Congratulations:
Ann Shannon and Bamini Gopinath – graduated with their PhD in June

New Clinical Titles:
Dr Ronald Slayter – Senior Research Fellow
Dr Jan Klimek – NICU – Clinical Lecturer
Dr Kevin London – Paediatrics Clinical Associate Lecturer

New Faces:
Dr. George Condous – Senior Lecturer, in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Dr Tony Liu – Clinical Senior Lecturer
Ms Delene Assam – Registered/Research nurse in Endocrinology
Ms Lynne Gallaty – Administration Officer

New Scholars:
Ms. Luisa Richards – PhD student in Paediatrics
Ms Roma Ara Khanam – PhD student in Paediatrics
Dr Ka Lai Shek (Clara) – Visiting Scholar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

WCS Nepean Teaching and Research Retreat:
Friday August 18 and Saturday August 19 – Turners Vineyard, Orange

Contacts:
Nepean Clinical School
Level 5 – South Block
Nepean Hospital
P.O. Box 63 Penrith 2751
Ph: (02) 4734 3732 or (02) 4734 2682
Fax:(02)4734 1817

Nepean Medical Foundation “Formal Ball”
Saturday 14th October at the Panthers Pavilion
Book online www.nrmfball.com.au
Or contact Kellie Ph 0423 294 395

The Clinical School is growing at a rapid rate with five extra Associate Professors / Senior Lecturers to be appointed over the next few months. Already we have two new appointments, Dr Tony Liu in Paediatrics and Dr George Condous in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Both will boost our research and teaching at Nepean and help prepare us for a planned 64 students in year one of Medicine next year. A profile on each is included in this newsletter.

As you will know this year is the 150th anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney. Recently we had a special anniversary graduation ceremony for our latest crop of young doctors. I would like to congratulate them all on their achievement and wish them the best in the future.

The Clinical School plays in educating students and were impressed with the School. Professor Peek accompanied them on a tour of the school, where they viewed students attending a Clinical Skills session, the current laboratories and also met Professors from the Clinical School. The plans for the re-development of the Clinical School were discussed along with the increase in student numbers for 2007.

Visit By Federal Opposition Minister
Ms Julia Gillard, Federal Opposition Minister for Health, visited the Western Clinical School – Nepean Campus in March. Ms Gillard was accompanied by Senator Stephen Hutchins and Penrith local member Karen Palazzano. They were interested in the role the Clinical School plays in educating students and were impressed with the School. Professor Peek accompanied them on a tour of the school, where they viewed students attending a Clinical Skills session, the current laboratories and also met Professors from the Clinical School. The plans for the re-development of the Clinical School were discussed along with the increase in student numbers for 2007.

The Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Nutbeam has just announced the formation of an independent Nepean Clinical School. In the context of continual change in medical education in Australia and, in particular, the growth in the number of medical schools, the increasing numbers of medical students in the Faculty of Medicine at this University, the close links that the Faculty must nurture with both clinical and management colleagues in the health care system and our mutual interdependence, the Faculty of Medicine believes that now is the appropriate time for our teaching and research activities at Concord Hospital and at Nepean Hospital to be managed locally through the creation of independent clinical schools, each having the status of a School as it is understood within the University.

STOP PRESS: Great News for Nepean: The Nepean Clinical School

The Faculty of Medicine 1856-2006
Ambition Inspired by Achievement

Professor Michael Peek
Associate Dean

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Dr George Condous
MDRCOG, FRANZCOG

George Condous (MRCOG, FRANZCOG) is our new Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. His interests are Gynaecological Ultrasound, Early Pregnancy and Laparoscopic Surgery. He is a graduate of the University of Adelaide who left Australia in 1993 and travelled to the United Kingdom where he spent 12 years in London. He completed his post graduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in London April 2005 before returning to Australia. During his time at St George’s Hospital Medical School, London, he published extensively on pregnancies of unknown location (PULs) and the prediction of ectopic pregnancy. He is currently the lead investigator in the IPULA (International Pregnancy of Unknown Location Analysis) trial which is a prospective multi-centre study evaluating the role of new diagnostic models in the PUL population.

On his return to Australia he undertook a Laparoscopic Fellowship at the Royal North Shore Hospital before the current position at Nepean.

