



## Medical Deans Newsletter

### Welcome to Issue 3!

*The title of this newsletter should be 'change is the norm'.*

*I understand that almost every medical school is undergoing some form of restructure or budget review process at present... and most are preparing for some lean times ahead.*

*The same goes for this organisation albeit we still await the full story after the Federal May 13 Budget. The Executive met with Minister Dutton on 20th March. Despite a pre amble by the Minister of 'there is no money' the President and Vice President gave an upbeat presentation trying to capture the government's interest in some of our key activities particularly in workforce and indigenous health. A strong case for our rural clinical schools was also made. We have also been promoting our case to the senior Departmental officers in Canberra who are always supportive but of course are in no position to provide any certainties pre budget.*

*The Government consistently talks of 'cutting red tape' and 'reducing duplication.' What this translates to with potential agency and program activities is not yet clear but may have an impact on individual schools and the organisation. Part of our planning in the face of potential change includes a face to face meeting with all Deans on June 24 in Canberra. This meeting will be part annual standing committee including meeting with senior Departmental officers (and potentially the Minister) and strategic planning for Medical Deans should our external funding sources be cut or greatly reduced.*

*On a more positive note we are currently exploring a model for putting MSOD on sustainable footings and potentially trialing data linkage with the National Health Workforce Dataset (medical workforce surveys) later this year.*

*I also encourage everyone to look at the new LIME Pathways to Medicine videos. I think you will agree they are very inspiring.*



### Medical Deans Externally Funded Projects

- LIME Network—DoH till June 2015
- MSOD—HWA till 31 Dec 2014
- Assessment Benchmarking—HWA till Oct 2014

### LIME Pathways to Medicine

<http://limenetwork.net.au/pathways>

Nominations to fill the vacancy of the **Ordinary Member** on Committee (the Executive) will open soon



Judy Searle  
CEO  
4 April 2014

### Medical School Statistics 2013 (Australia) snapshot

- 3668 commencing students in Australia in 2013 (17.3% international) - 6.6% increase over 4 years
- 3284 graduating doctors in Australia in 2012 (15.4% international). Numbers have doubled over last 6 years.
- Peak of domestic graduates expected in 2014 (approx. 3200)

In addition

185 applications for the Commonwealth Intern Places resulting in 76 positions in 2014 largely in Qld and WA

## INTERNAL NEWS

The **LIME Network** has begun hosting *Slice of LIME Seminars* as part of its ongoing activities. These workshops focus on specific topics of interest for our members and we aim to hold at least two of these seminars per year. The first in this series was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 with Professor Fred Hafferty from the Mayo Clinic, USA, and focused on admissions criteria.



23 people participated in the session, either in person or via an online stream. Those attending online were able to participate in the discussion through a text chat function, with questions conveyed to Professor Hafferty during the session. After giving the group some background to his work at the Mayo Clinic and life in Minnesota, Professor Hafferty led an interactive workshop and discussion on admissions criteria, and the way these criteria can impact on student cohorts and curriculum content.

For more information on the Slice of LIME Seminars, contact us via: E: [lime-network@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lime-network@unimelb.edu.au);

The final stage of the **Competencies Project** is now complete with the report and the final versions of the clinical assessment blueprints for the medical graduate released to HWA and medical schools. The major project outputs include an overview of clinical assessment occurring in Australian and New Zealand medical schools in the latter half of a professional entry program, and the development of a suite of clinical assessment blueprints for the medical graduate.

The three stages of the Competencies Project has produced tangible benefits for medical schools by providing educational resources aimed at enhancing clinical training and assessment programs. These resources and the sharing of educational and assessment expertise across medical schools will further assist schools in producing competent, 'work ready' medical graduates.

A key feature of the Competencies Project has been the collaborative spirit in which the project has been conducted. All Australian and New Zealand medical schools have contributed across the three project stages. Medical Deans is grateful for the contributions from medical schools and looks forward to further working with schools on the Assessment Benchmarking Project.

As for the **Project Manager, Medical Education Monique Hourn** will be moving on after four years of working with the Deans. She will be working hard as she embarks on a Central America surf odyssey later this year.



Following on from the significant Stage 1 achievements including a commitment to participate from all Australian and New Zealand medical schools, the **Assessment Benchmarking Project** has worked collaboratively with the medical schools to develop a pilot collection of national standard assessment items in the form of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) for medical students. The Project is now working with schools to embed the items in 2014 medical school assessments – the challenges are many and varied but the signs are positive that a majority of medical schools will use all or some of the items in 2014 assessments. Help generate the evidence to make this project a success by becoming involved in this collaborative assessment project. Members are encouraged to view and comment on the blog at <http://assessmentbenchmarking.blogspot.com.au/>. And to follow the project on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BoldlyBench>

## OTHER NEWS

### NMTAN—National Medical Training Advisory Network

The President represents Medical Deans on this national (and continuing) body Chaired by Professor John Horvath. Work is proceeding around development of the Medical Training Plan and particular initiatives in 4 focused areas including training capacity.

## Media news

MJA Insight Feb 3—Medical School Admissions policies  
[www.mja.com.au/insight/2014/3/diversity-key-student-selection](http://www.mja.com.au/insight/2014/3/diversity-key-student-selection)

### Farewells from Medical Deans

Medical Deans bids farewell to **Professor Richard Hays**, Dean of Health Sciences and Medicine at Bond University and a member of the Executive and **Professor Don Robertson**, Project Director for MSOD.

On behalf of the organisation, the Executive and I wish them both well in their new adventures and publicly record our thanks to them for their enduring support and commitment to Medical Deans.



### Medical Deans also welcomes 2 new Medical School leads since our last newsletter

- Associate Professor Kim Rooney on behalf of University of Tasmania, School of Medicine and Para medicine
- Professor Shirley Bowen, Dean of Medicine, Notre Dame Fremantle

### FACTS from MSOD

- 90% of PGY3 doctors have decided which area of medicine they will pursue compared with only 62% of interns
- There has been a nearly five fold increase in the % of commencing students who identified as being from a rural background over the last 8 years (16.2% cf 3.4%)
- Almost twice the number of junior doctors in PGY3 are more interested in teaching versus research. The gap widens each year after commencement of medical school
- The gap between the % of female and male students commencing medical studies has reduced to just 0.9% compared to 18% in 2005. (50.9% female in 2012)
- 7.5% of PGY3 doctors intend to undertake an additional undifferentiated JMO year

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- FRAME Meeting, 8-9 May, Port Lincoln SA
- Federal Budget, May 13, Canberra
- Mental Health Roundtable, Late May, Melbourne (date TBC) - AMA and Beyond Blue
- Medical Deans Standing Committee Meeting and AGM, 24 June, 2014, Canberra
- Executive meeting with AIDA Executive, June 24, Canberra
- Annual Conference, 20-22 October 2014, Geelong