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What's new in Dietetics in 2010?

Last year was a busy year for the dietetics program at Deakin. The Master of Dietetics received full accreditation by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA), the structure of our clinical training program and our Clinical School's were consolidated, and an ongoing project around support for culturally and linguistic diverse (CALD) students was completed.

Over 2010, the focus of course staff will be on consolidating much of the program in addition to new innovations including student learning ePortfolios, increased workforce preparedness of students, and alignment of curriculum with the new DAA Competency Standards for Entry Level Dietitians. The dietetics teaching team for 2010 is given on page 2.

We also celebrate the success of students in the community nutrition program for awards they have received for project work in 2009. See page 2 for details.

This year, we welcomed into the program 51 new students who commenced the 16 month Master of Dietetics, and already they are discovering the intensive teaching and learning approach we have in our program is very different to their prior degrees.

Students in the final trimester of the course are currently on their clinical placement before completing the final aspect of their course, that being the 2-week elective placement. Updates on the clinical and food service programs for 2010 are given on page 3.

Finally, pages 4 and 5 outline a new initiative between Deakin and Monash Universities to build closer links with our dietetics programs and to develop a strategic and sustainable approach to the organisation of professional practice placements in Victoria.

Happy reading

Dr Tim Crowe, APD

Dietetics Course Director

Community Nutrition Students - winning awards and making a difference!

Congratulations to Chu Kion Yao and Hsu Ling Tan who were recently awarded the DAA Public Health and Community Nutrition Interest Group award for their project: "Healthy Eating School: Reclaim the Lunchbox" resource development project at Nutrition Australia. The project was judged as excellent against the following areas: Evidence of understanding the public health/community nutrition issues; Strong evidence of consultation with stakeholders; and clear evidence of reflection on issues of sustainability. The judges also commented on the fact that the project report was clear and concise and supported by Nutrition Australia's previous work in the area, with great community focus, excellent use of consultation and piloting.

Other community nutrition students that were recently in the limelight were Daniela Tassoni and Marlene Gojanovic, who won an award from the State Maternal and Child Health Nurse organisation for the work they did on a breast milk substitute resource for ISIS primary care whilst on their community nutrition placement. They attended the organisation's State Conference on 5 March to receive their award. Their resource is being distributed across the State for use in the Maternal and Child Health Nursing setting.

As the unit chair and placement coordinator for community nutrition, there is nothing as satisfying as seeing students going out on community nutrition placement, developing new skills in this exciting area and being able to make a difference in the communities they are working with.

Dr Sharleen O'Reilly, APD

Community Nutrition Coordinator

Deakin's Dietetic Teaching Team for 2010

In 2010 there have been some changes to the dietetics teaching team. In December we said a temporary farewell to Claire Margerison as she commenced maternity leave — congratulations to Claire and John on the arrival of their son, Sam. We are pleased that Sally Girvan will be staying on at Deakin and taking on some of Claire's maternity leave position. Sally will be coordinating the Professional Dietetic Practice unit as well as teaching into HSN744 Principles of Dietetics.

In November, we welcomed onboard Sonia Brockington who will be lecturing into the clinical program and involved in final-year clinical placement support.

Deakin's dietetics team for 2010 is:

Dr Tim Crowe	Course Director
Adam Walsh	Deputy Course Director and Clinical Placement Coordinator
Sonia Brockington	Clinical Lecturer and Clinical Placement Support
Judy Appleton	Food Service Coordinator
Dr Sharleen O'Reilly	Community Nutrition Coordinator
Dr Susan Torres	Research Coordinator
Sally Girvan	Professional Practice and Elective Coordinator

Student Representatives for 2010

Students in the Master of Dietetics take on a variety of internal and external representative roles on various boards and committees for which they serve an important role providing a student's perspective on matters. Student representatives for 2010 are following.

Dietetics Advisory Board: Sarah Povey and Tim Stewart

DAA Vic Branch Executive: Amelia Fisher

Nutrition Australia (Victorian Division) Committee of Management: Inna Kanevsky

Careers in Dietetics Seminar Organising Committee: Jenna Yeo, Kara McIlvride, Claire Dagley, Roslyn Rayfield and Catrina Gray

Food Service in 2010

A workshop for Food Service Placement Supervisor's was held on Wednesday 10 March at Deakin University, Burwood.

The workshop included two presentations:

- 1) Development of Food Service Management (FSM) Placement Professional Assessment, Incorporating National Competency Standards for Entry-Level Dietitians
- 2) Food Service Management Professional Practice Placement presentation for placement supervisors

The FSM Placement Professional Competency Assessment was discussed and amendments to the assessment document completed. There was lively discussion about trialing the incorporation of a "reflective learning journal" in 2010 as part of the assessment form.

Meeting outcomes:

- a) The competency assessment form will be updated to include workshop feedback and circulated to placement supervisors
- b) Lecture presentations and session recordings to be sent to all food service placement supervisors
- c) Mapping of the DAA competencies in the food service curriculum and circulate to food service supervisors for feedback
- d) Circulate the food service checklist questions for supervisors to assess if they could be used during food service placement orientation

In summary, the meeting was very productive and I would like to thank all the supervisors who were able to attend. A supervisors' meeting will be scheduled for 2011.

Judy Appleton, APD

Food Service Management Coordinator

Clinical Placement in 2010

In 2010, our final-year students will complete a total of 9 weeks clinical placement at various sites throughout metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

A change for this year sees the nine weeks of placement undertaken as a continuous block, and not the three and six week blocks previously implemented. This will eliminate the occurrence of extended gaps between placements and allow for greater consolidation of skills towards the end of placement.