Outside of medicine he has a great interest in singing, having undertaken vocal tuition during his time in London. He formed a London-based band until early 2004 and continues to enjoy musical pursuits.

Dr Anthony Liu
MBBS (USyd), DCH, FRACP, MPH
Lecturer in Paediatrics

Tony trained at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead in General Paediatrics and spent a year as a research medical officer at the Centre for Kidney Centre there. He completed an MPH in 2003 and is currently halfway through a Master of Medical Education as his PhD project work.

VISITING SCHOLAR - Dr Ka Lai Shek (Clara)

Clara, an Obstetrician and Gynecologist, originally trained in Hong Kong was in charge of the Urogynecology service between 2003-2006. She worked with A/F Dietz at the RPAH in 2003 and has now returned to take up an externally funded 2 year position as Pelvic Floor Fellow. She intends to enrol for a PhD with the University of Sydney later this year. Clara’s main focus is the prediction of delivery mode and delivery-related pelvic floor trauma.

VISITING SCHOLAR - Dr Ka Lai Shek (Clara)

You don’t need to be Bob Geldof to make Poverty History

The Live 8 concerts made inroads to raising the awareness of extreme poverty and reducing debt in developing nations. But what do you do when you’re not an international star with political contacts and millions of adoring, impressionable fans? One way is to start your own phenomenon.

With the support of 17 student friends and some family Phoebe Williams, a University of Sydney medical student established Hands of Help Inc. There was no worldwide rock concert extravaganza but with hard work they did raise over $100,000, money that was used wholly restore and refurbish a dilapidated school in rural Uganda and carry out health education projects.

Williams says, “At the school the walls were crumbling and filled with holes and bats lived in the roof. The floors were dirt and covered in cow dung, which was infested with termites and flea larvae that would burry into the skin of the children’s feet.”

Under the guidance of a Ugandan foreman and with help from the local builders, nine weeks of serious student labour produced a school that was structurally sound, with cement floors, brightly painted walls, windows and brand new books, pencils and resources for the children to use. Surplus funds were used to complete bus-to-bus health surveys, malaria and water sanitation awareness projects and to provide mosquito nets for the battle against malaria.

Williams says, “The Hands of Help surveys found that malaria strikes Ugandans ten times a year on average and most people had no hope of treating themselves, as their family income was less than $1 a day. Malaria is also the most common cause of death in children under five years of age and is the biggest cause of miscarriage and pregnancy complications.”

The Hands of Help phenomenon doesn’t end there. With an army of 60 volunteers in 2006 and a year of fundraising ahead of them, Williams’ troops are heading back to Uganda to renovate two more schools and follow up the Community Health Project they established before leaving last year. A contingent will also be sent to the outskirts of Nairobi in Kenya to rebuild an orphanage. Closer to home, with the support of the Faculty of Medicine and School of Rural Health, Hands of Help have initiated an Indigenous health pilot project in far west NSW to be conducted in July and pending its success, expanded into more remote Indigenous areas.

Hands of Help volunteer and Nepean clinical student Erin Stalenberg said, “When the group came to talk to us about this I knew this was something I wanted to be involved with. So much has been achieved on the ground level already and I’m really looking forward to building on that this year.”

Unlike Geldof, who proclaimed “mission accomplished” following the Live 8 concerts, the students know that achievement is still far off; but no one can argue that the Hands of Help phenomenon is going some way to make a hell of a difference.

Hands of Help are appealing for donations and support at their fundraising events in 2006. Please contact donations@handsofhelp.org or speak with Erin Stalenberg at Nepean Clinical School

About Hands of Help

Hands of Help works to build equality to alleviate poverty, advance education and provide for the relief from sickness and disability for people living in developing countries and for disadvantaged people residing in developed countries.

For information visit www.handsofhelp.org or email info@handsofhelp.org.

About Uganda

In 2005 Hands of Help visited the Jinja District is located in South Eastern Uganda. Jinja has a population of 417,574 people, 78% of residents live in rural areas and 50% of the population is under 15 years of age.

The infant mortality rate for Jinja stands at a staggering 77 per 1,000 children with the child mortality rate is even worse at 115/1,000. Amongst children under 5 years of age, Communicable diseases are the leading cause of death, with malaria ranking the highest among all age groups. In 2004 alone, malaria killed 103,547 children in the Jinja district. Overall, malaria was the cause of death for 254,190 people in Jinja in 2004; that is, 37% of all deaths – a staggering number for a preventable disease.

