



Northern Clinical School Faculty of Medicine – University of Sydney

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

Say Hello to ARCHI: Cutting Edge Imaging at NCS

The University-owned Siemens 3T MRI scanner, affectionately named ARCHI (Advanced Research & Clinical High-field Imaging), is the only dedicated research scanner in Australia.



Dr Jim Lagopoulos and Professor Gin Malhi

This facility is based at Royal North Shore Hospital within the Northern Clinical School, and is now operational and conducting world-class research. The unit has been launched in recent months with support from the Faculty of Medicine, and with the injection of infrastructure and expertise from on-site researchers in the Department of Psychological Medicine. An Executive Committee to manage the facility has been formed, consisting of Professor Gin Malhi, Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine, along with Dr Jim Lagopoulos, Senior Lecturer in Neuroimaging, and Associate Dean, Professor Michael Field, who have

managed to secure the future of high-field MRI at Northern. The Scientific Committee assesses research proposals, and is chaired by Associate Professor Dale Bailey. Current projects underway include studies in the neuropsychiatry of bipolar disorder, in the structural changes of osteoarthritis, and in central mechanisms of pain.

Under the new research model, the facility provides unprecedented access to researchers interested in conducting high-resolution proton spectroscopy and functional MRI studies. Dr Lagopoulos and Professor Malhi are also hoping to be able to offer the latest in multi-modal imaging and diffusion tensor imaging in the near future, and have already attracted a number of groups interested in conducting imaging research.

Vicki Campbell
Department of Psychological Medicine

Research and Education Building – an update

The Research and Education Building at Royal North Shore Hospital, to be officially named the Kolling Building, is expected to be ready for occupation by late 2008, and preparation for the major move of staff from their current outdated premises has begun.

Planning is also well underway for the temporary relocation of some staff from the old buildings due for demolition to another site, pending construction of the new acute hospital on the vacated site.

The Kolling Building has recently been inspected by small groups of staff from the

Clinical School who were given a tour of some of the new facilities. Early impressions are of an elegant internal design, and a breathtaking aspect over the surrounding area. A spacious new medical library at ground level, and a modern auditorium, tutorial rooms, and skills, simulation and communication teaching facilities are highlights of the lower floors. Researchers are looking forward to the opportunity of making preliminary inspections of the laboratory spaces and offices on the higher floors in the near future.

Right: A progress picture of The Kolling Building under construction taken 26 March 2008



Associate Professor in Surgical Oncology

ANDREW SPILLANE has recently been appointed Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology at the NCS.

This new position has been created with the generous support of the Friends of the Mater Hospital, together with a contribution from Royal North Shore Hospital. This appointment is across both the Mater and RNSH campuses and is intended to consolidate and enhance the academic standing of surgical oncology at both institutions.

Andrew completed his medical degree at the University of Tasmania. After completing his general surgical training at Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, he had extensive training

and experience in the management of breast cancer, melanoma and soft tissue tumours during a fellowship at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. During that time, he completed the research on his MD thesis on soft tissue sarcomas. He has been working at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in the Breast Unit and Sydney Melanoma Unit for the last 8 years. With the co-location of the SMU in the vicinity of the Mater Hospital, this new position has created an opportunity to develop a multidisciplinary melanoma and sarcoma service at the RNSH as well as contributing to the breast oncology services.

Andrew is actively involved in promoting clinical trial involvement by surgeons, as well as being involved and highly productive

in clinical and translational research on aspects of breast cancer and melanoma management. He brings with him a team of clinical researchers to the area. Included amongst his commitments to enhancing high quality multidisciplinary care for cancer patients, he is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the RACS Breast Section and the COSA Breast Interest Group chair.



Assoc Professor Andrew Spillane

Dr Louise Nash resigns

The Northern Clinical School places on record its appreciation of the many contributions to Academic Psychiatry in the School made over the past 7 years by Dr Louise Nash, who resigned in January this year to take up new professional opportunities. Louise was an integral part of the teaching of Psychological Medicine for the Clinical School and coordinated the educational program in that discipline for many years. She also played an important role in helping with the assessment and support of students experiencing distress in their personal life, and had a research interest in practitioner stress. We thank her for her work with us, and wish her well for the next stage in her career.

