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The College of Medicine and Dentistry in 2016

At the College Summit in February, coordinators, program leads, clinical leads, team leaders and student representatives came together to share, network and plan the year. One thing was pretty clear: we are a large and complex enterprise! The College encompasses professional entry programs in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and physician assistant practice as well as anatomy/pathology and other foundation sciences. We have clinical schools, rural training sites, postgraduate coursework and research and research training. This year we added specialist General Practice training for most of regional Queensland. And with all that, we are physically located from the Sunshine Coast to the Torres Strait and from the Top End to south west Queensland.

While we are a diverse group, it was clear, at the Summit and elsewhere, that as individuals we share a real sense of common purpose. The words are summarised in our college’s mission (see right). I think this captures the spirit pretty well. It’s great to watch the power that derives from people with shared values being able to connect, learn and collaborate. In a geographically distributed model like ours, that takes effort and investment of time and resources, which is worth it.

This is an fascinating time for healthcare services and the higher education system in health professional education and research. The College has great strengths, not least values-led people (staff and students) who are signed up to a common purpose, as well as the power of location in the tropical north and wider region, our distributed teaching and research infrastructure, our established networks and influence and highly regarded professional programs. Challenging us are ever-tightening resources in higher education, healthcare, and research and our distance from centres of policy-making. Going forward, we have a chance to really deepen our regional research and service partnerships, to become the ‘go-to’ on healthcare and workforce innovation that is aligned to priority needs of communities and to become one of a handful of world-class tropical research hubs.

So, with this things in mind, the priorities we have set for the year ahead are:

- Get better at communicating the distinctiveness of ‘brand JCU Health and Medicine’ and the impacts of our work (we have suffered a bit from ‘just doing it!’)
• Establish Generalist Medical Training (GMT) sites across regional QLD for maximum community impact (GP training and more)
• Grow regional international relationships with two-way benefits in education, service, research, consultancies and reputation
• Build blended learning capability that extends our reach in our dispersed communities, for productivity gains and to build national and international reputation
• Develop industry-relevant short-courses that readily convert to post-graduate coursework offerings and HDR enrolments
• Grow specialist training options in Medicine & Dentistry and explore incorporation of the registration year into Pharmacy

Join with the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine (ATIHM) and the emerging Tropical Australia Academic Health Centre (TAAHC) to drive research partnerships within the northern health system and the region

I look forward to working with our great teams of people to deliver this promise. It should be a good year.

Professor Richard Murray
Dean, College of Medicine and Dentistry

Generalist Medical Training (GMT) up and running!
The first of January saw the official start of Generalist Medical Training (GMT), a division of the College and the newly contracted General Practice (GP) vocational training organisation for north western Queensland (NWQ).

NWQ is a large region covering 90% of the state’s surface area with a third of the state’s population and two thirds of the state’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

Dean of Medicine, Professor Richard Murray and a large team of JCU rural and GP academics developed a successful bid to provide this postgraduate GP training after the Australian Government redrew the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) training regions in 2015.

Associate Professor Harry Jacobs is delighted to be the Director of GMT. “We have already employed a large team of regional GP Medical Educators for local delivery throughout our region.

“We have recruited administrative staff and developed regional offices in Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and the Sunshine Coast. These offices will add to our existing presence with GMT administration staff in Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and Mount Isa.

“We at GMT have over 500 Registrars in our region and are developing a great team to deliver the program. This will further strengthen the opportunities for the JCU Medicine graduates to train in NWQ.

GMT is also committed to providing a future workforce for disadvantaged and underserviced communities, especially in rural and remote Queensland as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heath care and we hope to make a difference.”

The GMT term officially started on 18th January 2016. Orientation workshops have been delivered throughout the region to Registrars.

Read more about GMT at www.gmt.edu.au
In 2015, the College of Medicine and Dentistry (CMD) in collaboration with Flinders University (FU) and Fiji National University (FNU) helped sponsor the delivery of health professional educator workshops in a number of Pacific countries – Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Vanuatu. The educator program was led by Dr Sinead Kado from FNU who was successful in obtaining AusAid funding for the workshops and was assisted by A/Prof Linda Sweet (FU) and A/Prof Louise Young (CMD). The sudden need for educator workshops was initiated by the return of local doctors with Cuban medical degrees who did not have the required clinical and communication skills to work independently as interns in Pacific Island hospital systems.

