

Medical Deans Newsletter

2020 Key Events

Wednesday 17 June

Medical Deans
Annual General Meeting
Parliament House, Canberra

Sunday 12 July

MECC MELANZ symposium
University
Melbourne
(held in conjunction with
ANZHPE Conference 12 – 15 July)

Wednesday 26 August

Indigenous Knowledge Initiative
Australian National University
Canberra

Thursday 27 –

Friday 28 August

Medical Deans Annual
Conference
Australian National University
Canberra

Medical Deans has had another productive 12 months and seen significant progress in many of our priority areas – with some of our key work outlined in the following pages.

Much of our focus this year has been on **strengthening our connections** with key Ministers, advisors, the Departments of Education and Health, and a wide range of other stakeholders, and to increasingly contributing ideas and feedback to a number of **key policy developments**. This year has seen Medical Deans' provide input to an increasing number of consultations and submissions.



Updates and progress on the very active work of our **Medical Deans' committees** can be found on pages 2 to 4, however it's worth noting that we commenced the review of our Inherent Requirements guideline statement undertaking a comprehensive consultation process and literature review on this very important yet complex matter. Other priorities have included the rural medical workforce—in particular the development of our rural workforce proposal and response to the proposed redistribution of CSPs— accreditation matters, medical student health, and growing and supporting the Indigenous medical workforce. We have also progressed our fruitful collaboration with the AMC on benchmarking assessments, which we will be reviewing in more detail next year.

We continue to improve our **use of newer technologies**, which has brought about twofold benefits of better functionality and reduced cost. Basecamp is now very actively used by the Executive and all our standing committees, and MELANZ members deserve a special mention for their very high level of engagement with a constant stream of queries, discussions and information sharing. It is proving to be an extremely effective communication platform to share documents and messages without these getting lost in amongst your many daily emails. Adopting the use of Zoom video/teleconferencing has also been of real benefit for all our meetings and discussions.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyous festive season with your loved ones, and look forward to continuing our work in 2020.

Helen Craig
Chief Executive Officer

Membership changes

2019 saw more changes to our member representatives. We welcomed James Vickers at UTAS, Karen Dwyer at Deakin, Cheryl Jones at Sydney, and the announcement that Sandra Eades will be commencing at Curtin in March 2020.

We sincerely thank the previous representatives for their contribution to Medical Deans' work: Ben Canny at UTAS, Brendan Crotty and then Jon Watson at Deakin (noting that Jon will be commencing as Executive Dean at UWA in February 2020), Arthur Conigrave at Sydney, and William Hart at Curtin.

Medical Deans Annual Conference

Melbourne put on two beautiful spring days in September for our Annual Conference, which everyone says gets better each year. The program was very engaging, with interactive discussions on key focus areas for medical schools, including: fostering social accountability in our graduate workforce; driving cultural change to ensure safe working and learning spaces for doctors and our students presented by a leading hospital CEO and the Vanderbilt University; innovative approaches to the medical curricula and societal changes that we are seeing around us; what is and isn't working in teaching Indigenous health and culturally safe practice, the research environment and its implications for the curricula; and the importance of having and using (the right) data.

The University of Melbourne hosted the event, providing a wonderful environment, venue and facilities for attendees to meet and share ideas.

SAVE THE DATES: Australian National University, Canberra
Medical Deans Indigenous Knowledge Initiative, 26 August 2020
Medical Deans Annual Conference 2020, 27 – 28 August 2020
 Hosted by Australian National University, Canberra



Medical Education Collaborative Committee

With Ian Symonds taking on the role of President, we were delighted to welcome Kirsty Forrest as the new Chair of MECC. This year MECC progressed a range of priorities, including a review of the **Assessment Benchmarking** project which we undertake in collaboration with the AMC, to ensure this important piece of work is well led and supported.

We increased our engagement with and contribution to the various groups who are leading the work for the **internship** years and training, including the preparedness of our graduates for internship. We have also been assessing the necessary requirements to support the **Prescribing Skills Assessment** to move from a pilot to be fully sustainable in ANZ.

The **MELANZ** group has adopted its new Basecamp forum with gusto regularly posting new discussion threads and comments, and the July Symposium saw established and new educational leaders come together to discuss digital health, fitness to practice and building research in health professions education.

Inherent Requirements

The planned review of our guideline *"Inherent Requirements for studying medicine in Australia and New Zealand"* has commenced and comprehensive consultations are underway with key stakeholders whilst also open for public comment. Chaired by Peter Crampton of Otago medical school, the working group comprises a wide range of experience and expertise from across our schools and key stakeholders including the MBA, MCNZ, AMC, AMSA and Doctors with a Disability. The working group is aiming to provide a revised version in mid 2020.

Supporting Medical Students' Health and Wellbeing

The health of our students continues to be a key focus, and our Student Health Committee has led our work on continuing to better understand what impacts their health – whether on our campuses and on clinical placements, or when transitioning to internship.

The Committee have also been instrumental in identifying strategies and approaches that have shown to be effective in dealing with bullying, harassment and discrimination. An increasing focus for us in 2020 will be supporting stronger partnerships with the health services sector.

A wide range of work has been undertaken this year to support the health and wellbeing of our students. This included a Budget submission to the Health Minister advocating for the reinstatement of funding for the online **Mental Health First Aid** course, responding and providing feedback on the communications materials developed by the Medical Board of Australia on the changes to **Mandatory Reporting**, and discussions with AMSA regarding the **transfer of information** between medical schools and their hospital employers when they transition to internship.