Dr Alan Ferrier remembered

Staff and students of the Northern Clinical School were greatly saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Dr Alan Ferrier in December last year. Dr Ferrier was a valued teacher in the Perinatal and Women's Health Rotation. He will be greatly missed.

Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Psychological Medicine

DR LISA LAMPE has recently been appointed Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Psychological Medicine at Northern Clinical School.



Lisa completed her undergraduate medical degree at the University of Western Australia, and was in the Family Medicine Program for a few years before joining the psychiatry training program.

She moved to Sydney as a Senior Registrar in Psychiatry in 1992 to work at the Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUFAD) at St Vincent's Hospital. Her strong interest in cognitive behaviour therapy was amplified by working in this mixed research and clinical unit with many psychologist colleagues. Her research and clinical interests include social phobia, generalised anxiety disorder, epidemiology, cognitive neuroscience and cognitive therapy. More recently she has also undertaken training in Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy and is interested in researching the benefits of these therapies in anxiety disorders.

Lisa has always had a strong interest in teaching and is a much sought-after trainer in CBT skills for GPs and trainees, registrars and psychiatrists. While at CRUFAD Lisa was appointed Lecturer in Psychiatry at UNSW with principal responsibility for the Master of Psychological Medicine program, a post-graduate degree for GPs. She is co-author of a major textbook on anxiety disorders and has also written books for a general audience, as well as appearing in numerous educational videos. She is a frequent contributor to professional educational journals.

"Lisa has always had a strong interest in teaching and is a much sought-after trainer in CBT skills for GPs and trainees, registrars and psychiatrists."

From 1994 Lisa combined her work at CRUFAD with a busy part-time private psychiatry practice in Cremorne, which she maintained until feeling ready for a change in 2006. After a break to travel overseas, followed by a series of interesting positions around Australia as a Locum Psychiatrist, she is looking forward to her new position, the revised medical curriculum, and stimulating and productive collaboration with her new colleagues.

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

PROFESSOR WARWICK GILES was recently been appointed **Conjoint Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Northern Clinical School**. He will be an active clinician and teacher in this discipline at **Royal North Shore Hospital**, and will be closely associated with the **Perinatal Research Group** headed by **Professor Jonathan Morris**.

During the past 24 years his research interests have concentrated on maternal fetal medicine. Initially working in the team of Professor Brian Trudinger at Westmead Hospital, he completed work on placental blood flow and umbilical artery Doppler ultrasound flow velocity waveforms as the basis of his PhD studies. Professor Giles' work included a major interest in Doppler studies in multiple pregnancies, which has been presented at national and international scientific meetings and extensively published. He has also been a speaker at meetings in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and the USA. He has held Visiting Academic



Professor Warwick Giles

positions in a number of international centres: in the Division of Women's and Children's Health at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England, in 2005, at the University of Hawaii in 2006, and at the University of Siena, Italy, in 2007.

His recent appointments were in Newcastle, NSW, where he held the positions of Director

of Obstetrics and Chairperson of the Division of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and then Director the Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit of the Division of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, at the John Hunter Hospital. There he pursued and broadened his interests in perinatal and ultrasound research, gaining grant support from NHMRC and other bodies.

In addition to his research interests, Professor Giles is active in clinical and managerial roles in the subspecialty of maternal fetal medicine in New South Wales and Australia. He is Chairperson of the NSW Department of Health Genetic Services Advisory Committee Subcommittee on Prenatal Diagnosis, and ex-chairperson of the NSW Health Perinatal Services Network High Risk Obstetric Advisory Group, and a senior examiner with the Australian Medical Council and the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists where he was Chief Examiner in Maternal Fetal Medicine until 2007.

Other Academic Appointments and Promotions

Cojoint Appointments

The following appointments to conjoint academic positions have been made since our last newsletter:

DR MICHAEL BACK as Associate Professor in Radiation Oncology.

DR HELEN YOUNG as Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics.

DR THOMAS EADE as Lecturer in Radiation Oncology.



Associate Professor Michael Back

Clinical Academic Titles

The following clinical academic titles have been awarded to staff of the Northern Clinical School:

DR KRISTINE BARLOW-STEWART as Clinical Associate Professor in Genetics Education.

DR RODNEY BABER as Clinical Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



Clinical Associate Professor Kristine Barlow-Stewart

DR ROSS HANSEN as Clinical Associate Professor in Gastroenterology.

