

[KYPHOSIS]

AUTUMN EDITION 2018





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KYPHOSIS

The biannual medical student magazine – proudly published on behalf of MANDUS, the official representative student body for the Notre Dame School of Medicine, Sydney.

MESSAGE FROM TEAM KYPHOSIS

Dear Reader,

2018 is well underway! We hope that somewhere between cannulation and ECG Interpretation you get a chance to flick through this latest edition of Kyphosis. This year we've got interesting articles from interesting people, and a snapshot of some incredible events hosted by our student community.

Check out the online edition of the magazine, and share the link with friends and family. They'd love to see what you've been up to since you disappeared off the face of the earth.

Make sure you do something you enjoy, do something that challenges you, and stay curious.

All the best,



Laszlo Kenny &
Melissa Wehbe



MANDUS Publications
Representatives

The publishing team would like to acknowledge the expertise and brilliant work of our Graphic Designer: Hykie Kwong. Visit: <http://www.hykiewong.com/>

Front Cover:

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“ MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN”

Welcome to 2018 – it is a special milestone for the School as we celebrate the 10 year anniversary of commencing the medical program in Sydney.

It is always exciting to meet the new Year 1 students each year and this year was no exception. We are proud of the diversity of the students we welcome to the School with many different professional and cultural backgrounds creating a rich learning environment. Every student has ‘a story’ and we will enjoy getting to know each of you over coming years.

One of the School’s special traditions for Year 1 students is the Blessing of the Hands which was held in February - a highlight on the academic calendar every year. We were very fortunate this year to have The Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers helping us celebrate this very special event. I particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to meet your family and friends. They were without exception deservedly proud and very excited for you.

Welcome back to our year 2, 3 and 4 students continuing the journey through the medical program. As we approach the end of the first Semester, I hope you are all on top of your studies and enjoying the program, working co-operatively with colleagues and supporting each other.

As we are well into the academic year we already have much to celebrate! Sporting-wise, we won the swimming carnival against USyd medicine team and also the Notre Dame Gift sporting competition which was held against other UND Sydney-based schools. Well done!

PANDA raised \$4,200 for Bob ‘Tug’ Wilson’s Walk for Kids with Cancer. We had a wonderful group of students represent us and raise this incredible amount of money – well done to all those involved.

In early April, the University held its Graduation Ceremony for graduands from Medicine and other faculties at Sydney Town Hall. We were very proud to have Dr Helena Obermair give the final farewell address (as Valedictorian). We were also delighted that Dr Angela Galanopoulos was presented with the University Medal 2017.

Sarah Brazel and Andrew Dind (both current Year 4 students in Victoria) were recognised with the Vice Chancellor’s Medal 2017. Michael O’Sullivan (Year 2) received the Vice Chancellor’s Coursework Postgraduate Medal 2017.

On 23 and 24 April, the Year 4 MD students in Sydney and Melbourne presented their MD Project posters. The presentations were excellent and the MD Theme Leaders were very pleased by

the high standard. Congratulations to the Year 4 students involved and sincere thanks to the many academic staff from across all Clinical Schools who are supporting the students with their MD Projects. We are looking forward to the Final Reports in June!

A new student-led initiative underway is an innovative peer-to-peer Anatomy workshop run by SANDUS. I hear that the first workshop in May was a huge success and was well received by all those who attended. The School will explore this concept with the students who designed, delivered and participated in the workshop.

In early May we held our yearly Medical School Information Night. This is always an exciting event with many prospective students coming to listen to presentations by the School, Admissions and from current students. Thank you to the students who volunteered their time to act as tour guides and panellists for this event. You were magnificent ambassadors for the School and gave excellent advice to prospective students.

