



East Gippsland Regional Clinical School

Newsletter - Winter 2010 Director's Report

Winter's here, and it's cold. The students are the sensible ones amongst us...they have a month off and go to warmer parts of the world or home to the warmth of their families.

Regardless, things are moving along at a rapid pace. We have been successful at last in securing capital works funding for the 'new' practices involved in the 'Sale Cluster' of Year 4/C placements, and these contracts are currently being finalised. This funding will assist these 5 practices in consolidating their practice structures to accommodate students for the full academic year.

We are still awaiting the results of several other funding submissions requested under the 'Innovations in Training' projects, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, which we submitted in January.

This is also the appropriate time to remind practices of the recent announcement about the Primary Care Infrastructure Grants under the Commonwealth's GP Super Clinics Program. Grants of \$150,000, \$300,000 and \$500,000 can be applied for, depending on the extent of the project.

Documents related to these grants can be downloaded from the website www.health.gov.au/tenders.

Finally, we have recently submitted applications to Health Workforce Australia for funding to support the expansion of student numbers within the EGRCS programs. This is principally in response to the increased numbers of student placements from the Gippsland Medical School, but we are also planning to establish nursing training on both our Sale and Bairnsdale campuses.

In this Newsletter you will find reports on two recent education events, one in Sale for GP teachers and one in Bairnsdale, where the School ran a two day 'Rural Emergency Skills Training' Course for Registrars from the Gippsland GP training program, GETGP. Thanks to all those involved in this course, including the REST Instructors, and Loy Perryman and Deborah Hewetson, who assisted with the program.

Our research program is also gaining momentum, with Angelo and Eleanor spreading their influence across the School and assisting with the conduct of a variety of exciting research projects. We are also endeavouring to recruit 'early career' researchers by encouraging students to undertake a Bachelor of Medical Science year, as well as encouraging GP Registrars to apply for a GP Academic term with the School. We hope to make these a regular part of our activities.

The East Gippsland School for Aboriginal Health Professionals project, aimed at encouraging more young Aboriginal people

to undertake tertiary health-related courses, is also moving ahead, with the research project underpinning this about to be submitted for Ethics Approval.

To enable all this activity to move along smoothly, we are in the midst of the planning phase for the extensions to the Bairnsdale School building, which will be completed during 2011. Jenny Donnelly is leading this project.

Best wishes to all, and stay warm!

David Campbell
Director

Professional Development Workshop for Teaching-Practice Supervisors

The East Gippsland Regional Clinical School conducted a teacher-training workshop on the evening of 16 June in the recently-completed extension to the School's campus at Central Gippsland Health Service at Sale.

A group of eight GP practice supervisors, led by David Campbell and Tony Richards, was linked by video link with Dr Sean Hanna in Wellington New Zealand. Sean is a clinical educator in the Rural Immersion Program at Otago University.

The initial part of the workshop involved discussion about aspects of student placement in general practice. David Campbell delivered a summary of a presentation prepared by Dawn deWitt, Professor of Rural Medical Education and Head of the Melbourne University Rural Clinical School in Shepparton Victoria. Dawn has spent many years researching and presenting on models of teaching in the clinical setting. Various aspects and approaches to teaching and learning within undergraduate clinical placements were presented, including the 'wave model' and the 'parallel consulting' model. This led to a detailed and informative discussion between participants about their own teaching experiences, and ways in which the student experience can be improved. The particular issue of time management in a busy general practice was a major focus of the discussion.

David then presented some brief video clips illustrating the various methods and pitfalls in giving feedback to learners in the practice. Sean Hanna in Wellington brought some interesting insights to this discussion based on his experience and some of the basic principles of giving feedback in a supportive and constructive way.

The final part of the workshop involved small group discussions about dealing with challenging students. Three fictitious students, created by Tony Richards, each presenting a particular challenge to teachers and

supervisors in the program, were discussed. This led to a broad-ranging discussion around issues of professionalism, medical ethics, supervisor responsibilities and student impact on patients and staff, amongst others. Participants found the opportunity to discuss these issues was extremely beneficial.

Thanks to Loy, Ros and Fiona for supporting the workshop (particularly the homemade pizza!) We look forward to further such workshops becoming a regular part of the academic cycle.

Important dates for 2010

Semester 2

Year 2 30 August – 10 September

Semester Dates

Year 3/B 12 July – 11 November

Year 4/C 5 July – 5 November

Swot Vac 12 – 16 November

Examination Period

17 – 30 November

EGRCS student returns 'home'



Undertaking the medical intern job at Sale Hospital earlier this year was just like coming home – because it was!

I am currently undertaking the Gippsland Rural Intern

Training Program – meaning that I spend my internship at a number of Gippsland Hospitals and undertake rotations such as general practice and anaesthetics. It has been a full-on but very rewarding few months as a doctor.

I chose to be part of the program for a number of reasons, one of which being my positive experiences at Sale Hospital as a medical student.

I spent my third year of medical school in Sale, spending time on the surgical and medical wards, and also completed a final year rotation in surgery. Without a doubt, the most interesting, rewarding and fun-filled times of my training were spent at Sale, where the staff were amazing and encouraging, the patients lovely and the education truly valuable. I also 'adopted' Sale as my own – I became involved with a church, made many friends and really came to appreciate the town - so much so that I have finally moved here!

