

# School of Medicine Bulletin

Spring 2011

## Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the School of Medicine Bulletin. I would like to pass on my thanks to the staff involved in putting the Bulletin together, as it gives us a great opportunity to communicate news and developments from the School across its 4 campuses, as well as to our honorary staff and partners engaged in supporting the delivery of our teaching programs.

The School has benefited from substantial infrastructure development in recent years. In terms of the student clinical learning experience and graduate outcome, I believe we have one of the leading MBBS programs in the country – a testament to the commitment and hard work of dozens of staff over recent years.

Our other major, and relatively new, professional course, the Bachelor of Paramedic Practice, also has great potential to be amongst the leading paramedic programs in Australia. Coupled with strengths in undergraduate biomedical and postgraduate health courses, the School is well placed to continue to make significant contributions to our health and research workforce, while also delivering new knowledge in medical education and health research.

James  
Vickers



## New Faculty of Health Science Dean

The School warmly welcomes Prof. Ray Playford to the role of Dean, and looks forward to working closely with him and the Faculty Executive team in furthering our research and teaching success.



We will be endeavouring to provide ample opportunities for staff to meet Prof Playford over the next few months as he settles in.

“I am delighted to be joining UTAS. It has an excellent history and has been well served by Professor Carmichael. I look forward to speaking to as many of you as possible over the next few months and helping to guide the Faculty to even greater successes in the future.”

## School Mission Statement

*The mission of the School of Medicine is to produce graduates who will provide a significant contribution and positive impact on communities in Tasmania, mainland Australia and internationally.*

*This is achieved through our ongoing commitment to academic excellence, in teaching and learning, and knowledge advancement through research.*

*Our dedication to providing a unique and supportive educational experience is enhanced by being the sole University in an island state committed to fostering collaborations on a domestic and global scale.*

# Snapped



## Stella Stevens – Senior Lecturer, Hobart

Stella Stevens' students are all seasoned clinicians who want to develop what are sometimes called "non-technical" skills. These are all about leading clinical teams and getting health care service improvement through clinician driven interventions. Stella is one of the newbies in SOM and looks after the postgrad study programs including our new Professional Doctorate. She is passionate about patient safety and ethical leadership in health care, and is lucky enough to be teaching and researching in both areas.

Getting used to the Tassie winters has been her biggest challenge since leaving Queensland but she loves our natural environment especially the bushwalking and wildlife. Food features pretty heavily too! When she's not eating, walking or working in SOM, she tries to contribute to Tassie's social justice agenda via working with disadvantaged groups.

All the family is at UTAS with two undergrad young people and husband doing his PhD in Antarctic ice modeling. They have all felt very welcomed by the academic and local community in Tasmania and are enjoying the big change very much.

## Linda Blazely – Administrator Officer, Launceston

I have worked at the Launceston Clinical School for about 6 years, starting as a temp and planning to stay for 4 weeks. My administrative role focuses around finance and budget, general admin support and examinations, special project support and oversighting timetables and student placements.

My passion and interest outside work hours..... I buy and renovate houses. I own 5 houses, a bakery and tearooms and an ornamental garden and have plans for purchasing an old church but secretly want a Tudor style house. My secret to successful property investment .....everything is 1:12 scale!. Yes I have dolls houses, it's been my hobby and escape for about 10 years. I love researching the Victorian era to maintain the accuracy of the houses; my houses are generally set 1850-1890. Years of practice have added 'sophistication' to my ability but I still love my first house, planned as a family home.



## Angela Hanley – Technical Officer, Hobart

Hi, my name is Angela and I have two positions within the SoM. Primarily I am the Microbiology Technical Officer, where I am responsible for obtaining and setting up everything that is required for the Microbiology teaching within the SoM. I also teach Human Biology students by acting as a practical demonstrator and tutor.

Up until one year ago I was a PhD student, until I decided for a variety of reasons it wasn't for me. In my positions I love having the contact with the students and getting back to Microbiology. I guess you could say that I am still figuring out where I hope my career will take me but I know that I love being part of the close-knit technical team.



Snapped continued....

## Nick Cooling- Senior Lecturer, Hobart

In Jan 2011 I was recruited to the School of Medicine (SOM) to work as the Director of Electives. This formalised role includes the challenging task of Internationalising the SOM Curriculum in line with wider UTAS and national trends. This work will include:

- Establishment of sustainable enduring partnerships with a number of institutions and communities mostly across the Asia-Pacific region-for student, staff exchange and research
- Developing pre-departure and post return debriefing programs for the 4 year elective experiences
- Developing learning opportunities in the SOM curriculum for students to promote global citizenship, cultural awareness and awareness of global health systems and health challenges
- I also work as Senior Lecturer in Medical Practice (including teaching in my previous area of primary health rotation in 3<sup>rd</sup> yr – focusing on chronic disease, developmental disability and consultation skills) and as Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Program Scholar within the Menzies Research Institute and my research project is on the process of remediation in underperforming GP registrars.
- Outside the University I work as a part time GP with a special interest in allergy in a group practice in Macquarie St. I continue to contribute to postgraduate general practice education by delivering workshops to regional training providers on the mainland and supporting



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Outside the University I work as a part time GP with a special interest in allergy in a group practice in Macquarie St. I continue to contribute to postgraduate general practice education by delivering workshops to regional training providers on the mainland and supporting International Medical Graduates with practice visits. I am finding the School of Medicine and Menzies Centre to be vibrant, with a great willingness for collaboration, sharing of ideas and encouragement to innovate. I have a very positive sense in the direction of the SOM especially with the recent influx of 'new blood', new facilities.