DR RICHARD LEE as Clinical Associate Professor in Intensive Care.

DR ANDREW BROADBENT as Clinical Senior Lecturer in Palliative Care.

DR AMELIA HILL as Clinical Senior Lecturer in Psychological Medicine.

DR RAPHAEL CHAN as Clinical Senior Lecturer in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

DR SARAH OVERTON as Clinical Lecturer in Pain Management.

DR ANDREW RATCHFORD as Clinical Lecturer in Emergency Medicine at Mona Vale.

DR JOHN VASSILIADIS as Clinical Lecturer in Emergency Medicine at RNSH.

DR MICHELE FRANKS as Clinical Lecturer in Emergency Medicine at Manly Hospital.

Promotions

JAMES MIDDLETON in the Rehabilitation Studies Unit at Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney has been promoted to Associate Professor.

GREG KING has been promoted to Associate Professor in Respiratory Medicine.

Annual Tutor Farewell

In another annual tradition, the Northern Clinical School holds a function each year to farewell those tutors who are retiring or leaving their positions. In September 2007, the

School honoured a number of our long-serving tutors, including Professor Chris Tennant from Department of Psychological Medicine, Clinical Associate Professor Garth Leslie from the Department of Neonatology, and Dr Lynda Dayan from the Department of Sexual Health. We wish them all well in their future endeavours.



L to R: Dr Jeff Streimer, Prof Chris Tennant and Prof Michael Field.



L to R: Clinical Associate Prof Garth Leslie and Prof Michael Field.

Postgraduate Study Options from a distance: Learning more about managing pain

Postgraduate coursework distance education programs are becoming an increasingly popular study option for health professionals following their registration.

These programs often address relevant, and sometimes niche, areas of study. Their targeted focus, combined with the flexible delivery approach, enable students to tailor learning according to their own specific needs and aspirations. The distance mode also provides students with a structured and supported framework, which helps them to better manage learning alongside other commitments.

A good example of this type of program is the Graduate Study Program in Pain Management offered by the Pain Management Research Institute (PMRI) based in the Northern Clinical School at Royal North Shore Hospital. The high profile nature of the PMRI, supported by the expertise of the teaching staff (educators, clinical specialists and scientists), has meant that the program is innovative, up-to-date and built on cutting edge basic and clinical research with a strong focus on relevance to practice. Students can enter and exit the program at the level of Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters. All students complete the core units, covering pain mechanisms and principles, and those continuing to Diploma

and Masters level choose 2 and 4 electives respectively, from a range of units including pain in different age groups, cancer pain, regional pain syndromes and complementary therapies in pain management.

The program was the first of its kind to be offered in Australasia and one of the first postgraduate programs in pain management to be offered worldwide. Since its establishment in 1996, over 200 students have graduated and 77 are currently enrolled. Students, both local and international, are drawn from a range of discipline areas including medicine, general practice, anaesthetics, psychology, physiotherapy, nursing, dentistry, rehabilitation and palliative care.

Recently the program was licensed to the University of Edinburgh and the University of California, San Francisco. These universities are delivering the program through their institutions to students in Europe and North



L to R: Ros Wyllie (Administrative Officer), Associate Professor Philip Siddall (Director, Pain Education), Elizabeth Devonshire (Materials Development Co-ordinator), Grace Tague (Student/Staff Liaison).

America. A similar arrangement is currently being negotiated with the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines. We are hopeful that this next stage of the program development will make the course more available to students in developing countries in South East Asia.

Enquiries are welcome from anyone interested in learning more about the program. Further information is available on our course website www.ipep.edu.au

Dr Liz Devonshire
*Senior Lecturer,
Pain Management Research Institute*

PReSS update

The 2008 AGM of PReSS (the Postgraduate Research Students Society) was held on the 17th March, where the handover of the society's committee members took place and the society's achievements for 2007 were highlighted. In 2007 the society launched the PReSS online forum for students, completed the PReSS Handbook and organised several workshops, social events and the annual getaway for students.

A special presentation also took place at the AGM. PReSS acknowledged the generous contribution of Professor Michael Field by awarding him with the 'Best Dean Ever Award'. Thank you for your kind support and commitment.

