



# MedEd Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2009

## The Medical Education Interest Group @UNSW

Welcome to the sixth issue of this year's MedEd newsletter. There are many interesting meetings coming up and news of learning and teaching awards and grants that are on offer. The October seminar has been moved to the 20th October so that we could invite Dr John Barnard who is an expert in assessment (see details below). All Welcome. *Regards, RT (Ed)*

### Coming Events

- *CONNECTIONS = L&T@UNSW has started a new set of weekly educational meetings for teachers; see page 2 for more detail.*
- *The MedEd seminar on "Research in education 2: Ethics approval and design" with Professor Heather Worth: November 5th at 11.30am.*
- *Our MedEd L&T Forum is being held on Weds Dec 3rd— start thinking of a topic for presentation now = we will be calling for abstracts in late October*

### Report from the August MedEd Meeting on "Getting Published"

This was a lively meeting in the new seminar lecture theatre in the Lower Ground floor of the Wallace Wurth building. The video conferencing allowed us to be joined by two rural clinical sites (four extra attendees). The topic was writing up your research and getting published with information from Dr Thompson and Toni Gifford (our outreach librarian) and contributions from our published members. This information will be going up online: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/SOTL>

### Feedback from the FULT /GCULT graduates coffee morning in August

This meeting was very informative with interested lecturers attending to hear two previous FULT and GCULT graduates discuss their opinion of the courses and describe their progress in learning and teaching. Many thanks to Dr Alison Rutherford and Dr Silas Talyor. If you are interested in enrolling in FULT / GCULT or the new UNSW MPhil in Higher Education in 2010, please contact Rachel [rachel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel@unsw.edu.au)

### Next MedEd Meeting: How assessment can provide useful information. Speaker: John Barnard

**Tuesday 20th October at 10am**

Venue: LG02 (the smaller new lecture theatre in the Lower Ground of the Wallace Wurth Building)

Dr John Barnard is the founder and Executive Director of EPEC Pty Ltd, an independent and private company located in Melbourne that specialises in assessment services since 2000. He holds three doctorates and teaches Psychometrics and Statistics at the ACU on a sessional basis whilst also holding an adjunct professorial position at the University of Sydney. John specialises in measurement in general and in computer-based assessment in particular. He has published and presented papers internationally over the past 25 years and has been awarded several prizes for his research. Before migrating to Australia in 1996 John was professor at the University of South Africa and Chief Research Specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council.

**All welcome—please bring along a colleague who may be interested.**

### Teaching Awards and Grants

**Faculty L&T Awards for 2009** will be open for nomination shortly. Details will be sent via email. <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/Awards>

**ALTC Competitive Grants 2010:** Up to 12 seed grants are available to support staff to develop high quality applications for funding under the Australian Learning and Teaching (ALTC) Programs (particularly in relation to projects that address UNSW and/or Faculty/Divisional learning and teaching priorities). The seed grants will be available to: those seeking to redevelop a previously unsuccessful application for an ALTC grant, that received a score of 3.75 or more from ALTC assessors (near-miss funding); and those in the process of developing an application for one of the ALTC funding programs (new application funding). See: [http://www.learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/forum/lt\\_forum\\_files/UNSW\\_Seed\\_Funding\\_Guidelines\\_Sept09.pdf](http://www.learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/forum/lt_forum_files/UNSW_Seed_Funding_Guidelines_Sept09.pdf) [summit@unsw.edu.au](mailto:summit@unsw.edu.au) Contact Rachel or for more information.

### Innovative UNSW Paediatric Teaching Program receives Patil Award at 2009 AMEE conference

The Patil Award for Curriculum Development was awarded to Dr Mimi Pham from Sydney Children's Hospital/UNSW at the Association for Medical Education in Europe Conference held in Malaga, Spain in early September 2009. Dr Pham presented a short communication at a session on Teaching and Learning: Approaches to clinical teaching.

Dr Pham developed, implemented and assessed an innovative clinical teaching program initially piloted for Phase 1 BGD students in 2007. The program involves well kindergarten children attending Sydney Children's Hospital for a class excursion. UNSW medical students accompany the children through a series of basic clinical examination stations in order to experience both interacting with children as well as practical experience with paediatric clinical examinations.