Faculty members have also been making a difference in various ways. Some notable examples include – Professor Margaret Somerville was called to Canada as an expert witness, was invited to Rome to address an international conference of communications professionals and appeared as a guest on ‘God Forbid’; and Dr Lynne Mann, the Discipline Leader of Surgery at Auburn Hospital impressively completed the Tour de Cure raising \$4,000 toward cancer research! Professor Lynne Madden has been visiting State and Commonwealth governments on climate change advocacy.

In August we will welcome Professor David Kissane as our inaugural Chair of Palliative Medicine Research. David is an international leader in palliative care research and end-of-life matters and we are delighted that he will be joining Notre Dame.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the School of Medicine, Sydney. We are planning some events to celebrate this milestone and will let you know more information over the coming months. We hope to involve all students and invite our alumni and the many partners and friends of the School of Medicine, Sydney.

Finally, as we progress toward mid-year examinations, my advice is to stay focussed and up to date, work together well in your groups, and speak to your tutors or year co-ordinator if you have any concerns or need extra help. Eat well, exercise and get good sleep! Enjoy the rest of your year and good luck!

Professor Christine Bennett AO
Dean, School of Medicine, Sydney



“ PRESIDENT’S WELCOME”

Our aims for this year include working towards zero waste, improving inter-professional engagement and continuing to provide wellbeing initiatives which support the mental health of our students.

Welcome to the first issue of Kyphosis for 2018! The year began with a warm welcome to the new MED1000 cohort and our returning MED2000, 3000 and 4000 students during a few jam-packed orientation weeks. Since then, the MANDUS team have been busy organising a wide variety of events to fill up the calendar.

Highlights of the year so far include MedCamp, winning the UNDS v.s USYD Swimming Carnival, MED1000 Mentoring Program, WimbleMed Singles Championships, RANDA Peer-to-Peer Research Sessions and A Night Visualising Medicine with Armando Hasudungan Faigl (2017 Alumni).

Our aims for this year include working towards zero waste, improving inter-professional engagement and continuing to provide wellbeing initiatives which support the mental health of our students.

I encourage you all to continue to work hard throughout the academic year, whilst maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Be an active member of the medical school community and contribute your skills to whatever you are passionate about.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 2017 graduating cohort and thank the 2017 MANDUS team for what was such a successful year. We are extremely appreciative of their contribution and the hard work that they put into the growth of MANDUS. The MANDUS 2018 team hopes to continue to build upon their incredible work.

On behalf of the MANDUS team and all the medical students at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney Campus, we would like to acknowledge and thank the School of Medicine, Sydney (SoMS) for all that they do to provide us with a supportive and inclusive medical school community.

We look forward to bringing you more fun-filled activities throughout the year. Be sure to get in touch if there is anything you would like to see on campus this year, we would love to hear from you.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Kyphosis.

Sarah Palmer
President of the Medical Association of Notre Dame University, Sydney (MANDUS)

SPACE MEDICINE

WHEN ONE OF THE OLDEST FACULTIES OF SCIENCE
MEETS THE FINAL FRONTIER



The Kyphosis Editorial Team would like to extend a sincere thank you to the author:

Quinlan Buchlak BSc(Hons) MPsych, MBIS

After a stint of research at the European Space Agency, our very own Quinlan Buchlak shares his passion for space medicine, and insights into this growing field.

Why does space medicine matter? We are on the cusp of a major shift in human space exploration. You have probably seen some of Elon Musk's flashy rocketeering escapades. The striking symphony of sparkles and engineering successes. We have all heard about the International Space Station (ISS) and Mars rovers. But what ever happened to human space flight after we went to the Moon and after the Shuttle retired?

The number of people engaged in spaceflight activities is set to increase substantially. In the course of your medical practice, you may see people who have been exposed to the space environment. You may even be one of them.

The rockets that will get us there

More than 500 people have experienced stepping into the most powerful machines ever constructed, riding a furious column of fire, and tearing themselves away from the unforgiving pull of our planet's gravity (Hodkinson, Anderton, Posselt, & Fong, 2017).