We are grateful for the ongoing participation of a number of sites in the 2010 program. These sites include:

Austin Health (Clinical School)
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
Epworth Health
Goulburn Valley Health
Melbourne Health (Clinical School)
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Western Health (Clinical School)

New to the clinical placement program for 2010 is **Northern Health** who is joining as a clinical partner. With its multi-campus facilities covering the Northern suburbs of Melbourne, we are excited to have them aboard and welcome them in their clinical partner capacity.

One of Deakin's core commitments is to rural and regional engagement and again this year we have placed students in regional areas for those who were interested in this opportunity.

The Student Portfolio continues to incorporate the clinical competency tool (CCT) to assist in student assessment. The CCT was evaluated at the completion of placements in 2009 and will undergo further evaluation again in 2010.

I'm sure 2010 will be a rewarding year for all final year dietetic students. I know experiences will be wide and varied and I look forward to hearing these throughout the year.

Adam Walsh, APD

Clinical Placement Coordinator



Details of the State Government review into governance and coordination of clinical placement in Victoria can be found in the link following

www.health.vic.gov.au/workforce/placements/governance

Dietetics Placement Organisation in Victoria

In June 2009, the Department of Health released a discussion document on a *New Model of Clinical Placement Governance in Victoria*, as way to improve the efficiency of clinical placement coordination and delivery in Victoria. The review highlighted how clinical placement coordination is often a time and resource-intensive process. Current arrangements, in which individual training institutions interface with multiple health services to secure placements in competition with other providers, often result in duplication of effort and under-utilised capacity, and does not facilitate best use of resources

The model proposed by the Department of Health is a network of geographically-defined clinical placement networks (Regional Clinical Academies) to provide a platform for partnership building, local coordination, research and innovation in the area of professional-entry clinical training.

Being proactive in the face of potential future change to the organisation of clinical placements in Victoria, Deakin and Monash Universities, as the only two institutions offering DAA-accredited courses in Victoria, have joined together in the spirit of collaboration to form the **Victorian Universities Placement Consortia for Dietetics**.

The Dietetics Consortia group is composed of the Course Convenor/Director from each university together with the relevant clinical, community/public health and food service professional practice coordinators. The group had their inaugural meeting in February of this year and developed a Terms of Reference.

The aims and functions of the group are:

- To be a central point of contact for government, or other agencies in relation to nutrition and dietetics education in Victoria
- To organise and coordinate dietetics placements in the clinical, community/public health and food service domains
- To map capacity to ensure placement sustainability in the wider nutrition and dietetics profession in Victoria
- To provide a consistent approach to dietetics placement in the clinical, community and food service domains across dietetics education providers
- To provide a collaborative forum for best practice dietetics education providers to communicate teaching and learning activities, and research initiatives
- To explore initiatives to create efficiencies in student education and placement management
- To develop and review the role of practice placement educators

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For your information

In 2010, community nutrition placement will only occur in the second half of the year due to changes in the course structure resulting from moving the Master of Dietetics from Trimester 2, to Trimester 1 intake in 2009. From 2011 onwards, community nutrition placements will run in both the first half and second half of the year as they have done previously.

The process of placement allocation will change in 2010 with students 'applying' to the university placement coordinator for their placements. They will base their applications on the project and position descriptions developed by placement sites.

Dietetics Placement Organisation in Victoria-Continued

Outcomes from the first meeting of the group resolved communication around issues related to clinical, food service and public health and community nutrition practical experiences, including timetabling and placement agreements.

Already Deakin and Monash are planning joint initiatives around student placements and project dissemination in the area of community and public health nutrition. A common Clinical Educator/Placement Educator position outline has also been developed for use by clinicians operating in the role of student education and supervision within hospitals.

The Group also plans to monitor workforce trends and demands, and be proactive in the development curriculum to address these changes. Joint dietetic teaching and learning research projects will also be undertaken together.



Members of the Victorian Universities Placement Consortia for Dietetics, at their inaugural meeting. From left to right: Sally Girvan, Sonia Brockington, Tim Crowe, Helen Truby, Claire Palermo, Janeane Dart, Adam Walsh, Judy Appleton, Sharleen O'Reilly, and Andrea Bryce

Recent Publications by our Team

Jacka FN, Pasco JA, Mykletun A, Williams LJ, Hodge AM, O'Reilly SL, Nicholson GC, Kotowicz MA, Berk M. The association between habitual diet quality and depressive and anxiety disorders in community dwelling women. *Am J Psychiatry* 2010;167:305-11.

Conference Presentations

Brewer S, Desneves K, Pearce L, Mills K, Dunn L, Brown D, Crowe TC. Effect of an arginine-containing supplement on the healing of pressure ulcers in community spinal patients. Australian Wound Management Conference, Perth, March 2010 ORAL

Dietetics Staff in the Media

Dietetics teaching staff in the School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences are active in giving media comment on a wide range of nutrition issues. Below is an overview of recent interviews featuring dietetics staff.

Date	Source	Topic	Interviewee
Jan 2010	Good Health Magazine	Mood and food intake	Susan Torres
10/02/10	Channel 10 News	Lap banding surgery	Tim Crowe
20/02/10	Herald Sun	Polymeal diet for CVD	Tim Crowe
28/02/10	Sunday Herald Sun	Fast food in play centres	Tim Crowe
Feb 2010	Woman's Day	Anti-aging foods	Tim Crowe
April 2010	Prevention Magazine	Exercise and weight loss	Tim Crowe
4/04/10	Sunday Herald Sun	Chocolate	Tim Crowe

Deakin University would like to extend an invitation to all our former students and staff to become members of the online Deakin University Alumni Community. Go to www.deakin.edu.au/alumni to register your free membership application. Once you are registered you can take advantage of the many benefits available to our Alumni members. A list of the benefits is available at www.deakin.edu.au/alumni



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