For Interview:
Phoebe Williams: 0411 445 575 or phoebe@handsofhelp.org
Erin Stalenberg: 0417 329 698 or media@handsofhelp.org

Professional quality JPEG photographs are available of 2005 African project work.
Nepean - It’s Time to Make Friends

My experiences as an overseas PhD student in the Paediatrics research laboratory

What does a German student do in Australia during the soccer world championship?!?

Last year in October I got the offer to spend one year at the University of Sydney, Nepean Campus, doing research in the paediatrics laboratory together with Prof. Ralph Nanan and Brigitte Sandner-Nanan. Without any doubts I took the chance at once. Now I have worked here for 3 months and I do not regret my decision. I enjoy every day here.

There are small groups working in the laboratories which makes it easy to get to know each other. The atmosphere is really good and familial. I am working with Dr. Brigitte Sandner-Nanan investigating the frequencies and function of regulatory T cells in normal pregnancies and women with preeclampsia which is a severe disease occurring during pregnancy. My work varies very much. I am not only working in the laboratory. My work starts on the ward informing the patients about the study. Then I see lots of caesarian sections while waiting to get the cord blood. After that I have to process the blood and finally I have to analyse my data on the computer. Working in the laboratory is not as boring as many people would think. It is really rather exciting analysing the data of new patients and getting new ideas. Every time it is a new challenge. It can be disappointing on one day but fulfilling the next day. Lots of responsibility is given to me which encourages me a lot.

In the beginning I didn’t know anything about laboratory work but everybody, especially Brigitte, is very helpful and shows me everything. Furthermore I get the opportunity to participate at meetings of the different institutes working on the project.

Besides working I really enjoy living here. On the weekends I mostly spend my time in Sydney together with people from all over the world who are living in the staff accommodation with me. This place is very convenient, being just opposite the hospital. So far I have met a lot of friendly and interesting people, doing their elective, working as a nurse or doctor or studying at the university. You never feel alone, there is always somebody to talk to or have dinner with. I enjoy every day either working or exploring Sydney, New South Wales and Australia.

At the moment I am looking forward to travelling from Darwin to Alice Springs in August.

When I go back to Germany in February I have one year left before I graduate at the medical school of University of Wuerzburg.

Ms. Luise Richards

Dr. Brigitte Nan

Brigitte studied Nutritional Science at the University of Vienna. After receiving her PhD in 2002 from the University of Wuerzburg, Germany, she continued as a postdoctoral scientist in the Institute of Virology and Immunobiology. There she studied the mechanisms of proliferation, differentiation and contraction of CD4+ T helper cells and focused on a certain population of CD4+ T cells designated as T regulatory cells. These cells have emerged as critical regulators of immune tolerance and might play a central role in allergic, autoimmune and inflammatory conditions. Brigitte continued working on this topic when she started her research here at the Nepean Campus, 3 years ago and is currently investigating the role of T regulatory cells in pediatric patients with atopic dermatitis and their role in the feto-maternal interface.

Ms Roma Ara Khanam

Roma Ara Khanam has come here from Bangalore, India to work with Ralph Nanan’s group and started in June. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemistry, Botany and Zoology with a Master’s Degree in Biotechnology, and is registered with the Syndicate and Academic Council of Bangalore University, India. Roma is interested in the advances in Immunotechnology and wants to pursue research in stem-cell therapy and is currently enrolled to do her PhD.

The Nepean Medical Research Foundation

NMRF

The Nepean Medical Research Foundation is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Medical School of the University of Sydney along with the local celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Nepean Hospital’s transfer to its current site and 15 years as a teaching hospital of the University of Sydney. Much progress has happened particularly in those 15 years at Nepean Hospital with fine academic, clinical and administrative staff striving for excellence in all areas. This in turn attracts, in particular researchers of the highest calibre to our Hospital.

In order to facilitate leading research in all areas the Foundation is required to provide funding for essential equipment, research fellows and support for all levels of Research at the hospital. The University of Sydney is immensely generous in its support of our relatively new Foundation.