Rockets hit the speed of sound within 46 seconds (Borghini & Spinozzi, 2017). The rocket-riders inside are compressed as they experience 4 times the Earth's normal gravity. In order to achieve orbital insertion, a rocket needs to reach a speed of over 29,000 km/h, exceeding the speed of sound by more than a factor of 20. As the fuel in the rocket burns, the spacecraft gets lighter, which

further increases its acceleration. Rockets are so powerful in fact, that they actually need to be throttled back during launch to prevent them from being crushed against the air of the atmosphere (Sutton & Biblarz, 2016). You know when you stick your hand out of a car window on the freeway? Well, that's the same pressure that acts on a rocket, but a little more intense.

**Then there's a jolt.
And you're weightless.**

Chris Hadfield, a retired Canadian astronaut, describes it this way: "It's like being shaken in the jaws of a gigantic dog... then its like having a gorilla squishing you and being thrown off a cliff" (Welsh, 2012). It takes about 15 seconds to go from a bright sunny day to complete darkness (Hadfield, 2013).

This all makes the most thrilling parts of our lives seem like sipping a coffee in the morning sun on a Saturday.

We are built to survive on earth—how can we do it in space?

Space farers are subjected to a constellation of physiological changes and health risks that depend on their length of exposure to microgravity. These effects include musculoskeletal degradation, fluid shift, cardiovascular changes, vision and neurobehavioral

decrements, nausea, radiation exposure, and genetic changes. They may experience a greater risk of fracture, intervertebral disc herniation, cardiovascular disease and neoplasm (Barratt & Pool, 2008; Grimm et al., 2016; Hodkinson et al., 2017). Flight surgeons and bioastronautics researchers have an important role in preventing and mitigating these health risks. Solutions to these problems help astronauts to safely move further into the solar system.

The doctors

Space medicine is defined as the care of astronauts and their families before, during and after their missions. It involves assessing an astronaut's suitability for space flight, maintaining and assessing their health over time, approving them for missions, monitoring their health in flight, offering guidance, and helping astronauts to recover and recondition after their missions. It is a comprehensive specialty that considers astronaut selection, training, education, simulation, preflight optimisation, research, environmental effects on physiology, nutrition, human factors, performance enhancement, habitat design, escape systems, impact protection and survival aids (Hodkinson et al., 2017).

Where are we headed?

Space tourism is set, by some estimates, to become a \$34bn industry by 2021. Virgin Galactic had another successful test flight of Spaceship Two recently and plans to begin tours of space within the next 12 months (for \$250k). SpaceX has offered to take people on week-long flights (\$60-\$175m) around the moon, retracing the missions of the Apollo astronauts.

NASA plans to put boots on Mars by the 2030s. Work on NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) is progressing and its first deep space exploration mission (EM-1) is slated for launch in 2019 (Burnett, Gill, & Ellis, 2017; Donahue, 2017).

One of the most ambitious targets is envisioned by Elon Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, who has announced plans to build a Mars colony consisting of a million people within his lifetime. His proposed new rocket – the BFR – will have enough payload space to contain 40 cabins. SpaceX is set to begin launches to send equipment and people to Mars in the early 2020s (SpaceX, 2018).

Australia recently announced the creation of a new space agency. More details are set to be announced soon.

The crux

More people will soon be heading into space. They will need medical care and you may need to treat some of them. You might even be one of them. Understanding space medicine and the effects of exposure to the space environment will be useful.

So keep your eyes on the skies. This is an exciting time.

Quinlan has worked as a space medicine researcher for the European Space Agency, is on the Australian Bioastronautics Working Group and is a member of the Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine and the Aerospace Medical Association. He encourages you to get in contact with any of these organisations if space medicine is of interest to you.

Clockwise from left page: An astronaut posing for a photo on the international space station. Photo: NASA, Astronauts riding a column of fire into space. Photo: NASA, The European Astronaut Centre, Quinlan pretending to float in an ESA ISS training module (the image was taken lying down and was then flipped).



