

Record Number of New Medical Students

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Thirty one new Northern Territory Clinical School & Rural Clinical School (NTCS/NTRCS) medical student recently completed Orientation week in Darwin. The 2009 group comprises ten students from James Cook University and twenty one students from Flinders University. This is a major increase in the number of students studying a full year in the Northern Territory. Previous year's student numbers have been around 23-24 students per year.

The increased capacity for students in the Territory has been made possible due to changes in the Flinders University Year 3 program. Instead of spending a full year at Royal Darwin Hospital, Flinders University students now split their

year with one semester spent at Royal Darwin Hospital and the other semester in a community based setting. Four or five students per semester are based in the Darwin Community Based Medical Education (CBME) program while another four spend the semester under the NTRCS program in Alice Springs. The remaining two Flinders students spend the semester in Katherine.

James Cook University student numbers also increased in 2009 from previous levels. James Cook University students spend their full 5th Year of study at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Orientation week was launched with sunset drinks at the Darwin Trailer Boat Club. Later in the week students were



Professor Michael Lowe welcomes new Yr 3 and Yr 5 students to the NT

welcomed by His Honour, Mr Tom Pauling, Administrator of the Northern Territory and Mrs Tessa Pauling at a reception held at Government House. Other orientation week activities included sessions on cross cultural training, visits to Larrakia Nations, a Medico-Cultural tour of Darwin, introduction to General Practice, and a session on "How to stay Sane" during this critical year of study. (continued page 7)

NTCS NEWSLETTER

This is the first edition of the quarterly NTCS Newsletter for 2009. Please contact Velda Mazoudier on 08 8972 2072 or velda.mazoudier@flinders.edu.au with any stories you would like to have published in the May 2009 edition.

Welcome Yr 3 and Yr 5 students 2009



Adam Keys (JCU Y 5), Leigh Guy (JCU Y5), Jamila Priore (JCU Y5) and Skye Perkins (JCU Y6).



Kirsty Campbell and Claire Shanahan (JCU Yr 6)



Emma Tucker (Flinders 4), Aaron Goldstein (Flinders 4), Lauren Finlay (Flinders 3) and Carmen Gittens (Flinders 4)

Update: New Staff and Staff Position Changes

A.Prof Sarah Strasser: Associate Dean SOM Rural and Remote Health Cluster

Mr Tom Kalikajaros: Information Management Project Officer

Ms Colleen Hayes : Aboriginal Liaison Office Alice Springs

Ms Sheila Joseph: Clinical Research Officer Alice Springs

Ms Narelle Campbell: Allied Health Coordinator and CBME Academic Coordinator

Ms Eliza Gill: Clinical Dean PA

Ms Lila Loveard: Information Officer

Dr Emma Kennedy: GP Educator

Dr Chris Watson: GP Educator

Dr Paul Rivalland: GP Educator

A.Prof Sarah Strasser (left) with Dr Chris Watson, GP Educator (right)



Full Medical Program in the NT

Watch this space! Preliminary work has begun on the feasibility of establishing a full Flinders Medical program in the Northern

Territory (Yr 1-4). A capital works submission has been lodged and the accreditation process has begun. Whilst no final commitments have been

made yet by any parties, the possibilities are endless and exciting.

NTCS Facebook Group

NTCS invites you to join our new Facebook group:

“Northern Territory Clinical School”.

This is the place for past and present students to meet, discuss, share, commiserate, and celebrate.

Use this site to:

- Keep in contact
- Share experiences
- Ask questions
- Post videos and photos
- Stay in the loop about current and upcoming medical, allied health & cultural education events

To confirm the group invitation, follow the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/cuqy7w>

For additional information on becoming a member please email:

ntcs.pa@flinders.edu.au

NTCS Database

NTCS has previously relied upon numerous spreadsheets for all our contacts, student details, placement plans, assessment, and supervisor information. That's a lot of spreadsheets and a lot of hard work to find relevant data when required!

Last year NTCS collaborated with NTGPE to obtain a blank copy of their database to use as a basis for a NTCS database. The NTGPE database has been modified to suit the usage requirements of NTCS and we are currently trialling data input.



Update: Greening the NT Clinical School

NTCS continues to green the workplace in 2009.

Bring your used batteries to NTCS for recycling. We recycle Lithium Ion, Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) and Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries as found in mobile phones, video cameras, cordless phones, electric shavers, cordless drills, computers and standard batteries.

