

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 27 – April 2011

1. Alumni news and events

1.1 Controversies and Leadership in Health Seminars

These 90 minute Seminars are primarily intended for Sydney Medical Students but will be open to all. Alumni are most welcome. They will be on controversial topics with outstanding speakers who have a strong record of leadership. All seminars will be held in the Footbridge Theatre, University of Sydney, Parramatta Road, Camperdown. There will be time for audience participation. Registration is not necessary.

Tuesday, 3 May, 5-6.30pm. 'Are we training too many doctors?'

Do we need more doctors or could other professionals take on some of their roles? Are we training too many doctors? Will there be enough training jobs for the coming tsunami of new graduates? And are we training the right kind of doctors?

Join a stimulating, controversial discussion on the future of medical education and medical care with: Professor Peter Brooks, Director, Australian Health Workforce Institute; Professor Bruce Robinson, Dean, Sydney Medical School; Dr Kathryn Austin, Chair, NSW AMA Doctors in Training; Professor Brad Frankum, Clinical Dean, University of Western Sydney; Dr Andrew Pesce, Federal President AMA, Obstetrician Westmead Hospital; MC - Emeritus Professor Kim Oates, University of Sydney

Monday, 16 May, 5-6.30pm: 'Doctors in politics'

What makes a doctor become a politician? Personal reflections on their medical and political life. Speakers are: Senator Bob Brown, Federal Leader of the Australian Greens; Dr Andrew McDonald, MP, Member for Macquarie Fields; The Hon. Emeritus Professor Peter Baume, Gastroenterologist, ex-Federal Senator & ex-Federal Minister for Health; MC - The Hon. Geoff Gallop, ex-Premier W. Australia, Head of Graduate School of Management, University of Sydney.

Tuesday, 2 August, 5-6.30pm: 'Doctors and the drug industry'

Practising clinicians may develop a relationship with the pharmaceutical industry in many ways. Are all these relationships ethical? Speakers will highlight these issues and give their opinion followed by discussion from the floor. Speakers are: Professor Kerry Phelps, G.P. and ex Federal President of the AMA; Dr Malcolm Handel, Executive Director, Medical & Scientific Affairs, Janssen-Cilag; Assoc. Professor Warwick Selby, Gastroenterologist, RPAH; Dr Martin Van Der Weyden, Editor Emeritus, Medical Journal of Australia; Mr Will Delaat, ex CEO Merek Sharp & Dohme/Chair Medicines Australia; MC - Dr Charlie McDonald, Gastroenterologist, Concord Hospital.

Monday, 8 August, 5-6.30pm: 'Doctors in court'

Two leading senior counsels - Peter Semmler QC and Bernie Gross QC - with a special interest in medical negligence cross-examine three leading clinicians - Professor Leigh Delbridge, Professor of Surgery, RNSH; Dr Robert Read, Gastroenterologist, Hornsby Hospital; and Assoc Professor Phillip Clifton-Bligh, Endocrinologist, RNSH - in a dramatised court-room role-play.

Monday, 15 August, 5-6.30pm: 'Public and private hospitals – the good, the bad and the ugly'

Public and private hospitals play a vital role in Australian healthcare. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each? How could they work better together? Outstanding speakers will debate these issues head-to-head: Dr Stephen Ruff, Orthopaedic Surgeon, RNSH and North

Shore Private Hospital; Professor David Celermejer, Cardiologist, RPAH; Mr Alan Kinkade, CEO Epworth Private Hospital, Melbourne; Professor Mohammed Khadra, Professor of Surgery, Nepean Hospital and Author of 'Terminal Decline – a Surgeon's view of the Australian Health System'; MC - Dr Norman Swan, ABC Radio National.

Tuesday, 25 October, 5-6.30pm: **'The Campbelltown Hospital crisis – an isolated incident or destined to be repeated?'**

In December 2003, 10 senior specialists at Campbelltown Hospital blamed politicians publicly for the crisis in patient care at their hospital. Speakers are: Professor Brad Frankum, Clinical Dean, University of Western Sydney & Physician, Campbelltown Hospital; The Hon Craig Knowles, Former NSW Minister for Health; Dr Andrew McDonald, MP, Member for Macquarie Fields and former head of Paediatrics, Campbelltown Hospital; Dr Martin Van Der Weyden, Editor Emeritus, Medical Journal of Australia; MC - Professor Neville Yeomans, Former Dean, University of Western Sydney.

