A Message from the Dean

It has now been almost 10 weeks since I started with the School. During that period I have had the privilege of meeting many of the students and participating in some tutorials. The greatest impression has been to feel an active culture of learning. I do use the word learning specifically as learning is more than assimilating content but implies inquisitiveness and openness to new thoughts and knowledge.

Last week there was discussion about professionalism and in particular the CanMEDs wheel, which emanates from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This representation of the role of the Doctor has taken many forms and now each of the Australasian Colleges (RACS and RACP) has a comprehensive framework detailing the expectations of the roles of Physician and Surgeon. Notably at a recent meeting with the Fiona Stanley Hospital team they referred to their intention to promote the CanMEDs framework.

The discussion with UND medical students examined the relative importance of each of the roles and the recognition that in different settings each of the qualities may be of paramount importance. However underpinning all of these aspects was the need to be the “medical expert” and attain excellent knowledge and expertise in Medicine. Clearly the aim of the SoMF is to graduate doctors able to be medical experts, collaborators, health advocates, scholars, capable of being professional, managers of people and resources and to be able to communicate all of those attributes to their patients. Clearly achieving such a coalescence of skills is challenging.

Over the last few weeks I have been visiting our various hospital partners. It has been fantastic to see the cooperation across both public and private. These clinical placements are essential in exposing the students to the different disciplines. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our teachers for their ongoing support of Notre Dame Students.

Lastly I would like to congratulate Prof Sue Benson on attaining a Churchill Fellowship. Prof Benson is located at the Armadale Kelmscott Memorial Hospital. She will be studying Antimicrobial Stewardship programs on her travels which assist in reducing antibiotic resistance. We look forward to hearing her insights later this year.

Professor Shirley Bowen
Dean’s Excellence in Teaching Award
Nominations Open

Nominations for the annual Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching are now open. This is a fabulous opportunity to both enthuse and help raise the profile of some of the many fine teachers that we have at the School of Medicine Fremantle. Previous recipients include Associate Professor Marak Havlat (2009), Professor Peter Friedland and Professor Kingsley Faulkner (2010), Professor Greg Sweetman (2011 and 2012), and Mr Kim Goddard (2013) Pictured.

Medicine Fremantle are eligible for the Award. This year, the award has been extended to include teachers from the recently accredited Graduate Certificate, Diploma and Masters of Health Professional Education.

All you need to do is simply nominate a teacher who you believe has demonstrated excellence in teaching during 2014 by completing an electronic nomination form via this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/78FQ3HY

The winner will be announced at the Prize Ceremony at the end of the year and awarded a certificate by the Dean of the School of Medicine Fremantle.

Nominations close on the 29th August 2014.

There are many exceptional teachers at the School of Medicine Fremantle who have worked hard to support their students’ learning in 2014. Please recognise the efforts of these teachers by taking the time to complete the online nomination form

Dr Frank Bate

MED400 Advanced suturing workshop

On the post-exam morning of Friday 30 May, half of the MED400 cohort participated in an advanced suturing workshop held at Notre Dame. This workshop was the second instalment for the year of an initiative which had been three years in the making and at the request of previous clinical cohorts. At the workshop the MED400 cohort were able to consolidate their suturing skills as well as receive advanced suturing teaching from a team of plastic surgeons and the School’s own surgeons who kindly donated their time and expertise to the School. The School extends its sincere thanks to the plastic surgeons, Mr Chris Allen, Mr James Savundra, Mr Wysun Wong, Mr Rob Robert Fitzpatrick, and to the School’s surgeons, Mr John Taylor, Mr Kingsley Faulkner and Mr Richard Naunton Morgan. Thank you is also extended to various School staff, Anne Goldstein, Mark Peterson, Kristen Marchese, Sarah Mickan and Li Shan Chiu, in the organisation and running of the sessions. The feedback from the cohort was positive and it is hoped the sessions will continue to run in 2015.

“I personally found the workshop incredibly useful and very well run. The initial presentations given on local anaesthetics used and the different suturing methods was very helpful. I believe the practice suturing session was also productive, and talking to many other students, gave us some much needed practice on suturing!”

MED400 student
Notre Dame Grant to deliver international research experience

Professor Selma Alliex congratulates Associate Professor Chris Skinner on receiving The University of Notre Dame Australia Professional Development Award for 2014.

20 June 2014

Associate Professor Chris Skinner, Chair of Personal and Professional Development Domain in Notre Dame’s School of Medicine, Fremantle, has received a $5000 grant to further his research into the link between emotional intelligence, selection criteria and academic performance in the recruitment of professional and competent medicine students.

Associate Professor Skinner was the 2014 recipient of The University of Notre Dame Australia Professional Development Award at the Perth Convention Bureau ASPIRE Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 10 June.

The Professional Development Award consists of a research grant that is presented to a Notre Dame staff member to assist in their personal and professional development through attendance at a relevant international conference of their choice, in their chosen fields.

Associate Professor Skinner will use his scholarship to attend The International Conference for Emotional Intelligence in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2015. It will allow for further development and networking with national and international researchers and emotional intelligence practitioners.

“It was a real thrill and highly rewarding to receive the 2014 Perth Convention Bureau ASPIRE award for Notre Dame,” Associate Professor Skinner said.

“I am enthusiastic and passionate about the professional development and selection of future health and medical practitioners. Medical selection processes have often been characterised by complexity, a lack of predictive validity and high resource costs.

“My current research with Dr Raoul Oehmen, also from the School of Medicine, aims to develop a strong association between emotional intelligence and academic medical performance that will help clarify the importance of emotional intelligence in both the medical curriculum and in the selection process.

“Notre Dame’s Medical School applications have soared over recent years and the need to select for future clinically and personally competent practitioners has never been greater. This research will help provide further practical information on the best methods for selection.”

There were four high quality proposals for the Award from Notre Dame Staff across a variety of disciplines. Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of the Fremantle Campus, Professor Selma Alliex, said Associate Professor Skinner’s research was exceptional and extremely important to include in any curriculum, to prepare Notre Dame’s graduates to practice in their professions.

“Associate Professor Skinner is instrumental in the development of future medical interns and health practitioners. The University is grateful to the Perth Convention Bureau for making it possible for one of our staff to attend an international conference,” Professor Alliex said.

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- See more at: http://www.nd.edu.au/news/media-releases/2014/328#sthash.2fbhmVCn.dpuf