The Northern Territory Clinical School Newsletter

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RDH TEACHING AWARDS 2007
The NT Clinical School (NTCS) facilitates clinical training and teaching sessions for medical students from Flinders University and James Cook University. Students undertake rotations at a variety of locations including Royal Darwin Hospital plus district hospitals and community GP clinics. The reputation for excellent teaching, unique patient mix and tropical lifestyle make the NTCS a sought after placement for students.

There were twenty two students in the 2007 Year 3/5 cohort with most students having lived in Darwin prior to commencing their medical studies. Quite a few of the twenty two are born and bred Territory talent! The 2007 students have recently completed their end of year exams. Traditionally, the NTCS students do very well on the final exams compared to their classmates based ‘down south’, which reflects the top teaching and rich clinical experience they receive in the Top End.

NTCS students are appreciative of the quality teaching and advice they receive from the busy RDH staff and the most outstanding of these clinicians and educators from a variety of disciplines were recognised in the recently announced 2007 NTCS teaching awards. The winners were Mr Mehta (Orthopaedics pictured top right), Mr Thomas (Surgery/ENT pictured top left), Mrs Angela Bull (O&G), Dr Nagel (Psychiatry), Dr Morris (Paediatrics pictured right) and Prof Lowe (Medicine pictured above).

Article submitted by Year 3 Flinders student, David Janmaat

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NTCS NEWSLETTER
This is the third edition of the NTCS Newsletter, which will be a quarterly electronic publication. Please contact Velda Mazoudier on 08 8972 2072 or velda.mazoudier@flinders.edu.au with any stories you would like to have published.
THE DARWIN COMMUNITY BASED MEDICAL EDUCATION (CBME) PROGRAM 2008

It's hardly a catchy acronym, but CBME, or Community Based Medical Education, certainly is a remarkable concept. Indeed, it has been described as the future of medical education in Australia. And next year it’s coming to Darwin...

CBME is just what it says on the tin, learning medicine in the community setting. Strictly speaking, this is nothing new, with medical students undertaking GP and other community based placements during their training for decades. However, true CBME implies a greater community immersion and breadth of experience, with learning occurring across all disciplines, not just in general practice.

Since Flinders University introduced the Parallel Rural Community Curriculum (PRCC) a decade ago, CBME has flourished around the world. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, CBME reflects the move away from long-stay hospital care towards day cases and community oriented care. Hospital beds are fewer, admission times shorter and exposure to patients increasingly limited for students.

As well, the profile of disease in the population has changed with the current epidemic of chronic disease. Patients are increasingly being diagnosed and managed in primary care, and student training is following the trend.

Another factor is the massive projected increase in Australian medical student numbers over the next few years. Established hospital based teaching settings simply can not cope with this increase, and new models of non-hospital training are being explored.

Finally, Community Based Medical Education works. Students focus on whole-patient, continuous care in the context of family and community, not just treatment of individual diseases. The diversity of patient exposure is unrivalled and students can become comfortable with undifferentiated illness. In CBME, the curriculum literally 'walks through the door'. Students rate their learning experiences in the community setting very highly, and equal or outperform their peers in formal assessment.

A program of CBME for urban Darwin will be implemented in January 2008. Eight 3rd year Flinders medical students (from the current cohort of 16) will be placed into the Darwin community, four students each five month semester. Along with the parallel student placements in the Rural Clinical School, all Flinders students will spend half of their 3rd year learning medicine in the community setting from 2008.

The core of the new program is clinical exposure in general practice. Students will be placed in the GP setting for about two days each week. From here they will follow patients to a wide range of other community health care providers, and focus on the interaction of primary care with the wider health service. As well, the program will provide a greater emphasis on Indigenous Health issues and socioeconomic determinants of health in the Northern Territory.

We look forward to an exciting 2008, teaching and learning medicine in the community.

Dr Simon Morgan, Senior Lecturer in GP, NT Clinical School, Nov 2007
Hello from sunny (and slightly steamy at the moment) North East Arnhem Land where the mangoes are ripening, the frangipanis are blooming, the marlin and mackerel are biting and the sugar bag (native honey) is flowing.

Having been out here for just over nine months I can now happily announce that NTRCS Nhulunbuy is now a thriving infant with a promising future, thanks to a great deal of assistance from local colleagues and hard working folk in Darwin, Alice, Katherine and at Flinders University.

For those still struggling to locate Nhulunbuy on the map I suggest popping your index finger on the tip of Cape York, following the Gulf of Carpentaria right across to it’s furthest west point, and stopping at the tip of the Gove Peninsula. Remote isn’t it? Don’t be alarmed, in spite of being a long way from anywhere this is a well serviced growing and thriving community with a great deal to offer the average outgoing medical student in search of great educational opportunities, outback adventures and unforgettable cultural experiences.

From January 2008 we will be giving 4th year NTRCS Flinders University students the opportunity to study with us for 12 weeks. A number of 3rd year students will also be given the opportunity for a taste of medicine in the bush for 2 weeks. As the capacity of the region grows we hope to welcome more 3rd years for longer periods. Our current teaching practices are Gove District Hospital, Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Laynhapuy homelands health service and Endeavour General Practice. All are serviced by highly skilled GPs with considerable teaching experience. Nhulunbuy also receives regular visits from Darwin based specialists who will welcome student involvement in their clinics and theatre sessions wherever practical. The health workers, RN’s and allied health workers in the region are also very used to working with medical students from the RUSC and John Flynn programs and are looking forward to being involved with our students.