To be honest, there wasn't much difference coming back to Sale as a doctor! Although a few more people knew my name (only because they needed me to do things for them!), the staff continued to be understanding and respectful. There were certainly some tough times that come with being an intern, but the support I received from the senior medical staff, nurses, students and allied health made the rotation really rewarding. Spending time as a student

at the Hospital, I felt quite comfortable and familiar with the routines and practices unique to Sale; I was also aware of some of the limitations the staff faced (in terms of equipment and facilities). These useful bits of knowledge helped ease me into the medicine rotation well.

It was a little different seeing my old tutors and mentors as colleagues now, and becoming a teacher myself was a strange and new experience! I remember how competent and organised the interns I learned from during medical school were, and have a whole new respect for them! I probably didn't get a chance to teach the Year B and final year Monash students as much as I would have liked, but I think my ability to teach and tutor will improve with time and refined organisational skills!

I really enjoyed my ten weeks back at Sale Hospital (which is definitely starting to feel a bit like home!), and can't wait to come back.

Libby Neilson

REST course held at Bairnsdale

East Gippsland Regional Clinical School hosted a REST (Rural Emergency Skills Training) Course at the Bairnsdale campus of the School on Friday 18 and Sat 19 June. The Course involved 22 GP Registrars from Gippsland Education and Training for General Practice (GETGP), with Registrars coming from all corners of the Gippsland region to undertake the course.

Seven REST Instructors, all rural GPs in Gippsland, assisted with the course.

The REST Course was developed several years ago under the auspices of Rural Workforce Agency Victoria, in response to the need for a rurally-oriented emergency course for doctors entering rural practice in Victoria. The Course is now run nationally by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, and is conducted regularly in Victoria and the Northern Territory, with plans to establish it in other states next year.

The Course has also been exported to South Africa, with more than a dozen courses conducted there over the past 12 months.

The Bairnsdale Course was well-received by participants and covered the range of emergencies that can arise in rural practice, including adult and paediatric medical emergencies, trauma, and psychiatric emergencies.

The Simulation Centre at EGRCs was put to good use during the course, and Course Leader, Dr David Campbell, extended thanks to all involved, including Monash staff Loy Perryman and Deborah Hewetson.



Registrars learning how to insert chest drains, or more correctly, intercostal catheters.



2010 Second Year MBBS students practice their skills



Honour for current EGRCS Student

The Australian Medical Association EH Embley Memorial Medal in Anaesthesia was this year awarded to one of our Sale students, Siân Rouse-Watson, for her essay 'Hypnosis and acupuncture in anaesthesia: do they warrant further consideration?' The prize, a medal and \$500, is awarded to the best essay or case report in the areas of anaesthetics, peri-operative medicine and pain medicine.

The AMA-EH Embley Memorial Medal in Anaesthesia was started in 1929 (by the then Victorian branch of the British Medical Association) to recognise the work of Edward Henry Embley (1861-1924) and his research into the anaesthetics chloroform and ether. His work looking at the toxic effects of these agents allowed anaesthetists to give them to patients more safely and reduce the number of deaths associated with their use.

Siân's review of the literature concluded that there was not enough evidence to support the routine use of acupuncture in anaesthesia. On the other hand, there was a surprising amount of evidence from high quality studies to support the use of hypnosis in anaesthetic practice.



Siân Rouse-Watson

RAMUS Placement for Tim Langford

My name is Tim Langford and I am currently a fourth year Monash Central student who was lucky enough to be placed in Sale last year.

In early June I returned to Sale for two weeks on a placement for my Rural Australian Medical Undergraduate Scholarship (RAMUS). For those who don't know RAMUS is administered by National Rural Health Alliance and is aimed at supporting medical students coming from rural areas and fostering an interest in rural medicine. One aspects of this scholarship is a mentorship scheme where each student has a rurally based mentor with whom they are encouraged to spend time with each year.

My mentor is Dr Howard Connor and so my two weeks were spent with Dr Connor in and around Sale Hospital. This placement gave me a great opportunity to see that variety of work that Dr Connor is involved which included but is not limited to critical care, general medicine and emergency medicine. As opposed to my third year placement last year when I was placed on the medical ward, during this placement I spent more time with Dr Connor not only on

the wards but also in his clinic, the emergency department, at pacemaker checks and during exercise stress tests.

As mentioned above this placement gave me a chance to see the variety available to a rural physician but I was also able to observe how well Dr Connor knew his patients and the way he related to them.

Finally this placement gave me the opportunity to revise much of the general medicine I learned last year which will be useful not only for my exams at the end of this year but also in my future career.

I would like to thank Dr Connor for being my mentor and putting up with me following him every where. I would also like to thank the interns and registrars for tolerating my presence, quizzing me and putting up with my, at times, stupid questions. Finally I would like to thank Ros Pearce and Jennie Casey who made this placement possible from an administrative point of view and are always welcoming and encouraging.

Education Report - Sale

The Year 3/B medical students at Sale have had a very successful first semester and have recently completed the end of semester exams.

All students have spent an eight week rotation on both the surgical and medical wards and also a great deal of time in many other areas of the hospital, particularly theatres and the emergency department. In addition, the students on their surgical rotation have spent a dedicated two weeks with the anaesthetic team. On behalf of the East Gippsland Regional Clinical School (EGRCS) I would like to thank everyone involved for assisting the students in their transition to a clinical setting .

The students also have had opportunities to observe medicine in a General Practice, with tutorials being held at both Heyfield Medical Centre and the Maffra Medical Group.

EGRCS also hosted fifteen second Year medical students from Monash Clayton for two weeks in May, giving these students a direct experience of rural health services and a better understanding of what it is to live and work in a rural community.

Jennie Casey

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