## MSP Update



The MS2 building is rapidly taking shape – the ground-works for both the main building (Bathurst St) and the lecture theatre (Liverpool St) are complete, and over the next few months we will see foundations, lift towers, and eventually facade panel being moved into place.

This artist's impression helps to highlight what an impressive project this is for the Medical Sciences Precinct. Completion date is still projected to be the end of January 2013.

## ANZAHPE Conference

The 2011 conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators issued a blunt challenge to the medical education industry; to become more socially accountable or risk producing health professionals who cannot meet the demands of their own communities.

It isn't so much about becoming more technically proficient as it is about changing the culture of the medical education industry to focus on the things that really matter – the priority needs of people in our own communities, be they indigenous, rural and remote, or disadvantaged. Delegates were from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, South Africa and Canada, and from health professions ranging from medicine to speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and Utas was particularly prominent, especially our students from the Rural Clinical School.

## If you fall on your face

My teacher, Milton Erickson, was fond of saying, "If you fall on your face, at least you are heading in the right direction." This saying has stuck with me all these years (since I first heard it in 1977) because I find it true in my life.

I have gone a long way by allowing myself to make mistakes, be wrong, mess up, and generally keep moving forward. As Winston Churchill was said to have said, "When you're going through Hell, keep going." R.H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on.

Bill O'Halon

# TUMMS

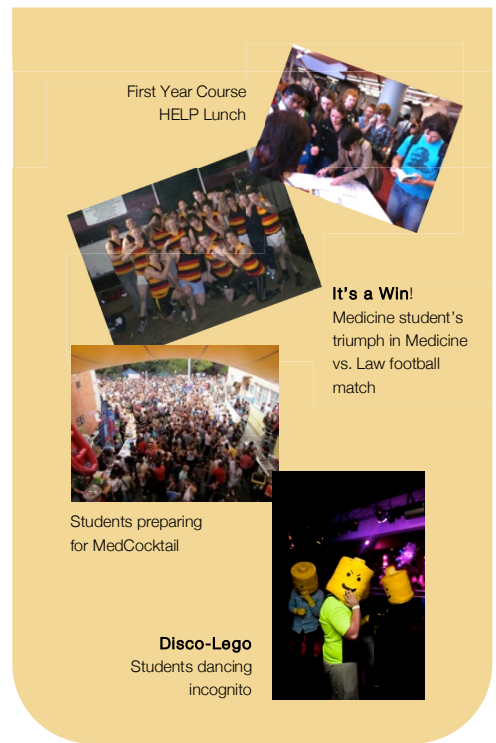
Hello from the Tasmanian University Medical Students' Society (TUMSS) TUMSS represents all medical students at the University (students are the young people that you might see walking about from time to time). Representatives on TUMSS are elected online (through the Tasmanian Electoral Commission). TUMSS is proud of this robust democracy, which saw around 300 students voting last year.

TUMSS has been especially active this year, including:

- Participation in orientation of 120 first year students, including 'MedCamp'.
- Institution of an international student mentoring program in conjunction with the School.
- OSCE Tutoring program.
- Intern masterclasses for final year students
- Annual Careers Night (19<sup>th</sup> July)
- 'Life in the Real World' conference planned for later in the year.

There are also a number of social events run throughout the year. All staff are welcome to all of our events and feel free to contact any of us – please see [www.tumss.org.au](http://www.tumss.org.au) for details.

Ben Hunn, TUMSS President



## Comings and goings

**Dr Ros Malley** has taken maternity leave, and is replaced by Dr Tayiba Shabir.

**Eleanor Salt** has recently joined the External Liaison Team as Receptionist.

**Julie Wills** joins the Admin Team as Acting Manager. Julie has extensive experience in various other positions and Schools.

**Professor Timothy Skinner** has commenced as Head of the Rural Clinical School.

**Prof Matthew Jose** (Professor of Medicine) and **Prof John Burgess** (MBBS Yr 1-3 Co-ordinator) are two recent senior academic appointments in Hobart. Both will contribute strongly toward the Clinical Teaching and research within the School.

**Sarah Downey** is currently on maternity leave until April 2010.

**Dr Tony Lawler** has been appointed as Associate Professor of Health Services, an appointment which will no doubt help consolidate the strong relationship between the School and the Royal Hobart Hospital.

**Dr Geoff Couser** has joined the School as Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine in Hobart.

## Geoff Appleby retires



The School of Medicine staff recently farewelled Geoff Appleby after 35 years service. Retired Professor Michael Clark, with whom Geoff worked for much of his time with the School, provided an entertaining rundown of Geoff's many achievements.

Geoff began with in the Department of Physiology, but transferred to Biochemistry when Prof Clark moved there in the late 1970's. He oversaw the introduction of a range of cutting-edge technologies over the years.



Geoff Appleby and wife Betty at his recent farewell.

Geoff's technical expertise and quiet, helpful nature were well appreciated by staff and students alike. Geoff will be retiring to spend more time star-gazing, one of his long-time interests, and we wish him many cloud-free evenings!"

Please send your news items or stories to: [Alan.Champion@utas.edu.au](mailto:Alan.Champion@utas.edu.au)