The program was developed in response to the increased demand for clinical teaching in the face of decreasing opportunities for inpatient interactions within hospitals. It provides an excellent opportunity for introducing students to basic paediatric clinical examination skills. Feedback from students, tutors and school teachers has been overwhelmingly positive and the program is now permanently in place for Phase 2 BGD students. Dr Pham's manuscript on the program has been submitted for publication in the AMEE publication Medical Teacher. You can access the abstract (p.113 of 324) and see the other contributions to the conference at: <http://www.amee.org/documents/AMEE%202009%20FINAL%20ABSTRACT%20BOOK.pdf>

## SOTL and Professional Development

### L&T@UNSW

#### New initiatives launched this Spring:

##### CONNECTIONS

A suite of four monthly seminars under the heading of CONNECTIONS will be facilitated by Learning and Teaching at UNSW. These will run on Wednesdays through October and November 2009, offering four different types of workshops:

- Talking about teaching
- Showcasing teaching
- Researching learning and teaching
- Exploring threshold concepts

All seminars will be held on **Wednesdays, 12-1:30pm** at the Climate Change seminar room, Level 4 Mathews (next door from the 416 L&T Workshop room).

All the information and resources related to the Connections seminar series will be disseminated through the Connections blog: <http://blogs.unsw.edu.au/connections>. You are welcome to comment on blog entries.

As the follow-up of the L&T Forum 09 we would like to dedicate the first **Connections – Talking About Teaching** seminar to the theme of **Student engagement - facilitating a transformative learning experience**. Come and join an informal conversation with your UNSW colleagues about challenges in motivating the learner, and discuss strategies that enable your students to develop independence, courage to risk and generate new knowledge in your discipline.

This first meeting is on: **Wednesday 7th October, 12-1:30pm**. Location: Climate Change Research Office Level 4 Mathews. Light lunch will be provided

Through the interactive session at the L&T Forum 09 the UNSW community came up with a list of factors that contribute to student engagement (the original Etherpad list is available at the L&T Forum 09 wiki <http://ltforum.unsw.wikispaces.net/Engaging+the+Learner+Interactive+Session>)

From this list we have been able to distinguish four distinct characteristics of a learning environment that best facilitates student engagement to discuss at the meeting. These are:

- **Situated** - Contextualised, relevant, has real outcomes, transferrable, students are aware of bigger picture of the discipline and beyond
- **Active** - Interactive, enthusiastic, passionate, students participate in dialogue and are focused
- **Connected** - Importance of communication, emotion, relationships, community, sense of belonging
- **Transformative** - Reflection, growth, discipline identity, leaving the comfort zone, courage to risk, generate new knowledge, lasting impact, developing independence, a sense of ownership, desire to learn, life-long learning

The first **Connections – Showcasing Teaching** seminar will be dedicated to the theme of **Using case studies in teaching**.

**Come and listen to a short presentation by your UNSW colleagues who use case studies in their teaching, and ask questions.**

This seminar will be more formal in structure and take the form of a presentation on teaching with opportunity to discuss with, and ask questions of, the presenters

**Wednesday 14th October, 12 – 1.30pm**

Location: Climate Change Research Office Level 4 Mathews.

Light lunch will be provided by L&T@UNSW with the support from the ALTC.

Please register online at [http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event\\_rego/events.cfm](http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/event_rego/events.cfm)

##### Request from L&T for suggestions

If you would like to propose a theme for a future seminar in the Connections seminar series, please send an email with your suggestions to Ann Wilson, [annwi@unsw.edu.au](mailto:annwi@unsw.edu.au)

For more information and resources related to the Connections seminar series visit the Connections blog: <http://blogs.unsw.edu.au/connections>.

You are welcome to comment on blog entries.

### Masters of Philosophy Higher Education – Information session

If you are interested in finding out more about this program please come along to our information session which will be held on **Thursday, October 8 from 1-2pm** in Room 416, Level 4 Mathews Building. As we will provide lunch, could you please RSVP to [d.owen@unsw.edu.au](mailto:d.owen@unsw.edu.au) by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you are unable to attend and have questions about the program please contact the program coordinator Jan Mclean [jan.mclean@unsw.edu.au](mailto:jan.mclean@unsw.edu.au) and information about the program can be found at <http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/research/programs/2010/2359.html>.

### UNSW Library

Outreach Librarian:

Toni Gifford [t.gifford@unsw.edu.au](mailto:t.gifford@unsw.edu.au) 9385 8241.

### UNSW Learning and Teaching Forum 2009

**“Engaging the Learner, Recognising the Teacher”** was an all-day event held on Friday 11th September at the UNSW Roundhouse. Professor Kerri-Lee Krause, Chair in Higher Education and Director of the Griffith Institute for Higher Education gave an interesting keynote speech on engaging the learner: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/professional-page/professor-kerri-lee-krause>

The Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Citation Winners of 2008 and 2009 were awarded UNSW certificates to recognize this achievement followed by presentations by four of the 2008 Citation winners giving advice to would-be nominees. Poster abstracts and the keynote are available from: <http://www.learningandteaching.unsw.edu.au/forum/>

## Assessment in Medical Education

### Seminar on assessment.

A newly arranged session on assessment with Dr John Barnard from Melbourne, who is internationally recognised expert in assessment and mathematics education. This session will be on Tues 20th October at 10am in the new seminar lecture theatre, LG02, on the lower ground floor of the Wallace Wurth Building. Video-conferencing will be available—please contact Rachel to arrange this. All welcome. Sorry—no food or drinks allowed in the theatre.