To celebrate this year the Foundation and the University of Sydney are holding our first big fundraising event with a good old fashioned “Formal Ball”. It will incorporate an exhibition of local artists, three course meal and swing band to be held at the Panthers Pavilion on Saturday 14th October 2006.

Tables are already being booked and for tickets or information please Book online at www.nmrfball.com.au or contact Kellie Evans on 0423 294 395.

The task at hand is to encourage the local community particularly business and community members to support our large and important Hospital.

Gwen McMaster-Fay
President Nepean Medical Research Foundation

Project Supported by NMRF

One of the projects supported by the NMRF is “The Development of Psittacosis PCR Testing” – (an infection that causes pneumonia). We have developed a rapid test to diagnose psittacosis in patients with pneumonia. This has been particularly useful in the Blue Mountains where we have continued to see cases of pneumonia due to psittacosis every autumn and winter. We have identified several patients with this infection and improved their early management. We have also been able to study dead and sick birds in the area in order to further understand the pattern of infection in the animal hosts. We have written a description of the use of our testing methods which is being submitted to the Journal of Clinical Microbiology. We have also identified the organism in specimens such as urine and CSF for the first time, and developed a method for quantitation of organism in a range of human specimens.

We are presenting our quantitation work, and our research into looking for the organisms in the placentas of women with stillbirths at the Australian Society for Microbiology Conference in July.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing assistance from the Nepean Research Foundation.

by Dr James Branley
The Haematology Research Group has for many years focussed on the disease of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL), the most common leukaemia in western society which affects 150 – 200 in the Purhshire Valley and the Blue Mountains. CLL is the only leukaemia showing a familial incidence with a three fold greater risk of developing this disease if another family member is affected.

Our group has examined the nature of this genetic influence by studying the P2X7 receptor on leukemic cells of different subjects. Using high throughput genetic typing methods we have linked a loss of function of this receptor with familial forms of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. We have attracted samples from different teaching hospitals across Australia and are collaborating with a group in the Royal Marsden Hospital in the U.K. to further study these inherited influences on development of CLL.

Blood cells and their receptors are involved in many diseases other than those directly affecting our blood count. Together with Professor Warwick Britton at the Centenary Institute of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital we found that white cells in subjects with low or absent P2X7 function were unable to kill mycobacteria, the germ which causes tuberculosis in humans. Our two groups then studied over 200 patients attending various tuberculosis clinics in four major teaching hospitals in Sydney. Loss of function of the P2X7 receptor was strongly associated with one form of tuberculosis (the extrapulmonary form) which affects lymph nodes, bones, brain and other organs. This finding of a genetic susceptibility to certain forms of tuberculosis has major implications for the global control of this disease which kills to two to three million people annually throughout the world.

We are also studying genetic variations of P2X7 in women with osteoporosis. Our two groups then studied over 200 patients attending various tuberculosis clinics in four major teaching hospitals in Sydney. Loss of function of the P2X7 receptor was strongly associated with one form of tuberculosis (the extrapulmonary form) which affects lymph nodes, bones, brain and other organs. This finding of a genetic susceptibility to certain forms of tuberculosis has major implications for the global control of this disease which kills to two to three million people annually throughout the world.

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I chose to do my elective at Nepean Hospital for several reasons. It has an excellent reputation for teaching; everyone I spoke to gave it their warmest recommendation. Also, I felt after third year I was somewhat "underdone" - there were several areas I needed consolidation and as fourth year is spent in the subspecialties, this was my last opportunity before internship. So I was after a solid 8 weeks in medicine and emergency to boost my confidence. Further experience in history taking, skills, examinations, clerking notes, procedural skills and general medical education were my main objectives. Happily, these were comfortably met. The teaching at Nepean was superb and it has my highest recommendation.

Nepean Hospital is a large (about 420 beds) modern teaching hospital in Penrith at the base of the Blue Mountains. It services the growing population of Sydney's outer western suburbs and the Lower Blue Mountains. It is a recognised primary trauma centre and has most of the subspecialties including a cardiac catheterisation laboratory, neurosurgery, stroke unit and is a teaching hospital for the University of Sydney.

"I was amazed that after following this routine for a week, my skills and confidence really started to improve. It only took me about 2 weeks to be confident and effective in cannulating most patient, and my examination and history taking skills really improved. There is no better way to learn and improve than repetition."

