



The Auricle

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From Your President

Welcome to the July edition of the Auricle. The siren has sounded for the half-time break of the academic year. That is, the end of Semester 1, 2010. The exam period is a notoriously stressful period for us mere mortals. I trust that you celebrated their conclusion and relief with a drink or two at ‘The Moose’ and a much needed sleep in. I hope that you will be rewarding your hard work over the break, hopefully with some time away from Canberra’s winter chill.

I’m writing this month’s column from my porch, while enjoying a cup of tea in the afternoon sun in Santa Teresa, NT. Santa Teresa is a remote Aboriginal Community of 600 people, it is Eastern Aranda land, 110km SE of Alice Springs. I’ve had the good fortune of spending the previous five weeks with a very experienced and supportive GP and other health staff who’ve opened my eyes, and given me an introduction to Aboriginal Health. Being in Santa Teresa I’ve also learnt an incredible amount about Aboriginal culture, heritage and history. There are few of us who have seen endemic Rheumatic Fever, or have been the only ‘white fella’ at footy training. It has been a very formative experience that I’m very fortunate to have had.

My best wishes go out to the current fourth years, the class of 2010 who are beginning to make their very first steps into professional medicine, with Intern interviews being conducted at The Canberra Hospital at the moment. For wherever in Australia you may be applying and interviewing for an Intern position, I wish you all the very best. I look forward to celebrating your achievements with you at the Graduation Ball in October.

Finally, for those of you fortunate enough to secure a ticket, I hope you're as excited as I am about the upcoming Winter 'MadMed' Formal. I must congratulate Anna Houston on a fabulous effort thus far in organising what promises to be a memorable night on the ANU Medical Student Calendar.

Until then, enjoy the break. I look forward to working with you next semester.

Cheers,

James McCracken

President, ANUMSS

Letters to the editor



Medicine and politics are inextricably linked. Health policy is of great interest to the Australian taxpayer, a considerable portion of whose taxes are spent on the health system. Conversely doctors involve themselves in politics; people as politically diverse as a former Prime Minister of Norway and Al

Qaeda's number two leader were former doctors¹, and doctors are well represented across various state and federal parliaments in Australia. Political curiosity and interest extends to the ANU medical school, and two politically themed events have recently been run by the medical students' society as a result. The first was 'The Big Issues' evening held on the 20th of May. Speakers from all sides of politics and representing major health stakeholders were invited to give their views of the big picture in Australian healthcare. Students heard from Minister Simon Corbell (on behalf of the health minister), Jeremy Hanson MLA and Senator Gary Humphries outlining their views on the future of health policy in the ACT and Australia. The very-immediate past president of the AMA, Dr Paul Jones, also spoke at the evening which was the day after his term as AMA-ACT President had ended. Finally, representatives from the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) highlighted the challenges facing the current cohorts of medical students. The talks were well received by an audience of approximately 80 medical students from across the four year groups. Many students took the opportunity to meet the speakers and discuss matters of interest over food and drinks provided by the General Practice Student Network (GPSN).

The second event was a tour of Parliament House on June 2nd including separate meetings with the Health Minister Nicola Roxon and her Opposition Shadow Peter Dutton. 50 medical students were taken on a behind-the-scenes experience where they visited the private areas

of the Parliament building, watched debate in the House of Representatives and were regaled with anecdotes of some of the lighter moments in the life of the Parliament. In our meetings with the Politicians they both described their roles and how we might be affected by the health care reforms being planned, before we had an opportunity to ask questions ourselves. This is the third time ANU medical students have visited Parliament House to meet the Health Minister and Shadow Minister of the day, and it has been fascinating to see the different political roles of opposition and government and hear the different views they have on the same topic.

Both events were well attended and well received. The medical student society plans to do more such events in the future, and hopes that its members maintain an interest in political affairs throughout their careers, as being well informed benefits themselves and their patients.

**Steve Peterson, Yr 4, ANU student and
Department of House of Representatives
Employee**

Konrad Reardon, Yr 2

1 Wessely, S, (2007), When doctors become terrorists,
New England Journal of Medicine, 357(7), pp 635-7



If you are interested in political leadership in Medicine and health, head to the AMSA website at to check out the National Leadership Development Seminar. Applications are now open for this three day seminar, which provides delegates with the opportunity to question parliamentarians about issues facing medical students and Australia's health care system today. Attendees also participate in workshops design to improve their advocacy, media and negotiation skills. NLDS gives students a chance to explore the concepts associated with leadership with prominent figures involved in both Australian health and politics.