## For Your Diary — MedEd 2009 seminar programme

Date	Time	Topic	Location
<i>Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> September</i>	<i>11.30 – 13.00</i>	<i>Research in education 3 – Writing up and getting published</i>	
Tues 20th October	10.00-11.30	<b>How assessment can provide useful information.</b> Speaker: Dr John Barnard	LG02, Lower Ground floor, Wallace Wurth
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> November	11.30 - 13.00	<b>Research in education 2 –</b> Ethics approval and design Prof Heather Worth	TBA
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	09.30 – 13.30	<b>MedEd L&amp;T Forum</b> With presentation of Faculty L&T Awards and FULT graduates	SGR 6-9, Mathews UG All welcome

*N.B. Please let Rachel know ASAP if you notice clashes with other meetings that might affect our attendance.*

## Upcoming Conferences for 2010 – some submission dates are closing already!

### Leadership and Practice Development in Health: Quality and Safety through Workplace Learning.

18-19 March 2010 Hobart <http://www.cdesign.com.au/leadership/>

**AIPPEN** is hosting the [5th All Together Better Health Conference](#) (ATBH V) in Sydney on 6-9 April 2010 at the Manly Pacific Hotel. The ATBH IV conference titled 'Development and Progress in Interprofessional Education and Practice' was held in Sweden in 2008, see: <http://www.alltogether.se/>. More information available soon.

**ANZAME 2010**— July 13-16, Townsville. More information available soon: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/anzame10/>

**3rd Biennial Threshold Concepts Symposium** will take place at UNSW on 1-2 July, 2010. The website - including the call for papers - is available at <http://www.thresholdconcepts2010.unsw.edu.au/> Further information from: Jan McLean, Learning & Teaching@UNSW, 9385 2509 [j.mclean@unsw.edu.au](mailto:j.mclean@unsw.edu.au)

## MedEd BLOG

Invitations to join the blog site will be sent out to all MedEd email members. When you get the link, please take a look and set up your profile—it doesn't take a moment.

The blog will provide an easy access point for: regular news feeds, a blog forum, posting the newsletter etc. It will keep you up to date with current news items and events, provide an active forum for discussion and for sharing resources and information, e.g. useful weblinks & teaching resources.

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The MedEd Interest Group formed in November 2006 following a research presentation forum held at UNSW. It aims to bring together medical faculty staff interested in education issues to support scholarly practice, encourage research and create new networks amongst its members.

Our main activities include a monthly seminar series, this monthly newsletter, and an annual research forum. We will keep you in touch with upcoming grants, conferences, awards and new L&T publications, innovations and lots, lots more...

### Feedback requests

**Please contribute**—start writing those book reviews! And if you read some interesting publications, or find new or exciting L&T or medical education websites, then please send them in. What are your best teaching tips? —send them in for “**Teaching tip of the Month**” (<100 words please).

What else would you like to see in the Newsletter?

Send ASAP to [rachelt@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rachelt@unsw.edu.au)

### Please keep your details up to date for the MedEd mailing list:

If your email has changed or you wish to be join our mailings, please update the mailing list by sending your name, email address and current research / area of interest to: Vicki Truskett on [V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au](mailto:V.Truskett@unsw.edu.au)

## Don't forget the MedEd Website

with **NEW** resources to help you teach, and lots more!

Find it at: [www.med.unsw.edu.au](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au) under “For Staff” / Learning and Teaching

“Education is not filling a bucket, but lighting a fire.”

William Butler Yeats (1865–28)

Irish poet and dramatist

### Stuck for something interesting to read or somewhere new to publish?

Medical Education Online: <http://www.med-ed-online.org/issue.htm>

The latest issue of the ANZAME publication- Focus on Health Professional Education:

[http://www.anzame.unsw.edu.au/journal/contents\\_vol11no1.htm](http://www.anzame.unsw.edu.au/journal/contents_vol11no1.htm)

International Journal for the scholarship of teaching and learning

<http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/>

International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

<http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/>

## Web-site of the month

An interesting UK L&T website with many facets: **deliberations**

A list of L&T journals: <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/deliberations/journals/journals-subject.cfm>

The forum—some interesting debates are archived here:

<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/deliberations/deliberations-forum/home.cfm>

*Please share the good L&T websites that you come across with the MedEd Google group!*