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POLICY IN PERSPECTIVE

Tom Beynon, UNDS Pre-Clinical AMSA Representative

The Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA) publishes a stance on the issues which impact the student body it represents. This takes place after a lengthy consultation between representatives from medical schools all around the country. This article provides commentary on AMSA's National Barrier Examination Policy, recently spearheaded by our very own Belusia Banaszak (Med2).

One of the more contentious issues facing tertiary providers is that of student assessment. Is the purpose of assessment to simply gather information about student performance, or should it exist as a tool to empower the learning process?

Or does assessment serve an even more important role?

Let's face it, we are a fickle bunch. What we learn and how we learn depends largely upon how we think we will be assessed. As students, we expect clearly articulated syllabi, with assessments that match the content, tone of thinking and skills taught during class. We want our assessments to send signals about what to study and how to study it, and many students become frustrated when this is not the case. Effective assessment therefore should not only provide a student with a sense of what they know, but also what they don't know.

But this is obviously not the only purpose of assessment. From the perspective of the education provider, reflection on student performance offers staff an insight into the effectiveness of their practices. Even more importantly still, rigorous assessment ensures that students meet minimum knowledge and competency standards.

In our field, a suitable level of competency can be a matter of life or death.

Given this context, it comes as a surprise to many that as it stands, there is no standardised assessment to affirm the graduating standards of students at different medical schools. Make no mistake, this is not a trivial detail, with the policy authors noting that it is



manifestly in the public interest to ensure all graduates meet a minimum standard of knowledge prior to internship to foster safe medical practice and maintain public confidence in our profession. Such assessment tools are known as National Barrier Examination's (NBEs), and are adopted, or currently being implemented in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.

But rather than buying into reactionary politics, our very own Belusia Banaszak (MED II) and her team put forward an evidence-based policy concluding that there is currently insufficient evidence of the need for a NBE within the Australian system. They argue that the Australian Medical Council's oversight into the assessment and accreditation of medical schools, when combined with the widespread adoption of the "common assessment framework" is more than sufficient to achieve these safety and competency goals.

The team shows that there is no causality between NBE performance and positive or negative clinical outcomes, but comparatively, the mere presence of an NBE can have flow on effects in terms of student mental health and collegiality, and pose significant, if not detrimental flow on effects for future specialty placement in the event of poor performance.

But as opposed to just stopping there, the team also sought to lay out a roadmap for an NBE if it is to be implemented in the future. In particular, they stressed the need to incorporate multiple forms of examination (MCQ, SAQ and OSCE's), and only have a basis in a pass/fail grade.

If an NBE did exist at various timepoints throughout a medical degree, I for one would drastically reduce the amount of extracurricular involvement I have. It would lead to the death of the Friday afternoon beer, weekend sporting involvement and student representative participation. But perhaps that's a good thing?



Top: Kate Chiswell and David Edric (Med III), who played a key role in AMSA's Student Income Support Policy. Left: Belusia Banaszak (MED II), Lead-author for AMSA's National Barrier Examination Policy



RURAL HEALTH SOCIETY

Elodie Honore & Harry Jude, ROUNDS Co-Chairs

ROUNDS has had successful year so far with gaining plenty of traction with UNDS nursing and medical students from all year levels. Our aims this year include promoting rural health and careers to students of all interest levels in going rural and to further integrate our medical and nursing students – so far we're on the right track!

Orientation for both the medical and nursing faculties boosted our membership numbers tremendously and was a great opportunity to advertise the events and initiatives we have in store across the year.

The ROUNDS Amazing Race was our first big event for the year building up much excitement for future ROUNDS events and was a great way for students to meet each other in fun, social setting.

Our much-anticipated Emergency Medical Challenge at the first year med camp was also a great success, involving over 100 students providing first aid in 10 different mock scenarios from car crashes to snakes bites, anaphylaxis and suturing.

