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WELCOME

BY PROFESSOR BRUCE ROBINSON, DEAN OF MEDICINE

I am delighted to join with others in welcoming the students who are joining Sydney Medical School in 2010.



PROFESSOR BRUCE ROBINSON
DEAN OF MEDICINE

You are about to commence a Medical Program which we feel is one of the leading medical curricula, not just in Australia but internationally. It has recently been extensively reviewed, with a wide range of changes introduced over the last couple of years which we believe will be of great benefit to you.

You come to us with a range of backgrounds from all over Australia and internationally. Many of you have science or biomedical science backgrounds, but others of you will bring to your classes particular perspectives reflecting your

own life experiences and studies in fields as diverse as the humanities, music, engineering, law, physiotherapy, business and finance. Some of you will have already undertaken several years of employment, either in a health or a non-health-related field. A small but very significant number of you have already undertaken a higher degree and have some research experience. Those of you from overseas will be able to enhance the horizons of your Australian colleagues by giving them the benefit of your knowledge of cultural and health care issues in countries as diverse as Canada, USA, Singapore, Korea, China and Indonesia.

I make the specific mention of those who have a research background. The University of Sydney is, as I am sure you know, one of the Group of Eight research intensive universities in Australia, and we feel increasingly that we would like to offer as many of you as possible a research experience during your Medical Program.

(continued on next page)

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF MEDICINE (CONTINUED)

We also hope that as many of you as possible will have the opportunity to undertake an elective or other term overseas so that your own educational experience is enriched by the conclusions you can draw from working in another health care system. Some of you, I hope, will pursue interest in Indigenous health where Australia, sadly, still has a great deal of ground to make up.

You come to us at an exciting time for Sydney Medical School as we are in the midst of developing a new Strategic Plan. A number of your colleagues are involved in the discussions already under way. Student input into those discussions is very important and I hope that you will feel free to contribute not just to that process but to the other activities of our School as well. There are wide-ranging opportunities for you to comment on your Medical Program; we are constantly evaluating the curriculum and your comments, whether positive or negative, are more than welcome and most important to us.

The delivery of the Medical Program is the responsibility of the Office of Medical Education with Associate Deans responsible for each of the three Stages. One of the Associate Deans, Professor Michael Frommer, is Chair of the Medical Program.

I wish you well in your studies and hope to meet as many as possible of you during your four years with us.

Bruce Robinson

Dean

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF DENTISTRY

BY PROFESSOR CHRIS PECK, DEAN OF DENTISTRY

On behalf of the Faculty of Dentistry, I would like to warmly welcome you to the start of the 2010 academic year.



As you change gears from your summer sojourn to academic activities, let me firstly congratulate all new and returning students. Your decision to undertake a career in the health professions is a major one and your selection into the course is testimony to your commitment to develop and maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.

In the Faculty of Dentistry our purpose is the absolute commitment to the community's health through oral health education, training and intellectual discovery. Integral to this purpose are our University, government, industry and dental profession collaborations.

Importantly we have extremely strong and proud links with Medicine and the other health faculties and this provides a strong basis to consider oral health in the broader context of the entire body and psyche. You will find these links invaluable as you progress through your education and training.

Our Faculty will strive to maximise your potential here at Sydney, and I look forward to meeting each of you as you progress through the course.

PROFESSOR CHRIS PECK, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

COMPASS: A NEW VIEW OF THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM

BY DANIEL BURN

Over the last year, the Medicine IT team and OME have been developing a new way of accessing and managing the medical curriculum on the web. The result is a set of new E-learning applications for students and staff.

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK INTERFACE ON COMPASS

Compass is the new application for managing Learning Objectives and Teaching Activities. It links these together, as well as managing learning resources connected to the curriculum. It allows students and staff to search and browse the curriculum, and gives staff the ability to directly update the parts of the curriculum that they teach.

Events is a new timetabling system which is much more user-friendly for students and staff. It allows staff to see their teaching timetable and links directly to the teaching activities and resources stored in Compass.

STUDENT TIMETABLE ON EVENTS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES SEARCH ON COMPASS

Exambank is also seeing a substantial overhaul, with major user interface changes as well as the ability to link questions directly to the Learning Objectives held in Compass.

Compass and Events are hosted on a new web site, <http://smp.sydney.edu.au/>. As 2010 progresses we will be moving more content and functionality from the GMP website into the new site as well as making continual improvements.

OFFICE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

The Office of Medical Education was established in 2007 as a result of the Curriculum Review. The Office is responsible for the delivery, management and evaluation of the Sydney Medical Program, in particular, the implementation of the review recommendations and the coordination of a standard curriculum in consultation with the University of Sydney clinical schools. It also provides a port of call for student and staff queries regarding the medical program.

