

Message from the Dean

Welcome to the first UWS School of Medicine Newsletter. The School is progressing at a swift pace and we intend to have regular communiqués in the future.

First of all I would like to thank the UWS staff and management as well as members of the community who have been so helpful and positive about the School of Medicine. We welcome your continued input.

It has been a busy few months with the design competition for the School of Medicine facility and consultations with Government at all levels, but we are making great progress as you will see from the articles inside this newsletter.

Professor Ian Wilson, Professor of Medical Education commenced employment with us in November 2005, he has extensive experience in medical education and administration.



We are now moving on to recruit more key staff, and beginning the process of fitting the licensed curriculum (see page 3) into the early years of our course.

An important milestone in 2006 will be the visit of the accreditation team from the Australian Medical Council in May.

Professor Neville Yeomans
Foundation Dean of Medicine

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Lyons wins Design Competition

The School of Medicine facility development at Campbelltown has progressed to design stage. Capital Works and Facilities organised a design competition for

the new facility through the Australian Institute of Architects. Four architect groups out of 16 who expressed an interest, were chosen to compete. The winner

was Lyons, a Melbourne based firm. (UWS is also working with Lyons on its Parramatta Teaching Building).

Special points of interest:

- Successfully passed Stage 1 of the Australian Medical Council Accreditation process.
- Key decisions about the School finalised
- Curriculum partner chosen
- Student selection details



Front view of School of Medicine Facility from Goldsmith Avenue

Mission and Objectives

The UWS School of Medicine **mission** is to create a school of international repute that educates highly skilled and adaptable medical graduates. They will be well equipped to move to the next stage of their training as Interns, and for eventual practice in a wide range of situations; and many will have acquired an enduring commitment to the health and population of Western Sydney and nearby under-serviced areas.

The School of Medicines' **objectives** are:

- to educate competent and adaptable medical practitioners with a strong learning ethic based on a sound platform that will equip them well for their further training and future roles as doctors; and
- to contribute to the medical workforce growth in NSW and the retention of doctors in Western Sydney; and

- to enhance the quality and accessibility of health care across Western Sydney by providing service where there is most need and by boosting the research effort in Sydney's South West particularly, but across Western Sydney more generally.

Innovation and Emphasis

The School will grasp the opportunity to break some new ground in medical education, especially during the clinical clerkship years, in a number of areas that fit with its explicit goals.

Learning that stimulates students to understand and follow the patient journey between secondary and tertiary hospitals and between hospitals and general practitioners and the community will be a feature of the curriculum. There will be an emphasis also on learning in the general practice environment and an elective term for which students will be encouraged to immerse

themselves in an area of remote or international health care.

Team teaching with other health professionals will help students to appreciate the importance of effective health teams and their drivers for success. The University is well placed to carry this out because of its large School of Nursing and its courses in Allied Health.

In keeping with most modern medical courses, the UWS course will emphasise communication skills, the central importance of being able to practise in an evidence-supported manner, and development of skills for life-long learning. These are skills and attributes that were particularly emphasised during the School's consultations with the community.

Progress

In July 2005 the School of Medicine successfully passed Stage 1 of the Australian Medical Council Accreditation process. We have completed our Stage 2 Submission, which must be sent to the Australian Medical Council by early February 2006. A delegation from the AMC will visit UWS in May 2006 to view our progress and talk with key stakeholders.

Federal and State local members have been vocal in their support. All have put considerable effort into communicating with the Vice-Chancellor and offering continued assistance. The NSW Government appoints a Minister for Western Sydney, and the opportunity that a Medical School offers to such a Region is greatly valued.

Some of the most significant decisions made recently include:

- The main School of Medicine "base" will be **built at Campbelltown campus**. This will include medical research facilities.

- UWS will make **significant staffing input at Campbelltown/Camden Hospital** to foster excellence in health service delivery and use the untapped teaching/research potential

- **Co-location with the proposed Health Research Institute NSW** is critical for attracting clinical academics and post graduate trainees. UWS will aim to create a research and clinical precinct at Liverpool. Focus of research here is likely to be non-laboratory based research, but the details are yet to be worked through.

- A **focus particularly on GWS students**. UWS will build the future GWS medical workforce.

- **Medical student numbers in clinical settings will double** across the greater west of Sydney from 2009 onwards. A multi-site model is required for student clinical placement across current teaching facilities where we aim to share with the University of NSW and University of Sydney, whose students are also in the Region.

- **Collaboration** with other universities and Area Health services will be pursued for service improvement, research synergies and creation of workforce critical mass

- **Taking advantage of interdisciplinary teaching**. UWS is well placed to team-teach nursing, allied health and medical students;

- A commitment to ensuring the new School of Medicine benefits UWS's other disciplines as well as creates on-campus synergies.