ROUNDS has also held scholarship information sessions for students, run student elections for junior positions and introduced ROUNDS clinical school representatives to the committee.

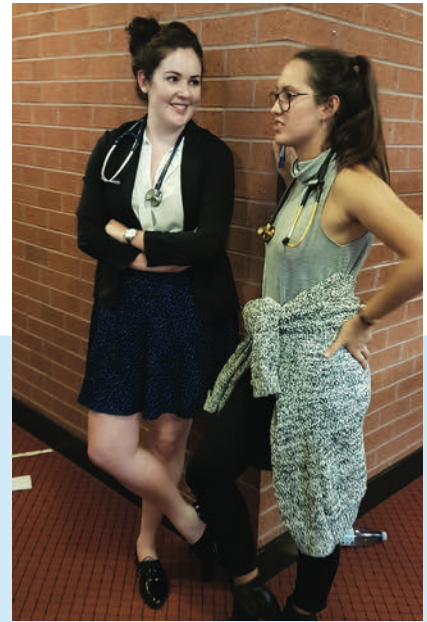
Another really exciting opportunity for UNDS students has arisen from the RDN in which our students will be shadowing a specialist and healthcare worker for a day on their rural outreach visits. ROUNDS is very excited to be a part of this initiative and look forward to increasing the rural experiences of our students and members.

ROUNDS also organised for a number of UNDS students to attend the ARMS Close the Gap Conference in Canberra during April. The event was a great success involving workshops, speakers and an open environment for the students to ask questions to better their understanding of the complex issues surrounding indigenous health. Thank you to ARMS for such a fantastic weekend!

It has been a busy year so far but that has only been the beginning. We're in the midst of organising our Wagga Wagga Clinical School and Rural High School Visit Trip coming up at the start of May with our Ballarat Clinical School trip following closely in June. ROUNDS prides itself in these trips as they are the perfect opportunity to expose students to rural life, the rural clinical schools and the hospitals with the aim of encouraging as many people as possible to #gorural !!

We have plenty more events in store for the rest of the year and we look forward to teaming up with other rural health clubs to put on some great events for our future rural health professionals.







SURGICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Aleksandra Klimova, 2018 SANDUS President

We haven't even reached the Formatives yet and SANDUS has already had an exciting and action-filled few months! We have started the year by introducing our first ever equity package for the Australasian Students Surgical Conference to support students who have passion for surgery but need a bit of support pursuing their interest. We hope our recipient enjoys their time at the conference!

On April 19th, we ran our annual Surgical Challenge. This event allows students to practise and receive feedback on their clinical and communication skills, anatomy knowledge and suturing skills. Importantly, the Surgical Challenge allows pre-clinical students to develop and refine their approach to future objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs).

We have introduced our first ever equity package for the Australasian Students Surgical Conference to support students who have passion for surgery but need support pursuing their interest.

This year's event generated a lot of interest as we had 90 students competing from Year 1 and Year 2- this could be a new record for the society! Great to see so many keen beans! For the first time, Nursing students became involved with the society and helped out as simulated patients. This was a very fun and successful collaboration. We look forward to more interdisciplinary events with the Nursing Faculty this year!

Finally, this semester we are introducing SANDUS Anatomy Workshops for Year 1 and Year 2! These will consist of interactive stations taught by SANDUS subcommittee and Year 2 volunteers with previous anatomy teaching experience. Great way to learn from your peers in a friendly environment!

We look forward to sharing more exciting events and opportunities with you in the next few months!



Good notes, good practice, good defence

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

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RESEARCH SOCIETY

REFLECTING ON REMARKABLE RESEARCH OF 2017

Lachlan Hegarty, RANDA Chair

Sometimes in research it is important to take a step back from the lab bench and reflect on some of the achievements that occur. In no particular order, here are four (in my opinion) of the most fascinating medical breakthroughs that occurred during 2017.