Within the Office of Medical Education, several different areas work together to provide an integrated medical program. The three Stage Coordinators work with the Learning and Teaching Support team to ensure the curriculum and teaching activities are up-to-date, innovative and regularly reviewed. The Assessment team coordinates and regulates the various student assessments that take place over the four-year course, and assist key experts and staff in the development of new methods of assessment. The Evaluation team collects valuable feedback on the functioning of the program and how this can be improved in the future. In addition, a variety of staff work to provide the best possible learning experience for students undertaking the program, for example the Indigenous Health Education unit.

For more information on the Office of Medical Education visit <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/ome/>

Do you need support?

Visit the Sydney Medical School student support website at

<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/current-students/student-support/>



SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL

BY DR NARELLE SHADBOLT



While most medical students are happy to have entered a medical program and are looking forward to studying medicine and eventually working as doctors, the beginning can also be a stressful time.

Juggling study, family life, personal interests and confronting clinical experiences can, at times, be too much.

For many students, commencing in the medical program has involved significant disruption and sacrifice. Moving house or even moving to a new country, leaving family and friends, resigning from responsible full-time work and becoming a student again. There may be significant financial and personal stresses for students trying to juggle part-time work and full-time study.

Supporting students to remain healthy and to keep their lives and studies in balance is important in our program. We encourage our students to seek help for issues that may disrupt their studies or their health and wellbeing. As the Associate Dean of Student Support, I oversee this aspect of the program.

The Sub Deans of each year and at each clinical school are integral to student support. Students should approach them by email, phone or in person for guidance.

The Student Support website aims to collect together in one place a range of information that may assist students. This ranges from housing, employment, to health and wellbeing, spirituality and much more. You will be able to find links to services both inside and outside the University. The webpage shows you who to contact if you are having difficulties or need advice. There are also links to University policies and processes if you are struggling with academic progress. You can find the Student Support website at: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/current-students/student-support/>

Your health and well-being matters. Happy, healthy doctors and students are better for patients too.

WHO TO CONTACT AT THE MEDICAL PROGRAM

NAME	POSITION	ROOM	PHONE	EMAIL
STAGE COORDINATORS				
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Jacqueline Wells	Project Support Officer	Room 134 Edward Ford	9351 6296	jacqueline.wells@sydney.edu.au



TEN TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF CLINICAL DAYS

BY DR KIRSTY FOSTER AND ANDREW SUCHOWERSKY

One day a week during the first two years of the course is spent at your clinical school. This is very different from the main campus experience.



FROM LEFT: TARIQ CACHALIA, SAMUEL CONYNGHAM, MICHELLE HALIM AND ELISE COKER

You will have formal bedside tutorials in small groups with doctors who will teach you how to take a medical history and carry out a proficient physical examination.

1. Be professional – dress appropriately (see dress code on the Sydney Medical Program website), look neat, clean and smart and always behave thoughtfully in clinical areas. Most patients in hospital are sick or worried - often both.

2. Be on time for clinical tutorials.

Your tutor has fitted the session into a busy day seeing patients and cannot afford to run late. Occasionally this means that he/she will be held up by an emergency so please be patient and check with them or your clinical school coordinator if your tutor has not arrived within 10-15 minutes of the start time.

3. Appoint one of your group as liaison person. If changes occur, the tutor or education support officer can call this person, who can then pass on the message to the others.
4. Grab as much clinical time as you can. While you are seeing a patient with a clinical tutor, ask if you may go back later. Many patients will enjoy an additional visit and won't mind you taking their medical history or examining them again.
5. Be brave – put yourself out there and participate actively at your clinical school. Observing is good for learning but taking part is better.
6. Remember that as a first year medical student no one expects you to know anything. This will not last! Make the most of it and ask as many questions as you like.
7. Don't neglect campus work - for every hour you spend in the hospital, an hour should be given to revision of the didactic material presented on campus. The learning on the wards is invaluable but you still need to study steadily for barrier exams.
8. Practise practise practise! You cannot learn practical skills from a book. Do not underestimate the power of being actively involved in your own learning.
9. If you are sick or otherwise unable to attend on your clinical day, let your clinical school know as soon as possible and provide documentation. Good communication is an essential part of being a professional.
10. Demonstrate enthusiasm in every clinical day. Showing it beyond the timetabled tutorials will never let you down. It's important to understand that even one full day a week at the hospital does not provide a great deal of exposure to the clinical environment. Using initiative in the time outside timetabled tutorials will optimise your learning opportunities.

STUDENT PROFILE CAM HOLLOWS

BY JAIME COMBER

Cam is a second year medical student in the Sydney Medical Program. He comes from a background of Modern History and Marine Ecology and was inspired to do Medicine when working in the developing world as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. Studying in the Medical Program has given him the opportunity to follow his passion for global health and development through the student organisation GlobalHome.

One of the attractions of the Sydney Medical Program for Cam was the ongoing curriculum review and the focus on group based learning. "It's really exciting doing medicine with all the other graduates because you get to meet people from such a wide range of fields." His advice to new students is "Find a study method that works for you and go the extra mile on your clinical days. Do grand rounds, go in early or go to an extra meeting, because you'll get so much out of it."