Increased input on policy issues

Medical Deans has contributed to a wide range of consultations this year and provided an increased number of submissions, including:

- RHMT Program evaluation
- Minister Wyatt's Indigenous health workforce workshop
- NRAS Accreditation System Review
- National Medical Workforce Strategic Framework
- Response to the proposed CSP redistribution, and our proposal on medical schools' contribution to increasing the rural medical workforce
- Mental Health First Aid funding submission
- Input to MBA's Mandatory Notification communications
- National Digital Health Workforce and Education Roadmap
- AHPRA definition of Cultural Safety
- National Health Workforce Strategy
- Accreditation practices impact on specialist medical workforce

Research Committee

Di Eley of UQ, member of our Research Committee, led the development of a survey on the approach to and impact of **research in the curriculum**. The survey findings were shared at our Annual Conference and a report will be circulated to members early in the New Year. The report will also be shared with the jurisdictions, as hospitals play a vital role in this area of work.

We were also very pleased to be able to provide feedback on the Go8 work regarding recommendations supporting the growth of the **clinician-research workforce**, being led by Stuart Carney.

MECC– MELANZ Symposium

Early July saw our MECC and Medical Education Leads Australia and New Zealand (MELANZ) members come together to hear from leaders in Digital Health and workshop the challenges involved in "Educating for a future of digital medicine". The presentations on 'Fitness to practice' and 'Building research in health professions education' were bursting at the seams.

MECC/MELANZ continues to be an invaluable hub for both personal and professional networking and the development of key academics and emerging leaders within our schools.

Planning for MECC/MELANZ 2020 is underway and we encourage emerging leaders in medical education to join us.

SAVE THE DATE

MECC/MELANZ 2020 symposium

12 July 2020

(in conjunction with the ANZHPE conference,
12-15 July Melbourne)



Engaging with our stakeholders

Medical Deans continues to have an active and valuable voice, sitting on a range of advisory committees and other key groups including:

- Health workforce committees
- AMC's MedSAC, PreVAC, SEAC
- MBA's Medical Training Survey Advisory Committee
- RHMT Program Expert Reference Group
- National Medical Framework (for doctor health)
- UA's Health Professions Education Standing Group
- NSW Health's Intern Review Advisory Committee

Building strong partnerships and connections ...

- New Collaborative Agreement signed between MDANZ & AIDA
- Regular discussions and strengthened connections with Te ORA
- Increased connections with AMSA and NZMSA
- FRAME (Rural Clinical Schools)
- Active engagement with CPMC, including facilitating a presentation by FRAME to the colleges on the work of Regional Training Hubs
- Continuing strong connection with LIME Network
- Doctors Health Advisory Services

In addition to ensuring regular meetings and discussions with Ministerial advisors and Departmental staff

Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD)

Our **MSOD Report** continues to provide invaluable insights into our student cohort. Further analysis this year reiterated the strong link between rural background and rural preference, however also highlighted that we shouldn't overlook the interest that can be fostered in non-rural students with increased quality exposure to rural medicine. We have increasing the distribution of the MSOD Report and have received positive feedback on its value.

Our data linkage project hit some delays, due to AHPRA regulations around how privacy matters for their survey data need to be handled, however we have **continued to progress** work to link MSOD with the AHPRA National Medical Registration Data, and will have further news to share with the members on this in Q1 next year. This will enable members to access a longitudinal picture of their graduates' careers across the training continuum and into their practice, and provide insights into the career choices and pathways they take and what influences these.



Executive Committee 2019-2021

Our AGM saw the election of our new President, Ian Symonds, Dean and Head of School at Adelaide Medical School. There was a heartfelt expression of thanks to the outgoing President, Richard Murray, for his leadership and hard work over the last two and a half years. We are delighted that Richard has been elected to remain on the Executive. The Executive for 2019-2021 are:

President:	Professor Ian Symonds, Adelaide
Vice-President:	Professor Michelle Leech, Monash
Secretary:	Professor Imogen Mitchell, ANU
Treasurer:	Professor Kirsty Forrest, Bond
Ordinary Member:	Professor Richard Murray, JCU
Co-opted Member:	Professor John Fraser, Auckland
Co-opted Member:	Professor Christine Bennett AO, Notre Dame, Sydney

Growing the Rural Medical workforce

Guided by our Social Accountability Committee members, we have undertaken a substantial amount of work this year to raise the profile of medical schools' contribution to **health workforce policy** discussions and developments. Whilst we have been clear from the onset about our concerns with the proposed CSP redistribution policy (which remains unannounced at this point) we appreciated the opportunity to see an early, embargoed copy of the Education Dept's Discussion Paper.

Our contribution to these health workforce discussions has been sought and welcomed, and we have met and talked with a wide range of stakeholders to share our views and obtain their feedback on where medical schools' can best contribute. Our work in health workforce policy will continue to be an important aspect and focus for us in coming years.

LIME Connection VIII — Pouhine Poutama: Embedding Indigenous Health Education

This year's LIME Connection was held in beautiful Ōtautahi/Christchurch in Aotearoa/New Zealand and hosted by Otago medical school, and participants were simultaneously challenged, inspired and at times moved to tears. There was a vast array of practical advice, knowledge-sharing, professional and personal connections forged, and a lot of fun.

Many congratulations to this year's LIMELight award winners, including Professor Karen Dwyer of Deakin University on her LIME Connection twitter award. The next LIME Connection will be held in Western Australia in 2021. We look forward to the event and opportunity it brings to inspire and develop collaboration in Indigenous health and health professional education.



THE LIME NETWORK
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education

LIME CONNECTION VIII

5 - 8 November 2019

Ōtautahi (Christchurch), Aotearoa (New Zealand)

www.limeconnection.net.au