The incoming committee would like to thank the 2007 committee members: Laura Castelnoble (President), Inga Mertens (Vice President), Rozhin Asghari (Secretary), Ian Napier (Treasurer), Ellein Mreich (Seminars Co-ordinator), Ben Lau (Getaway Co-ordinator), Dania Yaghobian Azari (Social Co-ordinator) and Patricia Chan (Medical/Library Rep) for their support and commitment to RNSH students.

Moving into the new research building will prove to be an exciting year for students on campus. PReSS hopes to have a central gathering area for students to rewind and relax. Furthermore,

we will see the introduction of an additional seminar prize as voted by you, the students! Students presenting in our seminar series will receive a 'gratuity' gift. The 2008 committee is also looking into changing our Getaway theme to incorporate a more stimulating team building day out. These will run alongside our original activities such as workshops, pizza lunches and BBQs. If anyone has any suggestion as to how we can make 2008 a more enjoyable and fulfilling year please do not hesitate to contact PReSS.

Ellein Mreich
President, PReSS

The elected PReSS committee members for 2008 are:

Ellein Mreich – President	Dania Yaghobian Azari – Seminars Co-ordinator
Rozhin Asghari – Vice President	Cindy Pon and Nicole Caixeiro – Social Co-ordinator
Marika Heblinski – Secretary	Vanessa Yenson – Getaway Co-ordinator
Ben Lau – Treasurer	

Perinatal Research Group expands

The Perinatal Research Group, a Research Group of the Kolling Institute, headed by Professors Jonathan Morris and Eileen Gallery, expanded last year to include a Clinical and Population Health Division, directed by Dr Christine Roberts. The existing perinatal research program now extends from the laboratory and bedside to epidemiologic and population health research.

Population health aims to improve the health of an entire population, and in the case of perinatal research the population of interest is mothers and their babies. Population health seeks to step beyond the individual-level focus of clinical medicine by addressing a broad range of factors that impact health on a population-level, such as the availability of maternity care.

The new population health staff include: NHMRC post-doctoral fellows Jane Ford, Ruth Hadfield and Natasha Nassar; Associate Lecturers Charles Algert and Jane Bell; and Research Officers Sam Lain and Camille Raynes-Greenow. They join the growing clinical research staff that includes: Kate Levett (Trial Coordinator); Research Midwives Jill Milligan, Kristen Rickard, Jocelyn Sedgley and Sally Woodhead; and Professor Warwick Giles (see profile in this issue of the Newsletter).

The perinatal population health team bring an established track record to the Northern Clinical School with over \$2.7M in competitive funding (project and people) and over 50 peer-reviewed publications in the last 5 years. They were successful in the most recent round of NHMRC funding



with a longitudinal record linkage study aimed at identifying risks for second and subsequent pregnancies.

The team addresses the National Research Priority of 'A Healthy Start to Life'. The aim is to improve the health and well-being of mothers and their babies by using population health data to examine pregnancy outcomes, health service delivery, support health care decisions and policy making, and monitor the uptake of evidence-based practice. A major component of this research is determining to what extent women and babies are delivering in risk-appropriate hospitals or whether there is room for improvement through increased transfer of at-risk pregnancies to higher levels of care. Population health data are also used to identify potentially modifiable associations between pregnancy conditions and outcomes and subsequent health and disease. For example a study published in the Medical Journal of Australia in October determined the probability of postpartum haemorrhage recurrence in 2nd and 3rd pregnancies and examined health policy implications. Other current research

activities include examining changes in the use of analgesia and anaesthesia for childbirth, trends in infant size, assessing the validity of population health data, developing a standard definition of major maternal morbidity and assessing the health policy which requires that infants with antenatally identifiable congenital anomalies be delivered at hospitals with co-located paediatric surgical units.

The group are establishing collaborative projects at NCS with colleagues in obstetrics, neonatology, anaesthesia and pain management, and endocrine and renal disease. A particularly exciting new initiative is a project that capitalises on the breadth of the Perinatal Research Group by utilising population health data and methods to evaluate the clinical usefulness of a new serum screening test to predict pregnancy complications developed by the biomedical team.

Dr Christine Roberts

Director, Clinical and Population Health Division, Perinatal Research Group

New attachment in Northern Rivers

During 2008, third year medical students from Northern Clinical School will have the opportunity to gain clinical experience in general medicine and general surgery

at Grafton Base Hospital in the beautiful Clarence Valley. The 103 bed hospital serves a population of 50,000 with a range of health services.