Reduce toxic chemicals going to our landfill and **'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'**

We look forward to a positive year for reducing our impact on the environment and hope to have a beneficial new year. If you have any ideas to help us on this venture please email:

ntcs.pa@flinders.edu.au



NTCS Recycling Protocols

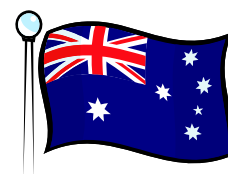
Batteries	NiCd & NiMH batteries	Located on shelf near the entrance to the stationary room. Posted for recycling when full.
Co-mingle recycling	Plastic # 1 & 2, cardboard, paper, junk mail, aluminium & steel cans, milk & juice cartons, glass bottles & jars (no lids)	Bins located in the kitchen & admin office. Large yellow bin in NTCS Walker Room. Collected once a month.
Non-confidential paper recycling	Paper & envelopes- staples ok	Outside Clinical Dean's office. Gets collected every 2 months.
Office cartridge recovery unit	Printer cartridges & toners	Located in NTCS stationary area. Box collected when full.
Confidential paper recycling	Confidential paper documents	Located NTCS admin office. Staff members use shredded paper for home garden mulching and chicken nesting boxes.
IT, furniture, whitegoods etc	Organised upon request	Refer to Eliza Gill ntcs.pa@flinders.edu.au

Clean Up Australia Day



Take environmental action and get involved - after all, if you don't help Clean up Australia, who will?

If you want to register a Clean Up site or volunteer on the day please visit <http://www.cleanup.org.au/> for more information.



CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
1ST MARCH 2009

Adventures of a Year 4 NTRCS Student in Nhulunbuy

Emily Carroll, Year 4 Flinders Student

Cane Toad racing on the Australia Day public holiday, Miwatj Aboriginal Medical Service on Tuesday, visiting the remote outstation of Dhaniya with the child health team by 4WD on Wednesday, flying to the island community Galiwin'ku on Thursday and spending Friday with the visiting Ophthalmologist at the Gove District Hospital. What a week!

This is just a taste of the incredible opportunities available to 4th year students on placement in Nhulunbuy. Being a small, remote town there are also plenty of opportunity to follow patients as

they are transferred from general practice to the hospital and back again. I've even been able to follow a patient from Galiwin'ku, to the Emergency Department and then through to outpatients - all in 24 hours.

There is more to Nhulunbuy than medicine though; there are incredible beaches in the district surrounding the town, a croc free gorge, Sunday night movies and if you're interested a music jam session at the HOG club!



Emily Carroll treating a patient at a remote Arnhem land outstation.

Nhulunbuy Consultation

The NTRCS has commissioned a major consultancy to investigate the case and the feasibility of setting up a GP teaching practice in Nhulunbuy. If successful, this will establish Nhulunbuy as a



major hub of medical and allied health education in Australia. Nhulunbuy and the East Arnhem region present a unique teaching and learning environment as well as a wonderful place to live.

Katherine NTRCS

Rebecca Grivas & Stuart Warren are making Katherine their home for Semester 1 of their Yr 3 medical studies. They are loving the new student accommodation in Katherine- a four bedroom house with swimming pool.



Katherine District Hospital has welcomed the students and all is now in full swing for the semester. Rebecca and Stuart have had little time to enjoy the surrounding tourist attractions, though they will make up for this on their break

Around 40 people attended a welcome BBQ for the students organised by NTRCS. Attendees

Katherine NTRCS students Rebecca and Stuart at the Trailer Boat Welcome function with Dr Tanya Davies, AMSANT (left)

included NTRCS staff, Local Advisory Group members and teaching providers.

Dr Charles Mutandwa, Senior Lecturer in Katherine, is back from holidays. Charles and his wife Dorah travelled to Africa for 6 weeks over the Christmas period.

Alice Springs NTRCS Students

Year 3 student numbers in Alice Springs have doubled for 2009. Four students will now be placed in the Red Centre per teaching semester. Sharon Allen, Kim Bade, Gabby Diplock and Peter Wyllie have taken up placements for Semester One.

The students have settled in well to their student accommodation and have visited local scenic spots in Central Australia. They have completed their 4x4 Training Course and Orientation.



Gabby, Sharon, Kim and Peter in the North Wing meeting room.

All tutorials & Problem Based Learning (PBL) sessions are held in the North Wing Meeting Room at CRH.

Previously Alice Springs and Katherine students joined Darwin students for PBL sessions via videoconference. However, increased numbers of students and teachers will for the first time allow Katherine and Alice Springs to run their PBLs independently from Darwin via videoconference. This should greatly enhance the learning environment for the rural students.

Alice Springs Year 4 NTRCS students

Term 1 and 2 Core Rotation students have arrived at Alice Springs Hospital. Students are required to undergo a full day orientation with Caroline Gouws, Student Support Officer at the Alice Springs Hospital.

During the orientation, students meet with the accommodation officer and have a brief tour of the hospital, library, CRH and hospital departments. Students meet with Melinda Griffith, Director of Infection Control.

This month Neil Pomfret from the

Aboriginal Liaison Team presented the students with a two hour cultural induction. Neil is the Aboriginal Liaison Officer team leader. This cultural induction is usually led by Eileen van Iersel, one of Flinders Academic Status holders. These sessions are very useful and help students understand the importance of good cross-cultural communication in a hospital setting.

While students are on placement they have the opportunity to join the Royal Flying Doctors services, St John's Ambulance and the

Ophthalmology Clinics. They have weekly scheduled teaching sessions organised by Caroline Gouws and attend daily sessions within their departments.