Outline of Curriculum

UWS has decided that the best fit to its goals and its desired educational objectives for years 1-2 of the 5 year curriculum will be achieved by partnership with The University of Melbourne (Melbourne). The later years of the curriculum will be largely designed 'in house' against the now extensive, research base which UWS has gathered on what engages higher education students in productive learning and the results of evaluation research on medical education programs within and beyond Australia.

The learning designs for years 3-5 will be informed by working and benchmarking with members of the

medical education units at The University of Sydney and The University of New South Wales (the two other main providers across metropolitan Sydney). UWS will also continue working with The University of Melbourne on the themes in the UWS curriculum that go across the whole 5 years.

In addition to the provision of extensive curriculum materials of high quality, Melbourne has offered substantial academic support for tailoring the curriculum to the UWS needs; for training of tutors; specialty teaching, advising on infrastructure needs; student assessment and course

evaluation. Professor Susan Elliott has taken up an appointment as an adjunct professor in the UWS School of Medicine, seconded part-time from her position as Director of the Medical Faculty's Education Unit (FEU) at Melbourne. She will work closely with the head of the UWS medical education unit Professor Ian Wilson. The agreement with Melbourne will also provide for secondment of most of the other members of the Melbourne FEU to work in partnership with their UWS equivalents as they are needed.

School of Medicine Facility

The University of Western Sydney will build its main School of Medicine premises at its Campbelltown campus. This attractive campus has expertise in the health, bio-medical and social sciences, which will provide an important springboard for the School of Medicine. The School of Medicine, with the co-operation and encouragement of the NSW Health system, will establish clinical schools at Blacktown, Campbelltown, Liverpool and Nepean Hospitals, over a rolling timeframe.

In 2007 students will commence at both the Campbelltown and Liverpool premises for their 'preclinical' teaching, and make use of Campbelltown Hospital as well as the Campbelltown campus for their early training in clinical skills.

Facilities are planned to be available at Liverpool from mid 2006 for UWS to improve and occupy by 2007. Planning for the major development at Campbelltown is well advanced based on the innovative and modern design of Lyons Architects.

Lyons is now working with UWS to develop the detail of the design, plan the development timetable and document the buildings. A development application is currently before Campbelltown Council. It is most likely the building will commence in March 2006 and be progressively commissioned through 2007.

We are working closely with the campus development planning team for the Campbelltown Campus to ensure broader campus and community objectives are met.



View to Central Hub - Developed Scheme 18.08.05

View through 'the hub' from the lakeside



Side on view approaching the corner of David Pilgrim and Goldsmith Avenues

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Student Selection

The School of Medicine is on target to commence in 2007, provided we have satisfied the Australian Medical Council accreditation requirements by then. The course will have 80 Commonwealth funded places for Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents. It is also intended to take up to 12 *International students* and 8 domestic fee-paying students. Students will be selected into the medical course from two main groups:

1. *Higher School Certificate students* (or their interstate or international equivalents) who have not undertaken tertiary studies ('school-leavers'), and

2. *Graduates* with a bachelors degree from any recognised program of 3 years or longer.

An important subset will be *Indigenous students*. The School will endeavour to meet a self-imposed target of 8 Indigenous students although it recognises that, despite the large Indigenous population of Greater Western Sydney, this target may prove ambitious – at least in the early years of the School.



We will rank school leavers using a combination of:

- UAI \geq 92
- UMAT results
- structured interview.

Graduate applicants will be ranked using a combination of:

- the grade point average of \geq 5.5 in the most recent bachelor degree
- UMAT results
- structured interview.

In 2006 UMAT will be held on 26 July 2006 - applications open Mid April.

Research

In the School of Medicine at Campbelltown facilities are being built to enable high quality laboratory based research. The School will be appointing Professors in areas of human science such as anatomy, physiology, molecular biology and pharmacology who we expect to make a significant research contribution at UWS.

The Board has approved a proposal that will build College research in a strategic area and strengthen the science capacities underpinning the development of the School of Medicine. The College already has several outstanding scientists in this field and a number of other promising early career researchers. The University's fledgling research program in nanotechnology and research on anti-cancer

compounds are particularly important in this respect. Stimulated by the mapping of the human genome, this is one of the fastest developing areas of science. This field offers significant opportunities for commercialisation of research findings.

The School of Medicine is appointing molecular level scientists with an aim to ensure these are linked to work collaboratively with our future leaders in population health. This would enable research about the interactions between the human genetic story and the life experiences of our communities encompassing prevention (diet, exercise, tobacco, substance abuse) to clinical conditions (cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, mental illness etc) and the

underlying biomedical science of these conditions.

For example research into genetics, nutrition and diabetes in Greater Western Sydney would involve clinical practitioners, lab based scientists, social scientists, nutritionists, nursing academics and others in a collaborative fashion.

Medical Schools have a responsibility to create new knowledge, and UWS intends to play its part.