During their four week surgical attachment, students will have the opportunity to talk with and examine patients admitted for surgical procedures, and to assist surgeons and anaesthetists in the operating theatre and clinicians in the emergency department. The hospital also engages visiting ophthalmic and ear, nose and throat surgeons who are keen

to teach. On the general medical placement, students will see a wide range of patients with both acute and chronic medical conditions. Dr Sagarika Attudawage, staff specialist in general medicine who has recently arrived in Grafton from Brisbane, is looking forward to running bedside tutorials with medical students.

Jane Nicholls, student coordinator (and also infection control nurse) at the hospital, is eager to welcome students. Hospital accommodation is provided to students on placement, and facilities include a library, computer and internet access, as well as an outdoor swimming pool for cooling off after a busy day on the wards.

Dr Kirsty Foster

Senior Lecturer in Medical Education

Northern Clinical School Staff Update



SONIA TAIT RETIRES

After almost 10 years with the Northern Clinical School at Manly Hospital, Sonia Tait has retired due to ill health.

Sonia has been on a period of leave since January 2008, and has just formally announced her retirement. Sonia has been a hard-working and invaluable member of the NCS team and will be missed by staff and students alike. One of Sonia's Med 1 student groups from 2005 (now current Med 4) commented that Sonia taught them a great deal – not only in terms of clinical skills, but in how to be good and caring medical students and future doctors. The Clinical School wishes Sonia good

health as soon as possible, so that she can enjoy her retirement.

Clare Barwick has been working along side Sonia Tait since July 2007, and will continue on in her role as Clinical Skills Coordinator. Clare has a background in General Nursing and moved to Australia in 1988 from UK. She has moved around a lot in Australia and lived overseas as her husband has had a career in the army. Clare moved to Sydney 2 years ago from Melbourne where she worked for the Medical Faculty at Monash University. Before working at Manly campus, Clare was a Clinical Coordinator and Educator at the Western Clinical School.



TRUDY GETS MARRIED!

The lovely Trudy Neven married Gary Henson on the 25 November 2007 in Port Stephens.

Their wedding was attended by their immediate family and was a great surprise for her work colleagues who were kept in the dark! We wish them a wonderful future together.

Trudy's role in the Clinical School office is focussed on arranging the program for our Med 1 students. Her new email is trudyh@med.usyd.edu.au

CLINICAL SKILLS CENTRE

Jenny Ludeman joined the Northern Clinical Skills Centre in March 2008 as the USydmP Skills Coordinator. Jenny comes to the Centre with experience in general nursing and Midwifery and has a background in Clinical Education and Training in the Corporate Health Sector. Jenny replaces Kate Brown who had a 12 month appointment with the Centre. Kate has now moved to Perth, travelling there via Nepal where she spent 2 weeks volunteering as a scrub nurse in a children's burns unit.

Saniya Hameed gave birth to a baby boy, Isaac on 17 January 2008. Both mum and baby are doing well. During Saniya's maternity leave, her position will be covered by Kate Drabsch.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS OFFICER POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

Ryan Kirgan, who had been with us in 2007 on temporary contract in the role of Computer Systems Officer, has completed his 12 months at Northern, and the position is currently being filled on an interim basis by Vijay Basetti.

As our IT support needs have grown with the increasing size and complexity of the School, we intend to advertise this position and also a second CSO job in the near future, planning to fill both positions well in advance of our move into the new Research & Education Building.

Medical student's engaging experience!

Recent graduate Sarah-Beth Emerson met Tanzanian medical student Magambo while on her medical elective at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in January last year.

After finishing his medical studies, Magambo came to visit Sarah-Beth in Australia in September 2007 whilst completing an elective in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Northern Clinical School. They became engaged in October last year and will marry in 2008 in the Blue Mountains. They plan to live between the two countries over the next few years.



NEW ELECTIVES COORDINATOR



Kelly Bird was appointed as the Electives Coordinator for the School in July 2007.

Before this appointment, Kelly worked for a natural therapies college for four years managing the student training clinic. Kelly is studying for two degrees in the health field, and is a keen scuba diver in her leisure hours.