MEDSOC (Medical Society)



JON NOONAN
PRESIDENT



EWEN CHEN
TREASURER



NEDA BEIK
VICE PRESIDENT



MINZHI XING
VICE PRESIDENT



SUSANNA LAM
VICE PRESIDENT



NIKETH KURUVILLA
VICE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Sydney University Medical Society (SUMS), less formally known as MedSoc, it is my great pleasure to welcome our new colleagues and returning friends to another year of study.

MedSoc has a long and proud history with foundations beginning in 1886, making us Australia's oldest medical student society. Whether domestic or international, from the city or country, mature-age or straight from your first degree, MedSoc is here to represent you and your interests.

Those interested in becoming more involved should come to our annual general meeting in early March, which is where the majority of positions will be decided. I have already been impressed by the enthusiasm shown by our first year students and I hope to see many of you there.

Your medical education will open doors to opportunities far beyond the scope of most degrees, including research, global health and rural and indigenous health. I strongly encourage you to make use of as many of these as possible to get the most out of your time here.

I wish you the best of luck in your studies and good fortune in the year ahead.

Jon Noonan,
Honorary President of Sydney University Medical Society
jn00175@uni.sydney.edu.au



S.U.D.U.A (Sydney University Dental Association)



KENDALL JAMES
PRESIDENT, SUDUA

On behalf of S.U.D.U.A I would like to congratulate the newly convoking dental and medical students. As one of the oldest student associations in the University of Sydney, S.U.D.U.A is committed to making your four years as enjoyable and as stress-free as we possible can.

This year we have restructured the S.U.D.U.A constitution to incorporate committees. These will be responsible for academic, international, clinical and year book matters, as well as e-learning and the planning of social, athletic, and service activities. All committees and their respective representatives are devoted to helping the Sydney Bachelor of Dentistry become a world class program. We welcome any suggestions.

If you are new to the Faculty of Dentistry and are interested in getting involved, nominations for office and elections will all take place in the first few weeks of the academic year. We look forward to representing you during 2010. Good luck and remember to enjoy your year and get involved.

Kendall W James,
President of Sydney University Dental Association
kendall.james@sydney.edu.au.



RAMESH SIVABALAN
SECRETARY



ALEX ANTHONY
TREASURER

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2010

STAGE 1		STAGE 2		STAGE 3 (YEARS 3 AND 4)	
Block 1	Fri 12 February - Thurs 22 April	Block 6	Fri 12 February - Fri 7 May	Term A/Term F	Mon 25 January - Fri 19 March
Block 2	Mon 3 May - Thurs 24 June	Block 7	Fri 7 May - Fri 16 July	Term B/Term G	Mon 22 March - Fri 14 May
Block 3	Mon 5 July - Thurs 19 August	Block 8	Fri 16 July - Fri 13 August	Term C/Term H	Mon 24 May - Fri 16 July
Block 4	Mon 30 August - Fri 1 October	Block 9	Fri 13 August - Fri 24 September	Term D/Term I	Mon 26 July - Fri 17 September
Block 5	Mon 12 October - Thurs 18 November	Block 10	Mon 4 Oct - Fri 5 November	Term E/Term J (PrInt)	Mon 11 October - Fri 3 December

ASSESSMENT DATES

ALL STUDENTS MUST VISIT THE ASSESSMENT PAGE FOR THEIR STAGE ON THE MEDICAL PROGRAM WEBSITE (WWW.GMP.USYD.EDU.AU)

STAGE 1		STAGE 2		STAGE 3 (YEARS 3 AND 4)	
Exam	Date	Exam	Date	Exam	Date
Written Required Formative Assessment (RFA)	Tues 27 April	Anatomy Spot Test Required Formative Assessment (RFA)	Week of 3 May	Year 3 Written Summative Assessment	Week of 27 September
Anatomy/Pathology Practical RFA	Week of 10 May	Anatomy/Pathology Practical RFA	Week of 21 June	Year 4 Summative Long Case Assessment	Mon 16 August to Fri 27 August
Required Summative Assessment	Fri 20 August	Written RFA	Fri 25 June	Written Summative Assessment	Week of 27 September
Required Formative OSCE	Wed 22 Sept	Anatomy/Pathology Practical RFA	Week of 20 September	Please note that there are additional assessments in the Specialty Blocks	
Haematology RFA	Fri 1 October	Summative OSCE	Tues 16 and Wed 17 November		
Anatomy/Pathology Practical RFA	Week of 15 November	Summative Written Assessment	Mon 29 and Tues 30 November		
Stex Written Assessment	Thurs 25 November	Summative Anatomy/Pathology Practical	Week of 29 November		
Summative Anatomy/Pathology Practical	Week of 22 November				

SYDNEY MEDICAL SCHOOL



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

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