We are setting up a student resource area in town at the back of Miwatj AMS which will have a well equipped library, satellite broadband, videoconferencing facilities and excellent organic coffee. We have secured very comfortable, well equipped accommodation for our long stay students within easy walking distance of the student resource area and the hospital. Students will have access to a four wheel drive vehicle for approved clinical school activities and will undertake a full day 4 wheel drive course as part of their orientation program.

This coastal region is spectacularly beautiful and (apart from the mining area and refinery that have strict environmental guidelines imposed) essentially unspoiled. There are camping areas on breathtaking beaches, in unspoiled tropical bush land and by beautiful waterholes. The wildlife is plentiful and variable and not all of it will want to eat you. There are opportunities for fishing, diving, sailing and hunting. The Yolngu people have lived in this region since the dreamtime (approximately 50,000 years by western reckoning). The first mission was only set up in the 1930s and Bauxite mining began 35 years ago. Many of you have probably already had some contact with indigenous people of this region either in Adelaide or Darwin and will know that their language, culture and art remains intact. Most Yolngu people still live in outlying communities or remoter homelands. Students coming to the rural clinical school will be given an orientation to language and culture delivered by local people and will find, if they show an interest, that local people will be very generous in sharing their time, knowledge and stories. I’m very much looking forward to the arrival of our students next year and hope they will enjoy life here in Northeast Arnhem as much as myself and my family do.
UPDATE FROM ALICE SPRINGS CAMPUS

ALICE SPRINGS 4WD TRAINING COURSE
Caroline, Tracey and Liselle from the Alice Springs campus attended a 4WD training course which was conducted by Jol Flooding. Jol is a quadriplegic and has his own modified vehicle which he drives to various training sites, giving directions to participants via walky talky. The first day involved getting to know the vehicle - under the hood, the interior and tyres. Liselle was asked to deflate a tyre. She accidentally broke the valve and the tyre went totally flat. So we had extra practice changing the tyre and pumping the new one up. After morning tea we hit the road. The area was hilly with sandy river beds and steep river banks. The winch got put to good use. Second day was driving on dirt tracks and sand hills. We were taught how to brake suddenly driving at 60-80 km/hour on dirt. Tracey got bogged but was able to get her vehicle out. We returned the cars and winch at the end of the day in good order and have received our certificates. Dr Lloyd Einsidel has also completed the course in Alice Springs.

Tracey Briscoe, Alice Springs, Nov 07


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SEBASTIAN CORLETTE (BAE), DR LLOYD EINSIEDEL, MIKE FORSETH, DR ANNE CAWLEY, TRACEY BRISCOE AND LISELLE FERNANDES.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LATEST MEMBERS OF THE NTCS
We welcome the following new staff to the Northern Territory Clinical School:

- **Mr Richard Sager** Richard was originally a chef then trained as a dietitian. He has a strong background in rural health (Greater Green Triangle UDRH) and student clubs having been the chair of the National Rural Health Club. Most recently he has been working with Department of Health and Community Health Services on a project around food supply to communities. He will be working part time alongside the CBME project and supporting Narelle in the allied health program.

- Farewell to **Meredith Fogarty** from the Katherine Office and welcome back to **Velda Mazoudier**, Campus Administration Officer, Katherine. Thanks Meredith for the great job you did, and it is great to have you back Velda.
CONFERENCE REPORTS

LIME (LEADERS IN INDIGENOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION) CONNECTION II
CONFERENCE 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2007
"Cultures across the Indigenous health spectrum: achieving better outcomes"

Associate Professor Sarah Strasser and I attended the LIME Connection II at the University of New South Wales in September 2007. I had been invited to present the activities that Sarah and other members of the Sharing the True Stories (STTS) team have been involved with the NT Clinical School.

The LIME Network is made up of a broad range of participants drawn from key stakeholder groups and individuals. The purpose of the LIME Network is to assist medical educators in all Australian and New Zealand medical schools to implement the Committee of Deans Australia Medical Schools (CDAMS Indigenous Health Curriculum Framework) which was endorsed by all Deans and the Australian Medical Council (AMC) in 2005.

The STTS project is a multidisciplinary group of healthcare professionals, linguists and Aboriginal people who have been working together to improve the communication practices between the health system and patients and family members. In 2006 the STTS team were invited by Professor Michael Lowe, Dean of the NT Clinical School (NTCS), to share some of the research outcomes of STTS with medical students based at NTCS. A pilot project investigating the integration of the concepts of cultural safety and cross cultural communication into the NTCS curriculum was developed.

Third year medical students were invited to participate in regular lunchtime forums during which time the medical students at the NTCS could access an Aboriginal cross cultural consultant and other members of the STTS team who had experience in cross cultural practice. A total of 10 students attended at least one session and six students participated in all six sessions. There were wide ranging discussions and the students were encouraged to undertake critical reflection of their experiences in the hospital. A number of themes began to develop over the course of the following months which resulted in changing the title from medical students to "student doctors", revamping the orientation program to include interactive sessions in cross cultural communication and the development of an informed consent name badge tool which will be in use from 2008.

For more information contact Bhavini Patel via email: bhavini.patel@nt.gov.au or visit the website: www.sharingtruestories.com
Ms Bhavini Patel, Director, RDH Pharmacy, November 2007

Informed Consent Name badge
The next meeting will be in Sudbury at NOSM in June 2008 as part of the International Conference on Community Engaged Medical Education in the North, ICEMEN. For further information see www.normed.ca under faculty development the ICEMEN, CLIC Hothouse.

Associate Professor Sarah Strasser, Director of CBME and NTRCS, November 2007