Kelly manages the needs of overseas elective students seeking placement in the facilities of the School. Information on our Electives program can be found on the Clinical School website www.northern.med.usyd.edu.au, or by contacting Kelly directly on kbird@med.usyd.edu.au

Medical Students have a simulating experience

During 2007, NCS medical students participated in simulation-based training, using training technologies at the Sydney Medical Simulation Centre.

HARVEY HELPS WITH CARDIOVASCULAR ASSESSMENT SKILLS

Year 1 students met HARVEY last year during their cardiovascular block. Harvey is manikin simulator enhanced with highly realistic features which are relevant to cardiovascular examination. By simply pressing a button, Harvey can transform from being a normal patient to exhibit features of more than 30 different cardiac conditions, ranging from commonly occurring syndromes (e.g. innocent murmurs, congestive cardiac failure) through to rarer congenital (Tetralogy of Fallot) and acquired (pericardial tamponade) conditions.

Developed by a US cardiologist, Dr Michael Gordon and co-workers, Harvey enables students to learn a systematic approach to a CVS examination and appreciate the nuance of signs in various disease states. These include peripheral and carotid pulses, jugular venous pressure, palpable precordial signs and auscultated heart sounds, murmurs, and breath sounds. More experienced students interpret constellations of signs to arrive at their diagnoses. This technology provides easy access to clinical encounters which enhance ward-based learning. Harvey's fidelity is so high he is now routinely used in vocational specialist examinations in North America.

CRITICAL CARE AND PATIENT SAFETY TRAINING

Year 3 students now come to the Centre for half a day during their Critical Care Integrated Clinical Attachments. This session aims to integrate themes of clinical skills and patient safety, drawing on situations relevant to

critical care environments such as the emergency department, intensive care and operating theatres. The sessions focusses on the life-threatening situation that occurs when an endotracheal tube, used for mechanical ventilation, is inadvertently malpositioned in a patient's oesophagus, subsequently compromising ventilation of their lungs.

The students first learn the normal procedure for endotracheal intubation and a systematic method for confirming the correct position of the endotracheal tube. The teaching method used was developed as part of an Honours project conducted in 2005 by a former GMP student, Joanna Glover, in collaboration with the SMSC. Next, the students explore why health professionals make errors, like oesophageal intubation, and the relationship between human error and system error. Having identified this serious complication, the students develop their ability to speak up and raise concern with their team-mates, using a technique familiar to pilots, called 'Graded assertiveness'. Finally they put it all together in a highly realistic emergency involving an oesophageal intubation. The case is conducted on a patient simulator, who is known affectionately as Simon. Our experience with post-graduate doctors indicates that scenarios enable to students to consolidate and apply their learning in a 'real world' context. The students gave these sessions nearly full marks in their evaluations.



Perhaps most enlightening are their comments:

"It was awesome. Thanks."

"Because we went through each step sequentially... I feel the information will stick."

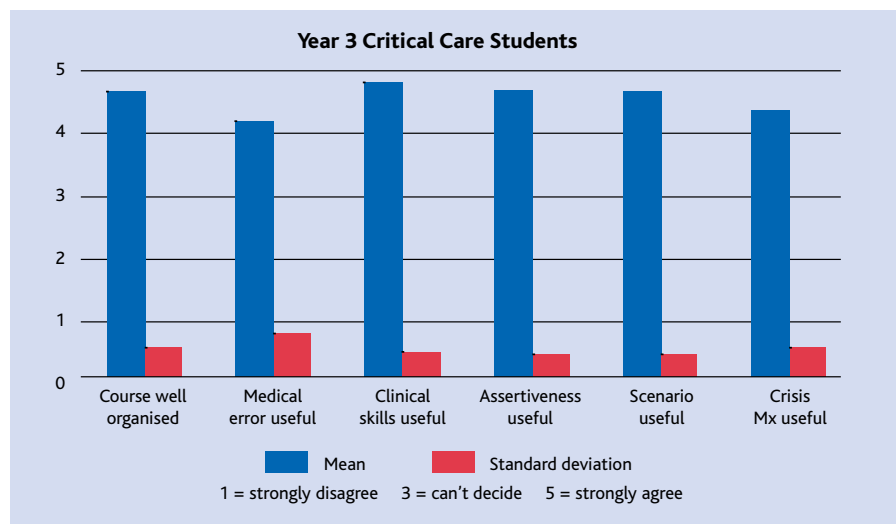
"Clinical scenarios are a great way of demonstrating and practicing the concepts discussed."