1. Regenerating body parts

Regenerative medicine, a branch of science that investigates ways to regrow or replace damaged tissue and organs made a big breakthrough in 2017 when Ohio State University researchers announced the development of a technology called tissue nanotransfection.

Tissue nanotransfection (TNT) is an in vivo research technique that its creators claim reprograms skin cells into other cell types. It uses a small electrical current to transfer DNA into pores in the cellular membrane. The DNA then activates existing genes that trigger the change.

So far, the research has been restricted to animal trials but clinical trials in humans are scheduled to begin in 2018.

Read more about it: <https://www.nature.com/articles/nchem.2811>

2. 3D Printed Spinal Implants

Patients suffering from spinal deformities or requiring prosthetic devices post-surgery began receiving the full benefits of technology in 2017, thanks to new 3D printed implants sourced from titanium.

These implants are made from titanium powder and designed with rough surfaces and porous structures, which allows them to integrate more quickly and completely into the body. 3D printing technology allows implants to be designed in such a way that bone grows onto and through the implant device.

Read more about it here: <https://www.3dnatives.com/en/k2m-3d-printed-spine-implant270620174/>

3. Pig Organ transplants for people

In 2017 researchers made significant advancements in genetically modifying piglets so that their organs could be more safely transplanted into humans. The development raises hope that the concept of xenotransplantation, the process of transferring organs from one species to another, could finally become a reality.

The piglets were created by eGenesis, a company that used the new gene editing tool CRISPR to eliminate more than 2 dozen copies of pig genes that could produce dangerous viruses in humans.

Read more about it here: <https://www.statnews.com/2017/08/10/crispr-pigs-organ-transplant/>

4. Virtual Reality for Chronic Pain Relief

Virtual reality crept into medicine in 2017, with multiple studies suggesting that its use in medical treatment could reduce pain as well as some potent medications do. For instance, when patients watched uplifting videos through virtual reality goggles, their pain levels dropped by 24%.

It is hypothesised that the therapy essentially overwhelms the brain with positive experiences, distracting it from the pain, with patients suffering the most pain getting the most relief from Virtual Reality treatments.

Read more about it here: <https://www.cedars-sinai.org/newsroom/cedars-sinai-study-finds-virtual-reality-therapy-helps-decrease-pain-in-hospitalized-patients/>





SPORTS REPORT

Ellie Sarka & Julie Dao,
MANDUS Sports Representatives

It's been a fabulous year of sport at Notre Dame Medical School so far. We started the year with our annual MANDUS XI vs. SUMS (Sydney Uni Medical School) XI cricket game and Swimming Carnival. While the boys put up a good fight to narrowly lose in the cricket, we absolutely dominated the swimming carnival with so much talent on display. The Swimming Carnival was a great opportunity for both Med 1 and Med 2 students to get to know each other and socialise away from the books. The following evening we had a group of students who participated in the annual 'Notre Dame Gift' tournament. This competition consisted of basketball, futsal, dodgeball and tug-of-war and was a huge success as our Medical faculty came out on top and won the title. However we can't go without mentioning our very own 'Wimblemed' table tennis competition which took place in May. The finals were all very close games in both the men's and women's competitions across both year groups. It was Med 2 who were the overall champions of the tournaments for this year.

Running Club also commenced this year which encourages anyone who wants to have a break from study on a Thursday afternoon to come enjoy a run and chat. It's really great to see how involved everyone has been getting in sport at Notre Dame this year, and we hope this continues throughout semester two. More exciting games are in store for next semester including a mixed soccer match, the annual Rugby and Touch Football clashes as well as a Mixed Doubles table tennis competition, so get pumped!

Happy sporting!



WELLBEING

Erol Dalkic, MANDUS Wellbeing Representative

MANDUS Wellbeing strives to promote student welfare by running health promoting initiatives, liaising with university leadership, advocating for student concerns and working with Wellbeing Officers from other medical schools on student mental health programs.