1.2 Sydney Health Policy Network

The Sydney Health Policy Network (SHPN) is a new cross-disciplinary network established within the University of Sydney. The Network aims to link the health policy research and education activities of the University of Sydney in a fruitful and enjoyable academic enterprise. It seeks new knowledge and interest in the translation of knowledge into policy and practice. It will connect academics and those who make the policy decisions for society, including health service providers and health and social agencies, both nationally and internationally.

A website for the network has been launched recently and will be populated with more information as work on the Network progresses: <http://sydney.edu.au/health-policy-network/>

An invitation to Join the Network. Full and part-time faculty, academic title holders, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate research students of all divisions of the University of Sydney, its teaching hospitals and affiliated research centres who are involved in research related to, or education activities concerned with health policy are invited to join the Network.

For starters, we have in mind people involved in: clinical studies; finance; food policy; health law; architecture; environmental engineering; agriculture; education; health promotion; political science and public policy; health sciences including medicine and public health; information science; international health; nursing; dentistry; pharmacy; public health; rural health; social and political science; sustainability; business and management; economics; urban planning; veterinary public health; and workforce.

As a member of the Network your name will be added to our email list. You can expect to receive 2-3 emails per month, alerting you to news relevant to network members.

Join the network via the following url: <http://s1.sydney.edu.au/health-policy-network/membership/index.php>

1.3 Sydney Health Policy Network Symposium. Showcasing the health policy activities of the University of Sydney.

You are invited to join us for the Sydney Health Policy Network Symposium on **Monday, 16 May 2011** between 10 am and 3 pm at the Darlington Centre, University of Sydney.

The day will be divided into two sessions. The objective of the morning session is to provide

snapshots of research and education efforts relevant to health policy from across the University. The objective of the afternoon session is to discuss new ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration across disciplinary boundaries – developing strategic intent.

Who should come? Full and part-time faculty, academic title holders, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate research students of all divisions of the University of Sydney, its teaching hospitals and affiliated research centres who are involved in research related to, or education activities concerned with health policy.

For starters, we have in mind people involved in: clinical studies; finance; food policy; health law; architecture; environmental engineering; agriculture; education; health promotion; political science and public policy; health sciences including medicine and public health; information science; international health; nursing; dentistry; pharmacy; public health; rural health; social and political science; sustainability; business and management; economics; urban planning; veterinary public health; and workforce.

Registration. Please let us know if you plan to attend, and what (if anything) you would like to show-and-tell for 5-10 minutes in the morning session. Tell us by 5 pm, Friday, 29th April at shpn@sydney.edu.au. More information: http://sydney.edu.au/news/health_policy_network/2481.html?eventid=7715

Key contacts: Sydney Health Policy Network Office - For further information about the Sydney Health Policy Network, membership enquiries, or if you have any items to add to the website, please contact: Sydney Health Policy Network, Room 228, Victor Coppleson Building (D02), Western Avenue, The University of Sydney NSW 2006.
Tel. [9351 2818](tel:93512818) or email: shpn@sydney.edu.au

1.4 Sale of donated Picasso to benefit University of Sydney science. Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney said: 'In an extraordinary act of generosity, an overseas donor who wishes to remain anonymous was prepared to fly to Australia to personally give this painting to the University on the strict understanding that it would be sold and the proceeds directed to scientific research.

'This very generous and far-sighted gift is recognition of the international standing and reputation of the University of Sydney. By giving to the University in this way, our donor underlined the fact that our many generous supporters can have confidence that benefactions will be used wisely by the University for the benefit of our researchers, students and the wider community.

'In this case some of the proceeds of **the sale of the Picasso will create multiple endowed chairs across several disciplines within a new multidisciplinary University centre dedicated to research into obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.** The new centre will transform research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of these conditions, involving everything from metabolic research to the economics of food supply.'

See: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newscategoryid=1&newsstoryid=6799>

Rare gift from the master and his muse. The donation of a Picasso is a huge windfall for Sydney University, writes Adam Fulton (Sydney Morning Herald, 27 April).

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/rare-gift-from-the-master-and-his-muse-20110427-1dvbx.html>

The University of Sydney has received a very special gift. It is perhaps the most

generous gift in the University's 160-year history: an anonymous donor has bequeathed to the University his, or her, Picasso *Jeune fille en dormie*.

Listen to: Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney -
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/breakfast/stories/2011/3201054.htm>

1.5 The NSW Doctors Orchestra is proud to present their annual concert '**From Paris to Moscow' on Saturday, 29 May**, at the Verbrugghen Hall, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, 2.30 pm. Conducted by Dr David Bannry, the afternoon will feature guest artist Sandy Sin on the marimba and will include: Saint Saens 'Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso and Sarasate' Zigeunerweisen (featuring Sandy Sin on the marimba), Leo Weiner - Panaszos Enek (Plaintive Song), and Tchaikovsky - Symphony No 6 'Symphony Pathetique'. All proceeds will go towards the Sydney Eisteddfod and Muscular Dystrophy NSW.