<http://www.amsa.org.au/content/national-leadership-development-seminar>



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EnSIGN News:



World Refugee Day is observed on the 20th of June each year. In an effort to bring together the numerous refugees that now call Canberra home, Companion House organised the World Refugee Day Soccer Tournament that took place on the 19th of June at the Australian Institute of Sport. The annual event brought together members from the Sudanese, Mon, Chin, Karen, Sierra Leonean and Liberian communities, with the Liberians emerging victors from the day. Luckily this year there were no broken bones or contentious goals! Volunteers ensured that refereeing was first class at all times, quite unlike that witnessed most recently on SBS One. All in all a great day out for those that participated as well as those that helped out alike.

For information of other upcoming refugee events or how you can get involved please email: u4616759@anu.edu.au.

Sameer Mathur, Yr 2

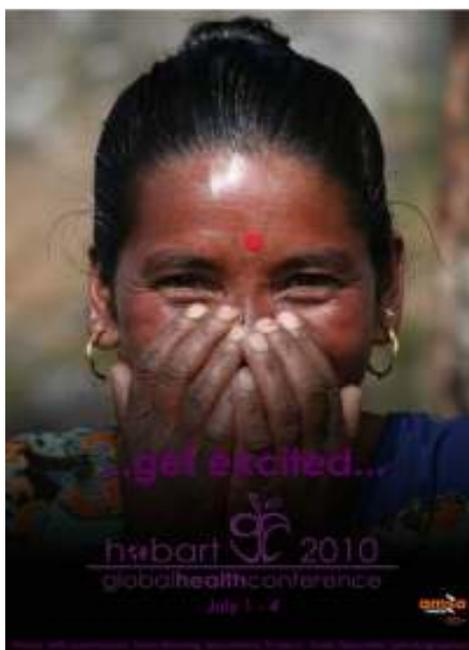


Last Wednesday, four delegates from the ANU Medical School left their uni-break cocoons and made their way to sunny Hobart, Tasmania for the four day long AMSA Global Health Conference. This fantastic event attracted over 400 engaged and excited medical students from around the country and across the globe, and was host to some fascinating speakers, from the unsurpassable anti-nuclear campaigner Dr Helen Caldicott, to the eminent development economist _____, to the inspiring refugee advocate _____. Lectures, workshops and forums in four different interest

streams kept our minds ticking over during the day, while a first class social calendar including Captain Planet (of course) and Op Shop balls gave us the opportunity to make new friends, contact and discuss new-found ideas.

The event was a credit to a brilliant organising committee, and all of the delegates came away with plenty to think about and a renewed commitment to do what we can to achieve sustainable health development, now and in our future practice. I would recommend this conference to anyone interested in global health, but particularly to students who haven't thought much about the issues or what they can do to help, but want to get involved and make a difference. AMSA GHC 2011 is being held in Sydney, so this great experience is even more accessible to ANU students! Look forward to seeing you there.

Aodhamair Lenagh-Maguire
Yr2



On the 2nd of June four ANU students began the long (long!) drive to Wilcannia, NSW to help out at the Wakakarri Film Festival. Over 100 students from Wilcannia Central School, Broken Hill and Menindee travelled to Wilcannia for a day of activities, including hip hop dancing, healthy food relay, Aboriginal arts and crafts, sports and a session with our very own Gutsy-Gus models! Along with other Medical Students from the Universities of Sydney and NSW, we facilitated healthy food, healthy body and careers activities. The day culminated in the screening of the film entries from each of the schools, and we were privileged to sit in on the screening. Check out the project and the students' films at

<http://www.wakakirri.com>

Aodhamair Lenagh-Maguire, Yr 2



News from the ANU Rural Nodes

Young RCS Node

By Michael McGee

So what's in Young for you? It's comparable to most of the other nodes with the exception of Goulburn and Bega. But it doesn't have the surf or the snow. So why come to Young? In my extraordinarily biased opinion just the low low prices of stone fruit are enough, but even if you don't eat as much as I do there are still plenty of reasons to come to Young.

Did I mention the free dinners? So far we've got consultant level presentations on the topics of PSA-testing, fitness for surgery, pain management, and lipid management, but instead of being locked up in a dungeon of a lecture theatre we get a 3 course meal with drinks for free. I know I'm rambling with the food motif a bit but bear with me.

If the free food doesn't attract you, then you probably won't like all the theatre time either. After my 6 week hospital rotation (brand spanking new hospital by the way) I have assisted in enough surgery to never want to see another hernia repair or scope ever again. You also probably wouldn't like running fluids or placing cannulas either. Then there are the babies, I saw seven deliveries in my first hospital rotation.