In 2006 Cuba commenced medical training for Pacific Island nations. In 2008 a formalised arrangement with Pacific Island nations resulted in 177 Pacific Island students studying medicine in Cuba with most students coming from Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The numbers of students has continued to increase and the first graduates are now returning to their home countries to work.

Cuba has one of the largest health cooperation programs in the world with more than 38,000 Cuban health workers in over 74 countries while hosting more than 20,000 students from approximately 60 countries studying medicine. Upon graduation, these students are expected to return to and practise medicine in their countries of origin. So large numbers of Cuban graduates, who had spent seven years in Cuba learning a community style of medicine in Spanish, were returning to Pacific countries to begin working as interns in hospitals.

Cuban training is of a high standard for its focus on medical knowledge and public and primary health. However, since returning to their Pacific home country, the Cuban graduates have been found to lack practical and communication skills for safe and effective medical practice as interns. To overcome these concerns a bridging program and a modified two year internship has been established in some countries. Furthermore, it was recognised that effective education relied on well prepared clinical educators.

In March the team travelled to Honiara in the Solomon Islands and delivered the first five day program for 22 participants including representatives from all medical disciplines and nurse educators. Positive feedback was received from all participants, with the learning activities deemed as useful for their clinical education roles. This resulted in ‘the word getting around’ and we were next invited to the Republic of Kiribati. In August we travelled to Tarawa in Kiribati and delivered another five day program. A total of 24 participants, including medical staff from a variety of disciplines, midwives and nurse educators, attended. Again, positive feedback was received from all participants, and our reputation for providing locally relevant and effective education was increasing. In November we went to Vanuatu to further spread our passion for clinical educator development. A total of 24 medical specialists and nurse educators participated in the workshops, including A/Professor Lachlan McIver from JCU’s College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Science who is supporting the intern program in Vanuatu.

Clinicians in the Pacific have not had interns before, nor been required to supervise junior clinicians, so the role of supervisor was a new concept to them. Hence the need for rapid upskilling in the area of educator skills and as intern supervisors. With Dr Kado’s local knowledge of the needs and resources of Pacific Island nations, we developed a five day educator program with a combination of theory and practical activities. The five overarching themes were Learners and Learning; Frameworks for Teaching and Learning; Clinical Teaching; Assessment and Evaluation; and Putting It All Together. The final day involved microskills teaching where each participant had to teach a practical session to their peers combining techniques and strategies learned during the week. Dr Kado, Dr Sweet and I had fun learning the intricacies of making paper outrigger canoes, pull-along toys from reeds, hats, weaving, fishing and several dances and songs.

Continuation of these workshops is dependent on AusAid or other external funding. It is hoped the program will continue as the strategies, skills and knowledge learned in the educator workshops benefit not only Cuban interns but local undergraduate health students returning home to complete part of their training and also the many western students who travel to the Pacific for a clinical elective.

If you are interested in learning educator skills for the health professions, JCU offers a suite of health professional education courses through the Graduate Certificate/Graduate Diploma/Masters of Health Professional Education https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses-and–study/courses/graduate-certificate-of-health-professional-education
CARRY ON, DOCTORS:
Daniel Charles, 23 (centre), is among 45 new medical interns fresh from university to have begun their training at Cairns Hospital this week.

“I did university at James Cook University in Townsville for the first four years and went for two years down to Mackay.”

For more information: The Cairns Post 13 January 2016

70 doctors the perfect medicine for Townsville Hospital
SEVENTY graduates have been handed their first stethoscopes as part of a record intake of medical interns across the state in a move to provide better services in the North.

Of those, 57 are from Queensland universities including 41 from James Cook University, and 13 are from interstate. Graduate Lucy Brodnik, who was born and raised in Townsville and studied at JCU, has ambitions to become an obstetrician.

For more information see The Townsville Bulletin 13 January 2016

Graduates from all walks of life
An Afghanistan war veteran, a mature aged health worker and a group of altruistic medical students are some of those that graduated from James Cook University in Townsville, December 16.