Tickets: Adult \$40, Student/Pensioner \$30, Child \$20 and Family \$90. Order via Sydney Eisteddfod on (02) 9261 8366, online: www.sydneyeisteddfod.com.au (go to the Special Events section) or at the door from 1.00 pm.

1.6 Teaching anatomy to medical students. Medical students are no longer required to dissect cadavers but some choose to do it anyway, writes Julie Robotham (Sydney Morning Herald, 14 April). Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/science/anatomy-of-a-dissection-debate-20110413-1deaf.html>

1.7 Sydney Medical School students at Sydney Adventist Hospital. See: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/theyre-here-to-learn--at-a-private-hospital-20110209-1an25.html>

1.8 Richard Doll's biography. Recently at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Conrad Keating, Writer-in-Residence at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine at Oxford University, led an animated discussion on his recent book 'Smoking kills. The revolutionary life of Richard Doll'. 'Born in 1912, Doll, a natural patrician, jettisoned his Establishment background and joined the Communist Party as a reaction to the 'anarchy and waste' of capitalism in the 1930s.....A political revolutionary and an epidemiologist with a Darwinian heart-of-stone, Doll fulfilled his early ambition to be 'a valuable member of society'. Described by the British Medical Journal as 'perhaps Britain's most eminent doctor', Doll ushered in a new era in medicine: the intellectual ascendancy of medical statistics.'

The book can be obtained from Derek Hall, Reply Post 30 (free), PO Box 935, Mona Vale, NSW 1660, or call him on 02 9970 5111, ext 100. Price is \$28.95 and freight is free.

1.9 The founder of Sydney IVF is returning to his first love, writes Deborah Smith (Sydney Morning Herald, 16-17 April). Professor Robert Jansen (1971) has overseen the birth of more than 8,000 babies. But when the internationally acclaimed medical researcher and founder of Sydney IVF was growing up in Newport, on Sydney's northern beaches, the problem of infertility was far from the minds of most young men and women. How to avoid getting pregnant was more of an issue in the 1950s and '60s.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/modern-miracle-of-conception-20110415-1dhj9.html>

1.10 **Mental health of asylum seekers is a no-win situation**, Opinion by Tanveer Ahmed (2000) (Sydney Morning Herald, 21 April).

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/mental-health-of-asylum-seekers-is-a-nowin-situation-20110420-1dos5.html>

1.11 **Graduate Connections Breakfast** with David Malouf - see: <http://sydney.edu.au/alumni/>. Please note that the notes on David Malouf's talk in the March e-Newsletter were written by Madeleine King. Some aspects of his talk appear in Quarterly Essay, Issue 41, 2011, as: 'The happy life. The search for contentment in the modern world'.

2. Student mentoring

At a meeting with the Dean and the Associate Deans of Clinical Schools in February 2010, it was agreed that we should enlist the support of alumni to act as mentors and/or hosts, especially for GMP students who were from outside Sydney. It was decided that alumni who volunteer to be mentors should contact the Medical Alumni Association. They would then be put in touch with the Associate Dean most conveniently placed to them geographically. The head of the Clinical School would inform the alumni of students who wanted to meet voluntary mentors, keeping small the number of prospective students allocated to any mentor. It was suggested that Associate Deans could host an informal evening where mentors and students could meet.

Some Clinical Schools, notably Nepean, are more advanced in finding suitable mentors for their students. The University also gives alumni the option to act as mentors through the Alumni Relations and Events team.

At a recent enjoyable evening at a restaurant in the Italian Forum in Leichhardt, I had the pleasure of meeting students, their mentors and academic staff from Nepean Clinical School. The Student Mentor Scheme at Nepean is led by Adrian Sheen, on behalf of the Nepean Medical Association, and Biren Singh from Sydney Medical School at Nepean. For those planning to develop a mentoring program at other Clinical Schools, Adrian Sheen's advice is: (a) have a 'pilot scheme' - this takes pressure off everyone! (b) start small - Nepean had 7 mentors in their first year and now has 13 - mentors need encouragement as well! (c) 'make sure at the outset that it is realised that this is a scheme about being part of the medical profession and not about how to be a cardiologist!'.