And I'm afraid Young isn't for those who are shy of the media. Mark Fletcher was so popular he was in one edition of the local paper twice, once on the front cover for his outrageous levels of awesomeness and once in the sports section for the same thing.

If you're not running around with a scalpel, delivering a baby, being photographed by the paper, or suturing some poor kids head back together in the E.D then there are other things to do in Young. The Rotary International Service will probably want you to come for yet another free dinner. Perhaps visit one of the 8 pubs or clubs within 200 metres of the University residence. Go and see what Bill Bryson was on about at the world renowned Pet and Porn store (not actually called pet & porn). Be like Naomi and join the keen cyclists and get around in your lycra, join the Young lions soccer club like mark, or perhaps the Young Yabbies rugby club.

Still not convinced? Worried about teaching? Every Tuesday you'll be taken for ward round with a GP/anaesthetist, followed by multi-disciplinary rounds on a Thursday and once a month Grand rounds with the doctors and registrars for case presentations (at which there will be free food). At the Boorowa St Practice you get to see patients independently and then confer with the doctor about the case (your very own 15 minute PBL).



What about access to specialties? This isn't a problem. But who wants one on one time with consultants specialised in cardiology,

orthopaedics, surgery, anaesthetics, oncology, respiratory, endocrinology, obstetrics, urology, geriatrics or dermatology.

But we're all medical students at the end of the day and we like tables and graphs, so this might help:

Think you like be isolated in Young? You probably will be, being 2 hours from the nearest node (Goulburn) and at least one and half hours from Canberra no matter how you slice it. But you can be lonely with the nursing students, the physios on secondment from Sydney, the physio students, the radiology students and pharmacy students. Not to mention the UNSW and USyd medical students who are forever trying to push in on our turf.



Query	Canberra	Young
Population	>350,000	>12,000
Hospitals	4	2
Politicians	Hordes	One
Medical students	~ 360	3
Surgery available	Yes	Yes
GP land	Yes	Yes
Interns	Yes	No
Cherries	No	Yes
Alex Turbayne	Yes	No
Shopping on Sunday	Yes	Not really
Park Problems	Yes	Never
Does a circus come to town	Yes	Yes (Stardust)
Rush hour	Yes	No
Rent	Expensive	Non-existent



HEALER'S ART

Venue for all the sessions will be TCH ANU Medical School Building 4, Lecture theatre.

Information sessions:

First year – Thursday 15 July at lunchtime 12.30 –1.00 pm
Second year – Tuesday 6 July at lunchtime 12.30 –1.00 pm

Healers Art Program:

Session 1: Nurturing Your Wholeness Thursday 22 July 6.30pm to 9pm
Session 2: Sharing Grief and Honoring Loss Thursday 5 August 6.30pm to 9pm
Session 3: Sharing Grief and Honoring Loss (Group Discussion) Thursday 12 August 6.30pm to 8pm only
Session 4 : Allowing Awe in Medicine Thursday 2 September 6.30pm to 9pm
Session 5: Your vision in practice Thursday 16 September 6.30pm to 9pm
(Light supper available from 6pm)

Please register at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KQD92DS> by 16th July 2010

Contact details for more information: Dr Katrina Anderson k.anderson@anu.edu.au
Dr Jenny Thomson jenny@maxwellconsulting.com.au

Life after Graduation Evening

Tuesday 20th July 1800 – 2000
Clinical School Auditorium
Hot Turkish food, wine, soft drinks and nibbles provided

An evening with medical defense organizations, financial planners and accountants giving their professional view on life after graduation. A discussion of the key skills not taught in medical school but still necessary to preserve one's health, wealth and sanity.

Speakers:

- Ms. Monica Corso from MDA National – “Transitions in Medicine – Student to Intern”
- Ms. Martha Catenacci from MIGA – “The importance of medical indemnity insurance for interns – how MIGA can assist you”

· Mr. Tom Dawes from Civic Financial Planners – “Effective Financial Strategies for the rest of your life – how to maximize the income stream of an entire professional career and ensure an adequate safety net”.

· Mr. George Diamond from PKF Accounting – “The other side of being a doctor; running a small business and the responsibilities associated with this”.

· Ms. Pamela Proud from MIPS – “Case studies involving JMOs claims to MIPS. How to protect yourself from medico legal concerns in your years as an intern and beyond”.

· Amy Ghamraoui from AVANT – “Surviving life as a doctor”.

Evening Format

1800: Welcome
1805-1935: Speeches
1935-2000: Food, drinks and mingling in foyer

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