they progress through a program. But what of those students who lack both insight and foresight – surely they are the students we should be concerned about – and aim to identify and assist, if possible? RT

For your diary - Two meetings left in 2012!

Date	Time	Topic	Location
Tuesday 13 th November	11:30am – 1:00pm	<p>Dr Asela Olupeliyawa (SPHCM) on a requested return to the theme that he presented at last month's meeting - his PhD thesis on learning/ assessment of healthcare teamwork. This time Asela will focus on the TMEX assessment tool that he has developed and piloted.</p> <p>Edna Koritschoner (MESO) on new innovations in teaching clinical communication skills: <i>reporting back from the EACH Conference, St Andrews, Scotland</i></p>	<p>SGR 1, Room 305 Samuels Building</p> <p><i>Video-conferencing can be arranged if requested via Rachel rachelt@unsw.edu.au</i></p>
Wednesday 5 th December	9:00am – 2:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Faculty of Medicine Annual Learning and Teaching Forum</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Call for Abstracts NOW OPEN (see page 1 for further details)</p>	<p>SGR 6-8, Level 1 Mathews Building</p> <p><i>Video-conferencing can be arranged if requested via Rachel rachelt@unsw.edu.au</i></p>

UNSW Medicine Publications 2012

We are very pleased to announce that there are already 9 medical education/ SOTL publications this year from our faculty staff. Please send in any other publications for this year or last year, and we will display these on our L&T webpage:

<http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/LT%20Publications>

Resources from MedEd meetings available at:

[http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/MedEd Seminars](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/MedEd%20Seminars)

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The MedEd Interest Group formed in November 2006 following a research presentation forum held at UNSW and we now have over a 100 members. The group 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 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...

Your newsletter:

Please contribute— write a brief (<100 word) book review; send in info on new L&T research that you come across. If you read interesting articles or find new and exciting L&T or medical education websites, then please send them in.

What are your best teaching tips? — write about 100 words for “Teaching tip of the Month”.

Anything else would you like to see in the newsletter? Send ASAP to rachelt@unsw.edu.au

To subscribe to the MedEd email group:

(NOTE – THESE ARE NEW INSTRUCTIONS)

Please go to the following webpage, fill in your details and submit:

<https://www.lists.unsw.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/meded-interest-group>

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://www.med.unsw.edu.au/>

Quote of the month

“If you’re walking down the right path and you’re willing to keep walking, eventually you’ll make progress.”

Barack Obama