One key feature of the success at Nepean has been to find someone who is willing to take responsibility for co-ordinating mentors and students. Based on the experiences at Nepean, they have prepared notes on: 'Student Mentor Scheme Objectives' document, 'How to be a good Mentee', and 'How to be a good Mentor'.

Alumni who would like to volunteer to be mentors, please inform Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au) and indicate the Clinical School where it is most convenient for you to meet prospective students. If you have previously indicated that you would like to be a mentor, please also contact Diana Lovegrove.

3. **Sydney University Graduates Union for North America (SUGUNA)**. The annual conference will be held in Vanouwer on 4-6 August. See the University of Sydney website for details of the program, registration and accommodation: <http://www.alumni.sydney.edu.au/s/965/Alumni.aspx?sid=965&gid=34&pgid=658>

On Saturday, 6 August, there will be an additional half-day program for medical alumni. We hope to attract many of our recent alumni who came to Sydney Medical School from North America in the past decade or so. We are keen to hear from you, wherever you may be now! Other alumni from Australia or wherever are most welcome too!

4. History of Medicine

4.1 RACP Library Lecture Series 2011

All lectures are held on Monday evening at 6.30pm at the RACP Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney. Entry is \$10 and there are refreshments with discussion after the lecture.

Below are the dates, speakers and topics for the forthcoming 2011 lectures:

30 May: Dr Helen Macdonald: **Possessing the dead; the cadaver trade in 19th century Scotland, England and Australia.**

25 July: Prof Cate Storey: **The Medical Museums of Paris.**

12 September: Prof Malcolm Macmillan: **Alfred Walter Campbell: an almost forgotten neurohistologist and neurologist.**

7 November: Dr Ross Jones: **Humanity's Mirror: 150 Years of Anatomy in Melbourne.**

Contact the Librarian, Liz Rouse, on (02) 9256 5413, or racplib@racp.edu.au for further information and bookings.

4.2 Q Station Lecture Series - Sunday, 22 May 2011 - 2pm to 4pm

'Charles Darwin in Australia': Frank Nicholas

'Death and slavery in the cane-fields – John Ashburton Thompson and the crisis of mortality among Melanesian labourers in Mackay, 1880-1884': Stephen Corbett

Frank Nicholas is Emeritus Professor of Animal Genetics in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. He has written textbooks on veterinary genetics, co-authored a glossary of biotechnology for the United Nations FAO and co-edited a book on breeding animals for disease resistance. With his wife Jan, he co-authored *Charles Darwin in Australia*, which tells the story of Charles Darwin's visit to Australia.

Summary. Early in 1836 Charles Darwin spent two months in Australia as part of his round-the-world voyage on the *Beagle*. During this time he visited Sydney, travelled on horseback to Bathurst, visited Hobart and called into King George Sound. In addition to making extensive notes on the geology of the country and recording some observations on natural history, Darwin interacted with several of the colonies' leading citizens, including Kings and Macarthurs in Sydney, and Alfred Stephen and George Frankland in Hobart. This lecture is based on specific transcriptions of the entire Australian section of Darwin's diary and includes lavish illustrations by Augustus Earle and Conrad Martens (two of Australia's most famous early artists), both of whom had been Darwin's *Beagle* shipmates earlier in the voyage.

Stephen Corbett is the Director, Centre for Public Health, in the Western Sydney Area Health Service and Conjoint Associate Professor, School of Public Health, at the Western Clinical

School, University of Sydney. He has a special interest in the prominent public health practitioners at the time of the plague epidemic in Sydney in the early 20th century and conducts plague tours in the inner Sydney region.

Summary. John Ashburton Thompson, who was to become NSW's first Chief Health Officer, was Australia's first epidemiologist. In 1880 he was asked by the Queensland Colonial Secretary to take the long sea journey to Mackay to investigate the excessive mortality among the Kanakas - indentured Melanesian labourers working in the Queensland cane-fields. His meticulous and comprehensive report presented an unassailable argument to the Queensland government for urgent reform of living and working conditions for these men. As a direct result of this report, the Premier, Thomas McIlwraith, sensitive to accusations that Queensland was by stealth reintroducing slavery into the cane-fields, hastily and somewhat reluctantly passed the Pacific Island Labourers Act, which provided funds for the establishment of a Pacific Islander Hospital. Thompson returned to this hospital in 1883 as an administrator and clinician, but resigned in 1884 following a life threatening infectious illness.