There were 745 graduates in JCU’s Division of Tropical Health and Medicine. Future doctors, vets, nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, molecular and biological scientists are just some of those who were presented with their hard-earned degrees.

For more information

Effective Altruism group – socially conscious graduates
This year, seven JCU medicine graduates have aligned themselves with ‘Effective Altruism’, a social movement that has been gaining popularity in recent years.

These young doctors feel very passionately that they have a responsibility to do something about extreme poverty. This not only involves making regular and sizeable donations to charity, but also using evidence and reason to determine the most cost-effective recipients of their money.

Each of these aims is equally important, but the latter is what sets Effective Altruism apart from other altruistic movements. There are only a handful of other Effective Altruists around Australia.

http://www.effectivealtruism.org

Effective Altruist JCU graduates include Tom O’Donohoe, Brenton Mayer, Dan Charles, Laura Koefler, Ally Hardy, Kaitlyn Palmas and Shannan Searle.

Hospital takes on 95 new interns for 2016
New intern Dr Anosh Sivashanmugarajah will complete his first rotation in Orthopaedics.

Dr Sivashanmugarajah was selected by James Cook University for multiple scholarships to USA, Fiji and Sri Lanka before his well-earned placement in Princess Alexandra Hospital’s internship program.

For more information
Congratulations to Sam Turner who was recently awarded the Runner Up Best Oral Presentation at the World HIV & STI Congress in Brisbane of late last year.

The conference was the World STI & HIV Congress 2015 (Brisbane Australia, 13-16th September) (Website - http://www.worldstid2015.com/ehome/91027/196170/?&)

I gave a talk on the research I conducted last year at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, as part of my Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) course. I spent 2014 living in New York and working with Associate Professor, Daniel Fierer, MD, infectious disease physician at the Mount Sinai Hospital.

My research was focused on the detection of Hepatitis C Virus in bodily fluids from HIV-infected men in New York City. The abstract of my research project was accepted for oral presentation at both the World STI & HIV Congress and the Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference. These conferences were back to back, and I presented my oral at both conferences”.


Samuel Turner | 6th Year MBBS (Royal Darwin Hospital)

Congratulations to the Bio-medicine Team

Congratulations Dr Martin Van der Meer, Dr Beena Suvarna and Mr James Phie, on being awarded the JCU Ses-sional Teaching Award for outstanding Contributions to Student Learning!

For more information

2015
Sessional Staff Teaching Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

The Bio-medicine Sessional Staff Award is given to a member of the Bio-medicine team who has made an outstanding contribution to student learning.

College Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences

Thanks to the thoughtful actions of Dr Shane Hearps, Weipa principal dentist, who turned what could have been a very unhappy start to a remote placement for a Canadian student, into an amazing introduction to local hospitality and adventure.

David Osborne, our first Canadian dental student in remote Australia arrived in Weipa. Shane kindly picked the student up from the airport to save him an $80 taxi fare to town. The student then discovered that the key to his accommodation had not been left at the hospital as planned and so he had nowhere to stay in Weipa. Shane kindly offered him accommodation at his home while this was resolved. Further, he then took the student fishing where he caught a fantastic queen fish.

Shane’s generosity and thoughtfulness has made a huge difference to this student’s experience and to our ability to support a student when things don’t go to plan on a long weekend.

Atoifi Health Research Group

Plans to tackle hookworm in Marovo

Training for in-depth interviewing and focus group discus-sions

East Kwaio villages host James Cook University students
Congratulations to Carolyn Reimann, awarded 1st place for Green Code Initiative

I was honoured to be selected as one of Australia’s delegates from the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA)’s General Assembly in Malta. At this meeting I submitted the Code Green Initiative from Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA)’s Global Health Campaign, of which I am the National Project Manager for the Activities Fair.

The Code Green Initiative began as a collaboration between Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) and AMSA to create awareness and education about climate health for medical students. We work at a national level with events such as our Social Media Week which is a week dedicated to education through social media. During this week we put on webinars, blog posts, and use other forms of social media to educate students on climate change and the implications of it for the healthcare system. At the national level we are also currently drafting a proposal in collaboration with DEA to submit to the Australian Medical Council to get climate health into the medical curriculum, as it is not currently a mandatory part of the medical curriculum in Australia. These representatives are in charge of putting on a Code Green Week, which is a week with various events taking place to bring about awareness, advocacy and education on climate health. There are also Guest Speaker Nights, collaborations with other organisations such as 350.org for divestment at the university level, and a variety of other events that take place at each university. The ultimate goal is to educate our medical students as they will see the effects of climate change through their practice as medical doctors. If we can prepare them for this by giving them the tools for advocacy and education for others, hopefully we can all work together to help stop the future impacts of climate health from being so detrimental.