"I feel more comfortable in communicating my concerns."

Simulation-based training is now mainstream in undergraduate nursing and postgraduate medical education. The main technologies are manikin systems such as featured in this story, computer-based virtual reality and box trainers. The latter two are commonly used for procedural training. Synthetic learning environments are an ideal way of addressing some of the challenges of competency development as they allow practice before actual patient encounters, provide alternatives to real patients for conditions that are encountered infrequently, and give students and tutors space and time to allow learning to progress at its own pace, rather than competing with clinical service delivery. Recently, simulation has appeared in the curricula of a number of local and international medical schools.

The Northern Clinical School contributed to the purchase of Harvey and is leading the way with simulation training in NSW.

Stephanie O'Regan,
Simulation Coordinator, SMSC
Leonie Watterson,
Director, SMSC



Northern Teachers – High Achievers!

THE NORTHERN CLINICAL SCHOOL EXTENDS ITS CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE HIGH PROFILE TEACHERS.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR FRAN BOYLE was acknowledged in the Australia Day Honours earlier this year with an AM 'for service to oncology as a researcher and clinician, particularly in the treatment of breast and brain cancers, to medical education, and as a contributor to professional organisations'. Fran coordinates oncology teaching within Northern Clinical School, and is Director of the Patricia Ritchie Centre for Cancer Care and Research at The Mater Hospital, North Sydney.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LYN MARCH is nearing the end of her 3 year term as President of the Australian Rheumatology Association. She has also recently been appointed as the Expert Group Leader for Musculoskeletal Disorders in the Global Burden of Disease Project, an international collaboration between the WHO in Geneva and several international universities. We are fortunate to have Lyn as the coordinator of Evidence-Based Medicine teaching in the USydMP at Northern Clinical School.



PROFESSOR LEIGH DELBRIDGE has received the Award for Excellence in Surgery from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. One of these awards is made each year, generally reflecting a significant ongoing contribution to surgical research from a group within Australasia. As such, the award really is a tribute to the contribution made over the past few years by the University of Sydney Endocrine Surgical Unit based in the Northern Clinical School, recognizing the unit's significant international standing in the area of thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal surgery.



Prize Winners

Each year the Northern Clinical School holds a Prize Ceremony to award our highest-achieving students and most acclaimed tutors for their efforts in the previous year. In March 2008, the prizes were awarded as follows:

STUDENT PRIZES

RNSH Medal	Matti Gild
KDMA Award	Davina Julliard and Liz Shaw
Medical Staff Council Award	Alison Ritchie
Fagan Memorial Surgery Award	Joe Isaacs
Graham Coupland Award	Romy Busbridge
Dermatology Prize	Joshua Steadson
Dr Ian Black Memorial Award	Levi Bassin



Dr Matti Gild accepts her award from Ms. Mary Bonner, General Manager, RNS & Ryde Health Service.



L to R: Dr Davina Julliard, Dr John Beattie, President of the Kuring-gai District Medical Association and Dr Liz Shaw

TEACHING PRIZES

PaLMS Excellence in Teaching Award
Dr Rory Clifton-Bligh

Best Registrar Teacher
Dr Mustafa Khasraw

Best Med 1 Clinical Tutor
Dr John Morgan

Best Med 2 Clinical Tutor
Dr Katie Ellard

MED 3

Best Medical Supervisor Dr Michael Wu (Mona Vale)

Best Surgical Supervisor Dr Michael Neale

MED 4

Best Child & Adolescent Health Teacher Dr Carola Wittekind

Best Community Practice Teacher Dr Fiona Robinson (Hornsby)

Best Perinatal & Women's Health Teacher Dr Martin Kluckow

Best Psychological Medicine Teacher Professor Roger Bartrop

Best Clinical Skills Teacher Ms Susie Broughton



Dr Rory Clifton-Bligh with Professor Leslie Burnett, Director of PaLMS.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE PRIZE

Joe Isaacs was also awarded the prestigious Arthur Edward Mills Prize of the Faculty of Medicine, to acknowledge his MBBS Honours work which has been published in the Annals of Surgery, the top-ranked surgical journal in the world. Congratulations to Joe!

The Clinical School has a new web address. Please update your link to our site: www.northern.med.usyd.edu.au

NEWSLETTER CREDITS

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