After my emergency term I spent 2 weeks in neurology where once again the teaching was of the highest standard. The highlights of the week were excellent teaching clinics on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, an excellent teaching session on Wednesday morning and a teaching ward round on Friday afternoon. In the clinics we would see the patient, take a history and examine them before presenting our findings to the consultant. I found the clinic an excellent way to observe as a patient was brought into the department, I would see them, take a history, examine them and cannulate and take bloods. If anything, this improved the flow through the department as I would then bring this patient to the consultant's attention so it was likely that they were seen to more promptly than otherwise.

I was amazed that after following this routine for a week, my skills and confidence really started to improve. It only took me about 2 weeks to be confident and effective in cannulating most patient, and my examination and history taking skills really improved. There is no better way to learn and improve than repetition.

By Philip McGrath

Dr. Guy D. Edlick

Dr. Guy D. Edlick was awarded a prestigious UIUC American Cancer Society International Fellowship for Beginning Investigators (ACSBI). He will undertake a 12-month fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health to investigate the environmental and genetic epidemiology of obesity and cancer. Dr. Edlick is currently a National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) Public Health Fellow in the School of Public Health at The University of Sydney under the supervision of Professor Bruce Armstrong. At Harvard, Dr. Edlick will be supervised by Professor David Hunter who is the Vice Chairman of the Cancer Prevention and Co-chair of the Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology program in the Harvard School of Public Health.

The research will focus on gastrointestinal cancers (colon and rectal) and obesity and will involve two large prospective cohort studies, The Nurses Health Study (NHS) and The Health Professionals Follow-up Study (HPFS). The Nurses Health Study (NHS) includes 121,700 US female registered nurses, between 35–55 years old, began in 1976 and will provide information on risk factors for cancer and cardiovascular disease and updated disease information and diagnoses of gastrointestinal cancers. The Health Professionals Follow-up Study (HPFS) is an ongoing prospective study of the causes of chronic diseases in men. It includes 51,529 US male dentists, ophthalmologists, orthopedists, podiatrists, pharmacists and veterinarians, aged 40–79 years, who responded to a mailed questionnaire in 1986. Participants' medical histories have been updated every two years, providing baseline information on age, marital status, height and weight, ancestry, medications, smoking history, medical history, physical activity and diet.

The UIUC American Cancer Society International Fellowships for Beginning Investigators (ACSBI) aims to foster a bidirectional flow of knowledge, experience, expertise, and innovation between countries. These 12-month fellowships are intended for beginning investigators and clinicians who are in the early stages of their careers and hold assistant professorships or similar positions in their home institutes.

By Philip McGrath

Dr. Anne N. Shemon

Dr. Anne N. Shemon was awarded an Eleanor Sophie Wood Postgraduate Research Travelling Fellowship from the University of Sydney. She will undertake a 12-month fellowship in the Department of Internal Medicine, Immunology and Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Iowa. Dr. Shemon has recently completed her Ph.D. at Nepean Hospital in the Department of Medicine under the supervision of Professor James Wiley. She will be leaving for the University of Iowa in August 2006 where she will work in the laboratory of Professor David Kusner who is the Roy and Lucille Career Professor of Internal Medicine and is a major group in the Inflammation Program at the University of Iowa.

The research will focus on the role of phospholipid D in the membrane re-arrangements in the human macrophage, a cell which is in the front-line of our immune defences against infectious diseases. This project is relevant to both fundamental aspects of macrophage biology, including phagocytosis, adhesion and motility as well as to their application to important medical problems in infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and staphylococcal aureus (golden staph).

Ms Claudia Jurisk

I was just about to finish my PhD in microbiology/immunology at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna when I met Prof. Ralph Nasan at a flow cytometry course in Munich. He invited me to work in Nepean for a couple of months, which I gladly accepted to get some working experience abroad. As soon as got to Australia I really liked the place as well as the people I got to know in the lab, so I decided to extend my stay and started my post-doctoral work in Prof. James Wiley’s group in the field of hematology investigating the purinergic receptor P2X7.