Prior to the Activities Fair I had to submit an overview of our project and strategic plans for 2016, as well as information on the level of impact this group has and how we can assess our project. I was assessed on the following points about the activity:

1. Activity design (demonstration of clear goals and objectives, definition of target group, involvement of the community)
2. Activity implementation (quality of activity, use of resources, problems encountered)
3. Activity evaluation (evaluation methods, demonstration of impact)
4. Activity presentation (assessing how you will present it)

During the Activities Fair I had a booth to put Code Green on display with educational flyers on climate health and I spoke to representatives from all over the world about this initiative. At the Closing Ceremony for the General Assembly they announced the first, second, and third place winners of this Activities Fair.

I was honoured to accept 1st place for the Code Green Initiative. Our projects that we have at universities around Australia are leading examples around the world, and it was such an amazing opportunity to have been able to share this project with everyone.

Carolyn Reimann
Year: 3rd year student
Am I missing out on interesting conferences?

Let us share knowledge about interesting conferences with each other. To do this go to: https://au.researchweb.org/is/jcu/conferences

You can see conferences other colleagues found useful and you can also add conferences not already on the list.

JCU dentistry trio share their clinical placement experience in Japan

JCU dentistry students Johnny Chen, Erica Jorgensen, and Prashant Krishna spent one month on observational clinical placement in Japan. Kyoto University Hospital has one of the best maxillofacial surgery units in the world.

We were mostly observing other dentists and surgeons, but we were also lucky enough to get a bit of hands-on experience. If you showed a lot of interest they allowed you to do more instead of just watching. In one of the procedures, the surgeon let me screw in a surgical plate. That was the highlight of my placement", Prashant said.

To read more about their Japanese experience click here.

If you're interested in travelling overseas for your dentistry placement, please contact Felicity Croker at felicity.croker@jcu.edu.au

Nothing beats Regional Health to develop your skills

William Bay from Monash University, Laura Koefler from James Cook University, and Sabrina Yee from University of Queensland have finished their medical degrees and are now interning in CQ.

"I think a regional area is excellent for providing access to develop your skills and abilities as a junior doctor more than say, some metro areas," says William.

"(At university) I got a good opportunity to get hands-on with a lot of surgeries and intubations and other things you may not get in cities, and I'm hoping similarly to get that experience here at the hospital so I can grow quickly and strongly as a doctor."

Central Queensland Hospital and Health's director of clinical training, Dr Annette Turley, said there was a shortage of Australian-trained doctors in both regional and rural areas. "Rural and regional areas of Australia need good doctors," she said.

"It's always difficult to recruit to regional areas. Once they're here they really enjoy it, it's that mindset of getting people out of a city into a regional area in any professional career (that's difficult)," she said.

The Morning Bulletin
Hau Yan Chan shares his experience at Kaohsiung Observational Clinical Placement

I was fortunate to be in the first group of students from JCU going to overseas placement in Kaohsiung. Before the trip, it seemed that no one was sure about what to expect from this experience; however my experience was amazing.

Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital is a huge and modern hospital which has different dental specialist departments in it ranging from Oral Surgery, Orthodontics, Prosthodontics, Periodontics, Oral Medicine, Endodontics, Paediatric to Family dentistry. Hau Yan Chan

For more information

International Mentoring Program

The start of the year 1, MBBS year is an exciting time; we have an inaugural mentor program for incoming international students starting in the MBBS program. The purpose of the program is to support the transition of international students into the JCU MBBS program, Townsville environment, and Australian culture. The mentor program will provide the opportunity for new international students to connect with senior international MBBS students to ask questions and share experiences, face-to-face and through an online forum.