Venue: Old Laundry Lecture Theatre, Q Station, North Head, Manly. Q Station is located at North Head Scenic Drive, Manly. Entry is free but reservations are essential. For bookings, phone 9466 1500. Complimentary tea, coffee and water will be available. Additional beverages, snacks or refreshments may be purchased from the Visitors Centre Kiosk. Following the talks, we recommend visiting The Engine Room Lounge, where guests can purchase drinks to enjoy on the outside terrace, overlooking Quarantine Beach. If you are driving to the Quarantine Station, follow the directions to North Head. After passing Manly Hospital, go through the stone arch 'Parkhill'. Follow this road until you reach a roundabout and turn right into Q Station complimentary parking area. The shuttle bus regularly picks up from the waiting room there and will transfer guests to near the Lecture Theatre. Be sure to leave sufficient time to be transported within Q Station by arriving early and enjoying the ambience!

4.3 Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine Conference - 12-15 July 2011, Brisbane

For further information, see: <http://www.anzshm2011.org.au/>

5. Reunions for graduating year of:

1961 - 28 August 2011 - contact: David Brender: brender@internode.on.net
1946 - 23 September 2011 - contact Alan Young: alanyoun@bigpond.com
1957 - 22 October 2011 - contact Al McKay: almckay8@bigpond.net.au, 02 4883 6967
2001 - October / November 2011 - contact Sarah Walker: slw007@gmail.com
1967 - early 2012 (date to be confirmed) - contact: Steve Andersen: stea@ozemail.com.au
or diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au

Please contact Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au) if your graduating year is due for a reunion and this has yet to be organised.

6. Death notices and obituaries (year of graduation in brackets)

While obituaries of some medical alumni may appear in the Sydney Morning Herald or medical journals, we often have very limited information about the lives of other alumni who have died recently. If you have any comments about those colleagues, please send them to

me, or request their family members to contact me, so we can remember them by more than a simple record of their death.

Obituaries. Recent obituaries published in late 2010 and early 2011 in the Sydney Morning Herald and elsewhere included:

[Judith Dey AO \(1943\)](#)
[Ken Paver AM \(1952\)](#)
[Patricia Brennan AM \(1968\)](#)
[Richard \(Dick\) Emanuel Klugman \(1953\)](#)
[Russel Pardoe \(1958\)](#)
[Frank Lappin \(1950\)](#)
[Gavin Brown \(former Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney\)](#)
[John Austin Burgess \(1959\)](#)
[Kenneth Hugh Atkinson \(1963\)](#)
[Reginald Lavis Walker \(1945\)](#)
[Frank John Fenner AO \(DTM, 1940\)](#)
[Michael Samuel Stern \(1976\)](#)
[Patrick de Burgh AO \(1939\)](#)

For other obituaries of our alumni, see:

<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/news/tributes.php>

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. **Death notices of medical alumni** in the Sydney Morning Herald or elsewhere in late 2010 or early 2011 included (most recent first): Philip Oystagrh (1956); Jean Flora Lee (Livingston) (1941); Jean Wright (1954); Judith Elizabeth Dey AO (1943); George Charles Wilson AM (1943); John Michael Buckingham (1971); William James (Bill) Charlton (1948); James Francis Ward (1954); William Kenneth Amedee (Ken) Paver AM (1952); Patricia Anne Brennan AM (1968); Phillip Sydney (Ferdie) Hunt (1961); John William Killen (1950); (Anthony) Stewart Mitchell (1961); Keith McDonald (1954); Mark Alastair Robertson (1978); Malcolm Catt (1968); Gertrude Angel-Lord (1947); Mary Gwenyth (Gwen) Fleming (1939); Shirley Brook (Clifton-Smith) (1944); Louise Elizabeth Bone (Jones) (1958); Michael Fortescue Frost (1963); Kevin Strathmore Malcolm (1953); Gertrude (Truda) Dorothea Horn (nee Finckh) (1946); Reginald Lavis Walker (1945); Brian Gilbert Storey (1959); Kenneth Hugh Atkinson (1963); Ian Bruce Jack (1941); Frank John Fenner AC (DTM, 1940); Bruce Stephen Mackie (1948); Raymond William Asten-Reed (1954); Margaret Sheldon OAM (1952); Isla Jean Campbell/Goodwin (1953); Henry (Harry) William McKenna (1964); Ian Alexander Everett (1961); Lynn Hamilton McMahon (1957); Edwin David Anthony (Tony) Orsmond (DPM, 1966); and Kenneth Kai Yan Tsui (1966).

The link to previous MAA e-Newsletters is:

<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/news/newsletters/2011/index.php>

Please inform me about alumni news and activities that would be of wider interest.

Paul Lancaster

Medical Alumni Association Council and Alumni Council, University of Sydney

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