Guess Who? Answers:

1. Prof. Peter Carroll, 2. A/Prof. Susy Benjamin, 3. Gerard Williams, 4. Dean Christine Bennett AO, 5. A/Prof. Charlotte Hespe, 6. Dr Ali Malik



Come join our exciting initiatives like:

- Peer mentoring: To help the transition into medical school MED1 is mentored in small groups by MED2 volunteers.
- The #wellbeingWednesdayUNDS photo competition: Win rewarding prizes by posting about how you maintain your health and wellbeing during medical school
- Free yoga, dance and meditation on campus
- Inspirational talks, “R U OK?” Day and Mental Health Week activities
- Like our Facebook page for wellbeing tips, interesting articles and event updates (facebook.com/manduswellbeing)

Do you have any exciting new ideas for events? We would love to hear from you! Approach your friendly Wellbeing reps, Erol (Med2) and Alister (Med 1) with your ideas or concerns.





GUESS WHO?

Match the staff photo to the baby photo!



Dean Christine Bennett AO
Our fearless leader!



Associate Professor Susy Benjamin
If it matters to her students,
it matters to Susy!



Associate Professor Charlotte Hespe
In your OSCEs just think –
“What would Charlotte do?”



Dr Ali Malik
He can't stress enough how important
the borders of the inguinal canal are.



Gerard Williams
UNDS' resident computer whizz!



Professor Peter Carroll
The man who makes pharmacology
look like child's play



SOMETHING SOCIAL

Dipti Shankar, MANDUS Social Representative

MANDUS has truly hit the ground running for social activities in 2018! Taking over from the lovely Antonia Watson I always knew I had big shoes to fill but so far so good! Our first event for the year was the Welcome drinks at the Rose where first years had the opportunity to meet each other and the year twos before semester kicked off!

Four weeks later we were warmly welcomed back to Camp Wombaroo, in the picturesque Southern Highlands for Medcamp, kicked off with to the annual ROUNDS emergency medical challenge. The challenge saw the first-year teams work closely together to get through each of the stations including everything from snakebites to shock and even anaphylaxis. The teamwork and problem solving on display set the tone for a wonderful weekend of bonding. The adrenaline rush from the challenge got the first years fired up for a spot of inter-PBL rivalry with trivia that saw PBL A display their intellectual superiority and emerge victorious. Following this the lights were turned down, the music turned up and the First Night Fever party then kicked off. The next morning there were a few sore heads but many activities that carried on throughout the day- the ping pong tables were put to good use, Yoga and dance sessions with the talented Erol Dalkic, cricket and footy to name a few. As the sun set on camp wombaroo, the bonfire was lit and the “If I weren’t in medicine I would be...” themed party began and saw everyone boogying until the wee hours of the morning.

On April 6 the MedFest/ Scrubcrawl was held in the refectory. Following the WimbleMed Finals, first and second year PBLs combined forces to compete in medfest for ultimate trivia glory and bragging rights- PBL O (“operating theatre”) scraping a narrow victory over PBL M. Once again there were some great group costumes ranging from creative (PBL I- Illuminati) to down right hilarious (PBL G- grandmas and grandpas). Speaking of hilarious, there were some truly showstopping karaoke performances given by all- however special mention must go to Fairy Godmother Harry Jude and Tom Butler for their grammy-worthy covers.

The fun didn’t end there as we all changed into our MANDUS scrubs and hit Oxford St for scrub crawl. A great night was had by all.

Auditions are coming up for our very first NotreDame MedRevue (3-4th August), and of course our premier social event---Med Ball on the 11th of August this year being held at the Westin grand ballroom in martin place!

Lastly, I’d like to congratulate the wonderful Joshua Chew one his election as MED1000 Social Representative! I can’t wait to work closely with Josh on all of our upcoming events and am sure that he will be an asset to the team! I also look forward to working with the newly selected MedBall Subcommittee comprised of Josh, the wonderful Emma Smith (MED1000) and Kirsty Fuller (Med2000).