The program is a joint initiative between the MBBS student support program, and the JCU Medical Student Association (JCUMSA). The program developers are Simone Ross (academic), Julie Graham (JCUMSA international representative, 2016) and Reuben George (AMSA International Student Network Chair, 2016).

We are very grateful for our senior international students who have volunteered to be mentors, and who have provided their vast experience and knowledge regarding the types of support required for new international students to JCU. We truly appreciate your time and effort!

If you have any questions about the program please do not hesitate to email one of us: simone.ross@jcu.edu.au, julie.graham10@my.jcu.edu.au, or reuben.george@my.jcu.edu.au.

Student Club Leadership Forum

"Across the College of Medicine and Dentistry, I have the privilege of being the Academic Chair of the Student Club Leadership Forum. With the student club executive members, we have regularly met to plan a full day program that will allow the club members to work together, build on their own and club leadership needs, and network with a number of guest speakers.

This year’s forum is built on last year’s success, when Maggie Grant envisioned, organised, and facilitated the inaugural forum.

Sophie Manoy, President of the JCU Medical Student Association (2015 and 2016) had this to say about last year’s forum: "The Student Club Leadership Day was a great opportunity for the student clubs to network with each other and learn about how each club works. We had a great time and learnt about club finances, dealing with conflict and communication skills. The event was well received by each of the clubs and was also a great opportunity for each of the disciplines of Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry to connect."

For this year’s forum, we also have support from Tarun Sen Gupta and Teresa O'Connor, and the student clubs involved are: General Practice Student Network (GPSN), INSAKA, JCU Dental Student Association (JCUDSA), JCU Medical Student Association (JCUMSA), JCU Pharmacy Student Association (JCUPSA), Rural Health in Northern Outback (RHINO), and Supporting All Nations Towards Equality (SANTE).

We held this semester’s forum on Saturday 5th of March, and look forward to providing you with an update and photos of the event in the next newsletter."
A documentary has been released that features the recent work of Atoifi Health Research Group on Marovo Island, Western Solomons.

Entitled ‘Parasites in Paradise - a soil transmitted helminth survey in Marovo’, the documentary records the recent survey of soil-transmitted helminths (STH) conducted in Chea and Sasaghana villages. There is footage of village based research assistants, methods used to conduct the STH survey and interviews with many of the Atoifi Health Research group, including Dr David MacLaren from the College of Medicine and Dentistry, James Cook University (JCU).

The Parasites in Paradise documentary is an excellent description of both the STH survey and the way research capacity strengthening is conducted by the Atoifi Health Research Group. A bonus is the stunning scenery and great music!

Dr David MacLaren said, "The documentary is also a useful teaching tool for those wanting to learn more about participatory and community-based research in low-resource, tropical environments". He explained, "I have already had the opportunity to share parts of the documentary and discuss with a cohort of PhD candidates, and it was very well received".

To view the documentary for free, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRzg4C7Mmas

'Parasites in Paradise - a soil transmitted helminth survey in Marovo' was filmed and edited by Ben Speare, of Speare Shot Media and produced by Tropical Health Solutions, in collaboration with Atoifi Health Research Group, Pacific Adventist University and James Cook University

DENTISTRY PRIZE RECIPIENTS IN 2015

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<td>5th Yr</td>
<td>Annika Blomberg</td>
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<td>Henry Schein and Colgate - Top Student and Top Clinical Student</td>
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<td>Masonic Prize for Exemplary Achievement in First Year Medicine</td>
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<td>Madeline Kelly</td>
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<td>Matthew Riggs</td>
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<td>Aran Sandrasegaran</td>
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<td>Maggie Grant-Wronski Memorial Bursary</td>
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<td>Pranav Divakaran</td>
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<td>Peter Doyle Medal</td>
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<td>Daniel Charles</td>
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<td>Generalist Medical Training Prize in General Practice</td>
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<td>Tamlyn Crozier</td>
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<td>Generalist Medical Training Prize in Rural Medicine</td>
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**CALLING ALL WRITERS, RESEARCHERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, POETS AND MOVEMAKERS!**

Have you been to a conference, or been on an interesting placement?

Have you started a new student club or activity and want to get the word out?

We would love to hear your stories. Please forward articles to Barbara.vanhouts@jcu.edu.au.

Feel free to send links to work you may have published elsewhere online.