I think Sydney itself is a fantastic city to live in. Coming from Austria I only know the sea from some holidays, which is why Sydney always feels a bit like holidays for me. The sun is shining basically all the time and the variety of weekend activities is huge. On top of that, this place is heaven for an Austrian vegetarian like me, finally I could choose from more than just Schnitzel and Sauerkraut on the menu… So actually led here by coincidence I’m happy I came and got the opportunity to work with some great people in a fantastic spot.

Ms Claudia Jurisk
ALS Instructors Course

In May Marilyn and I attended a conference in Melbourne and completed a day course that accredited both of us as Advanced Life Support Instructors. The course is accredited by ACCCN the national body of Australian College of Critical Care Nurses.

The next two days were the ICE (Institute of Continuing Education for ACCCN members) conference with many interesting subjects. We fast tracked our ALS recertification successfully (not bad after the conference dinner the night before). Some of the most important topics for us were the changes to the practise of ALS and BLS this year. The BLS ratio is now 30 compressions to 2 breaths, a doubling of the compressions and an overall reduction in the number of breaths given per minute. There is also a change to the number of DC-Shocks given; no longer are shocks administered in a stack of three with a progressive increase in amount of joules given; one now gives a single shock with the maximum joules, 360 for Monophasic and 200 for Biphasic defibrillators. The emphasis is on giving effective sustained compressions with limited interruption of compressions to do other procedures. While the changes have been instigated now, it is expected to take time to apply these changes. The important thing is recognising that while one does no harm by applying the old practice the new changes are based on best practise and the most up to date research.

The other interesting sessions included two on simulation as an educational tool. There is a great deal happening in the world of medical education with the use of simulation. This is in part because of the limited practical opportunities with patients but also simulation education has been found to be an excellent complement to medical education in patient care. These days there are a wide range of tools that can be used from the cannulation arm that we all know well, to mannequins worth $500,000 that act as a real life situation (where teams learn both the practical skills and how to function as a team in critical situations), virtual cockpits and trained persons. There are now simulation centres in most Australian states.

We are thankful for the opportunity to attend. As well as gaining valuable knowledge from the information sessions Marilyn and I met some interesting people. In addition, we spent some extra time at the Book stand and brought back some good resources for the Clinical School.

Sarah Morton and Marilyn Reed

Graduation Day

I have been with the Clinical School since 1991 and witnessed the metamorphosis of the medical student program from an undergraduate to a postgraduate program. It was during these busy times that the overseas elective student program has increased steadily over the past 10 years. Nepean Campus has developed a "world class" reputation for its friendly and informal teaching environment and it is very satisfying to see the "Nepean Identity" grow in stature attracting students and staff from all over the world.

Denise Thornhill
Executive Officer

Celebrations on Graduation Day

Photo at right: Graduation Friday 16th June at the Great Hall, 150th Celebrations for Faculty of Medicine, Sydney University. A small group of Nepean Students, some of whom spent time in the Rural Clinical School, Dubbo. Photo from left: DT, Prof Jim Wiley(Sub Dean/Research), Students, Joe Caradese (Acting Associate Dean of the RCS) celebrating the moment.

Ottawa Conference New York 2006

Ottawa is a biennial conference and is considered one of the pre-eminent medical education conferences. The 2006 conference had 1000+ delegates from 50+ countries. The theme was clinical competence, an extensive program contained 400 oral presentations, 200 posters, 5 symposia and 50 workshops over 3&1/2 days.

My attendance was partly sponsored by wentwest the gp training consortium for the western sydney region. this was part of a research fellowship I was granted in 2005.

I attended workshops on the details of feedback and assessment, team based learning methods, alternative frameworks for description of assessment and improved observation of clinical skills through direct observation.

One of the underlying themes throughout the conference was the issue of revamping of medical competence in all practitioners. The need for direct observation to ensure that performance is assessed is being stressed mor and more. this is certainly an area which will probably be reflected in proposed changes to the usyd mp curriculum, especially third year.

I got a sense that we are doing things really well in Australia but do not generate the evidence base pertaining to our educational methods as compared to the UK and USA.

I stayed on in New York for 5 days following the conference and had a wow of a time. We were running here and there to galleries, museums, shops, bars , nightclubs etc from morning till late. The conference was held in Times Square which is an amazing place in itself. I will long remember my experience both academically and culturally and am looking forward to the next Ottawa conference in melbourne in 2008.

Dr Bill Kefalas
Lecturer Discipline of General Practice