Year 4 Placement students attend cultural induction with Mr Neil Pomfret

Farewell Dr Fred Boseto, ASH

Dr Fred Boseto, the Surgical Consultant at ASH has left Alice Springs to pursue his career elsewhere. Dr Boseto has been involved in our student teaching sessions for more than five years and students found him to be a brilliant teacher. The Alice Springs Hospital and NTRCS will miss him and thank him for all his teaching efforts.

Videoconference Success at Last

Both Katherine and Nhulunbuy campuses of NTRCS have had significant upgrades to high speed broadband connection. This has involved many months of planning and negotiation and will allow for more reliable and robust video conferencing between out remote sites.

Research Methods Course: Menzies School of Health Research

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our academic clinicians in their research endeavours, the NTCS has reserved several reduced-cost places at the upcoming "Research Methods Course" presented by the Menzies School of Health Research.

This course will provide valuable skills, from developing a research question through to translating results into practice. The course will run from March

17th - 19th 2009.

Five NTCS research staff have been offered to attend the course with full NTCS funded sponsorship. Other NTCS academic staff can access a reduced rate of \$400 for the two day course.

Please contact Anna Smedts on anna.smedts@flinders.edu.au for information on attending this course.



NTCS And NTRCS Move Forward To Achieve Culturally Competent Medical Graduates

NTCS and NTRCS have made massive improvements in the quality and amount of Indigenous cultural awareness training and experiences our students are offered.

In 2006 the team from 'Sharing the True Stories' began discussion groups with students to find out their current knowledge of Indigenous issues and cross cultural communication. These discussions led to the development of informed consent name badges which outline basic questions to ask patients and translations in a few Indigenous languages. They also uncovered the need for NTCS to offer more extensive cultural awareness training for students and staff and offered recommendations on how to do this.

Matthew Turner was employed by NTCS/ACAP in 2007 as a Cultural Consultant. Since 2008 he has offered a set of teaching sessions to our third year students. Matthew assists with the development of our teaching curriculum and last year presented two papers at the Ontario ICEMEN Conference with Richard Sager entitled '*Students experiential learning, appropriate for a remote indigenous placement?*' and '*The*

'Nuts and Bolts' of developing a remote indigenous placement for medical students'. Matthew also links with colleagues at Flinders University, who are currently developing an Indigenous Medical Curriculum framework.

Students at NTCS now have access to many different experiences to assist them in learning about Indigenous health. In addition to orientation and weekly sessions, students have the opportunity to attend GP and RMO trips to remote communities such as Maningrida, Tiwi Islands and Daly River. Darwin CBME students spend two weeks on placement with Laynhapuy Health in Arnhem Land. CBME students in Darwin also attend sessions with Larrakia Nations

At Larrakia Nations students have been assigned to participate in both the HEAL and LITS programs. The HEAL (Healthy Engagement and Assistance in the Long grass) program is a service to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for long grass people. Larrakia Intervention and Transport Service

(LITS) is a mobile service to clients either living in the long grass sites and camps as well as in crisis accommodation. It also offers a Return to Country program.

Students in the NTRCS campuses of Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy all receive site specific cultural training. Ms Colleen Hayes has recently been employed by NTRCS in Alice Springs as a Aboriginal Cultural Advisor and she will structure student learning sessions and experiences. Alice Springs students also attend sessions at Central Australia Aboriginal Congress and Congress Alukura.

In Katherine students undertake cultural awareness training at the hospital and can utilise the Katherine Language Centre. Students are placed at Wurli Wurlijang Aboriginal Health Service and have started to join Doctors on community clinic visits to Barunga.

Collectively the school is working to increase the cultural competency of it's students.

Record Number of New Medical Students (Continued from Pg 1)

The student's first full clinical year of their course will encompass clinical and academic study, as well as hands-on experiences such as visiting remote communities, learning in hospitals, and working with Northern Territory General Practitioners.

We are extremely grateful for the time and commitment that those who assist with training provide and especially their flexibility as we have broadened and changed the student experience to include the Rural Clinical School campuses in Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy and Community Based Medical Education in Darwin.

We welcome all the new students to the Territory and wish you all the best with your studies in the year ahead.

Right from left: Lila Loveard(NTCS), Anna Smedts(NTCS), Simon Gomes-Vieira, Hadley Milne, Sarah McLean (RDH Interns)



Above from left: Anuraag Saksena (JCU 5), James Bennett (JCU 5) and Gemma Sinclair (JCU 6)



Below from left: Kim Bade (Flinders 3), Claire Shanahan (JCU 6) and Gabrielle Diplock (Flinders 3)



Above from left: Narelle Campbell (NTCS), Kate Brennan (Flinders 3) and Aaron Goldstein (Flinders 4)

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Northern Territory Clinical School Northern Territory Rural Clinical School Teaching Health Students in the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Clinical School and Rural Clinical School (NTCS & NTRCS) are part of Flinders University School of Medicine and are leading providers of health education in the Northern Territory, Australia.

The schools provides training for Flinders University and James Cook University medical students. They also provides placement opportunities and support for Allied Health students and interstate medical students.

The NTCS has a campus in Darwin, whilst the NTRCS has campuses in Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Humpty Doo.