



## Christmas Newsletter 2006

### STUDENT NEWS



2006 was a successful year for our TIs with all the students satisfactorily completing the year and qualifying. The highlight of the TI year for many is the elective and as always a wide range of countries was visited from Israel to Africa, USA, Australia, UK, Netherlands etc. Chris Kirton had to change his plans at the last minute because of the troubles in the Solomons and Danielle Robinson was lucky that the troubles in Lebanon settled down before she visited Israel. Otherwise the elective plans went ahead without a hitch. The other highlight for the year is of course the TI dinner, which went well thanks to the organisation of Raewyn and the team. Entertainment included Dave Graham with his guitar, a "Who wants to be a millionaire" quiz and a wonderful video of "A day in the life of a TI at Rotorua". It is always sad to see the end of the year and the students setting off for their first medical jobs - many Waikato students have elected to do their PGY1 year in Hamilton, with others opting for Blenheim, Taranaki and Hawkes Bay (and one or two even opted to return to Auckland). Rotorua has again attracted the majority of their students to stay on for another year - a testament to the great environment at Lakes. We wish all our students well for the future and hope they will keep in touch. We also want to congratulate Harriet Kennedy and Colleen van Laar on their engagements.



### RURAL

Progress on a rural immersion program has been slower than hoped. However the University is still committed to giving students more choice around placements. One initiative is that for 2007 TIs will be able to spend 6 weeks in a rural practice rather than the current 3 weeks rural/3 weeks urban. Also planned is a visit to interested DHBs to find partners for a rural immersion program, where up to 12 students might be offered a 12 month rural program. This "roadshow" will start in early 2007. In September we held a successful rural students meeting with 12 "Grassroots" medical students and three nurses from the Wintec primary care program attending. A rural weekend is planned for 2007 for our Grassroots students where skills training and a visit to a rural site is planned. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of two Senior lecturers in Rural Health - Dr Jo Scott-Jones from Opitiki and Dr Rachel Thomson from Te Kaha. Both Jo and Rachel are enrolled to do a Masters in General Practice through the University and are busy planning their research programs.

### PRIMARY CARE

The TIs have had another successful year as far as their general practice attachments are concerned. We thank all the GPs, in the Waikato, Rotorua and further a field who have provided placements - it is a really important part of the clinical training they receive. Steven Lillis has provided an excellent support framework for the students with reflective tutorials and his unique team building approach - although the one hour kayak trip in Lake Rotoiti turned into a 5 hour marathon after the wind changed!



### PSYCHIATRY

The undergraduate psychiatric programmes continued to be well supported by the DHB clinical staff. The Psychiatric Academic scene at Waikato has been boosted significantly with the arrival of Associate Professor David Menkes. He is working with the DHB staff to establish clinical and research activities in the interface between primary and secondary care.

The research activities related to the broad area of classification in psychiatry progressed extensively during this year, headed by Professor Graham Mellsop, with a large number of co-workers from a number of other countries, and from within the DHB. The work is attracting significant international attention, particularly from the WHO, American Psychiatric Association, and their planning for ICD-11 and DSM-V respectively. The on-site availability of statistical advice from Gaelle Dutu has proven to be a popular resource.



## WAIKATO CLINICAL SCHOOL PRIZES



Ellis Dick TI prize for Surgery - **Brendon Manikkam**



GE TI Healthcare prize in Radiology - **Jen Best**

TI Prize in GP sponsored by Pinnacle - **Jen Best**

TI Prize in GP Research sponsored by the Waikato Faculty of RNZCGP  
**Leo Sheck**

Medlab Hamilton prize for the best student - **Anne Marie Newth**

Peter Rothwell Clinical Teacher Prize - **Noel Manikkam**

## RESEARCH



Dr Helen Conaglen and Associate Professor John Conaglen are engaged in a large trial based on Waikato patients investigating partner preference of the pro-erectile drugs Viagra and Cialis. To date 100 couples have been recruited and the data collection will be all available by June 2007. We look forward to hearing the results of this landmark study.

The Summer Studentship Programme continues to be a real opportunity for new entrant research work within the Clinical School and the Waikato DHB.

Considerable collaborative support by the CEO of the Waikato DHB has ensured that both Health Waikato and University students have had opportunity to carry out novel research projects increasing knowledge for patients in our region.

The Waikato Clinical School continues to offer the Biannual Research Seminar which is well supported by University and Hospital staff. The diverse presentations of research work at the Research Seminar is a very positive testament to the quality research being carried out in the institution.

The cardio-endocrine research group led by Dr Gerry Devlin continues to investigate the role of growth factors in the failing heart.

The Waikato Clinical School in association with The New Zealand Sexual Research Trust sponsored the Second Biennial Australasian Multidisciplinary Conference on Sexual Dysfunction in Queenstown in April. This conference was such a success that it has set the platform for future biennial meetings across Australia and New Zealand.

**John V Conaglen**

## SURGERY



Fourth years continue to excel and impress with their choice and quality of CAT's. Those of us that take these sessions are very envious that students have this terrific model to sift through the masses of modern literature and pick out the relatively small amount of really meaningful evidence. Keep up the good work. We wish we had a better understanding of this process at your stage!

Surgical Research was boosted in 2006 by the appointment of a Research Fellow (Hafees Saleem) based at Waikato Hospital and supervised by Mr Vasudevan. Another appointment has been secured for 2007.

Congratulations to Ian Campbell who was elected the Lead Co-ordinator at the International SNAC – 2 trial of sentinel node biopsy in the management of breast cancer.

## ANAESTHETICS



The anaesthetic research group has been concentrating on completing their Marsden-funded research; with the publication of 8 papers in peer-reviewed journals this year.. They are now developing the capability to do electrophysiological work, which they hope will complement their clinical electrophysiological expertise. The department is now in the position to be able to offer a broad-based neuroscience research environment for any prospective PhD and MD students. National and international collaborative links have been further strengthened with the publication of several co-authored papers, and involvement in a number of new multicentre clinical trials.