The newsletter of the Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education

Welcome to our Spring 2016 issue of BIMHSE News, the newsletter of the Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education to inform and update colleagues about medical faculty news related to education.

*Highlights in this issue include*

- Frontiers in Medical and Health Sciences Education Conference: Learner Wellbeing Across the Continuum held on November 27-28, 2015
- Welcome to the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit (MEHU) as part of BIMHSE
- Research and innovation in medical education and health sciences at our Faculty
Frontiers in Medical and Health Sciences Education Conference: Learner Wellbeing Across the Continuum

November 27-28, 2015

Medical, health sciences and health profession students are known to have a high prevalence of distress and poor mental quality of life including sleep deprivation, anxiety, and feelings of social isolation. Such distress in students can impair academic achievement, potentially leading to academic dishonesty, and other adverse outcomes such as substance abuse, decline in physical health and poor self-care. In the longer term, future training, employment prospects and ultimately patient quality of care may be affected. Conversely, good quality of life and student wellbeing has been positively correlated with better academic achievement. To enable students to attain their learning potential, these issues need to be recognized, evaluated, and appropriate interventions put in place to support the learner in difficulty.

The theme of our most recent Frontiers in Medical and Health Sciences Education Conference held on November 27-28, 2015 addressed student wellbeing: achieving better balance between academic and personal responsibilities, supporting students through educational and career transitions, and preparing students for future practice. The Conference was attended by over 400 local, regional and overseas participants and featured over 40 short oral and poster presentations. Prof Ian Holliday, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) opened the conference by sharing his insights about the responsibilities the university holds in helping to optimize student wellbeing.

Amongst the highlights from the conference were three plenary sessions, a regional panel forum on ‘Learner Wellbeing in Asia: Experience and Issues’, and a student panel forum on ‘Transition and Adaptation’. In the first plenary session on ‘Wellbeing and Outcomes’, Prof Albert Chau, Dean of Student Affairs, spoke on the ‘Role of Co-curriculum in Student Wellbeing’ and Prof Jeanette Lancaster from the University of Virginia spoke on ‘Teaching Students to Increase Resiliency and Reduce Vulnerabilities to Obstacles and Stressors’. The second plenary session featured Prof Michael Kidd from Flinders University who spoke on ‘Promoting Wellbeing and Resilience’, and Prof Liselotte Dyrbeye from Mayo Clinic who spoke on ‘Medical Student and Resident Burnout: Why it matters’. The third plenary session featured Prof Trudie Roberts from the University of Leeds who spoke on ‘Cheating in Medical School: Bad Apples or Bad Barrels’, and Prof Niv Patil from the Department of Surgery at HKU who spoke on the local perspectives of ‘Student Support: Looking Forward, Looking Back.’

The conference gala dinner was attended by over 60 guests, and was hosted by the Medical Faculty Dean, Prof Gabriel Leung.
RECENT BIMHSE EVENTS

Dr Weng Yee Chin running a workshop on facilitating small group discussions

Professional Development Program for HKU-Shenzhen Hospital Teachers January 23, 2016

BIMHSE ran its second annual staff development program for the staff at HKU-Shenzhen Hospital who are now teaching our undergraduate students Chinese Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and MBBS students. Attachments to HKU-SZH have now been incorporated into these four programmes, to allow our students to get a broader perspective on healthcare delivery in China.

With the enthusiastic participation of almost 40 HKU-SZH participants, Dr Lap Ki Chan, Dr Julie Chen and Dr Weng Yee Chin of BIMHSE ran a series of training activities including workshops and seminars on how to enhance the effectiveness of clinical teaching. This included how to structure a clinical teaching session and small-group workshops on how to give constructive feedback to students, how to capture teachable moments and how to facilitate small group discussions.
Roundtable discussion on longitudinal monitoring of student professionalism

February 4, 2016

Although the criteria for entry into medical training mean that only very talented individuals are accepted, many medical students and residents still present with academic or non-academic issues. Helping learners in difficulty requires that all those who teach medical students and residents are able to diagnose, monitor and manage both intrinsic and extrinsic learner issues, which range from problems with study habits and learning styles to professionalism, personal, health, and family issues. This seminar will introduce a framework for identifying and helping learners in difficulty and introduce examples for discussion. We will also examine the practical issues around controversies such as “forward feeding,” and techniques to overcome the emotional barriers to learner resistance to diagnoses of problems and to “constructive” feedback.

Following her initial visit in 2015 to talk to the Faculty on “Diagnosing, Monitoring and Managing Learners in Difficulty”, Prof DeWitt returned to talk to key teachers in the Faculty to share her experiences on developing and implementing mechanisms to monitor student professionalism at the University of Melbourne and University of British Columbia.

About the speaker
Professor DeWitt obtained her MSc at Trinity College, Cambridge and an MD at Harvard Medical School. She completed her Internal Medicine training and Certificate in Medical Education at the University of Washington. At the University of Washington, she served as Director of Internal Medicine WWAMI Regional Community Based Education. As Ambulatory Site Director for the Medicine Clerkship at University of Washington, the students gave her the Alpha Omega Alpha faculty award. She was voted one of the “Best Doctors in America” in 2002 and she received the Inaugural University of Washington Alumnae Early Career Achievement Award in 2006. She was in the leadership role at the University of Melbourne Medical School from 2003-2011, she led the development of Australia’s first purpose-built inter-professional learner-centred teaching clinic. Her team won the Melbourne Medical School and University of Melbourne Program Innovation in Education Awards in 2009 and 2010. From 2012-2014, she took the appointments as Regional Associate Dean Vancouver-Fraser and Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education. In 2014, she was elected to Mastership in the American College of Physicians, and is currently the ACP BC Governor Elect.
BIMHSE at the Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference
APMEC, Singapore January 13-17, 2016

The Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC) is the second largest medical and health professions education conference in the world which is now in its 13th year. This year the conference organizers indicated that there were 1100 attendees from over 45 different countries from whom 450 abstracts were accepted. There were 18 pre-conference workshops, 4 short courses, and 4 post-conference workshops as well as various special interest group meetings scattered throughout. There was also a notable complement of high quality plenary and symposium speakers including Professor Ronald Harden, the “father” of medical education and innovator of the OSCE, who spoke about medical curricula that prepare graduates who are fit for practice; Professor Trudie Roberts, the President of AMEE who was also an invited speaker at our most recent Frontiers in Medical and Health Sciences Education meeting, who spoke on trends in medical education and Professor Kevin Eva, editor-in-chief of *Medical Education*, the highest impact factor medical education journal, who spoke on developing scholarship in medical education. Numerous concurrent sessions also took place which were of relevance to my areas of interest, including a symposium on Social Responsibility (SR) and Social Accountability (SA) in Health Professions Education which featured speakers from Canada, Hong Kong (Professor TP Lam) and Singapore comparing how SR and SA might look in different contexts.

Dr Julie Chen (BIMHSE and FMPC) was awarded the “Best Oral Presentation” prize for her project which explored the use of mandalas for assessing student wellbeing during the Family Medicine Junior Clerkship.
Welcome to the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit as part of BIMHSE

Following the inauguration of the Bau Institute of Medical and Health Sciences Education, we warmly welcome the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit (MEHU) under the umbrella of BIMHSE, under the directorship of the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, Professor CS Lau.

The Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit (MEHU) was formed in 2012 to provide a conceptual and structural home for the two interrelated Faculty-based longitudinal programmes of Medical Ethics and Medical Humanities. The major function of the MEHU is to develop, integrate and coordinate the teaching and learning in ethics and humanities within the medical curriculum while complementing the existing disciplinary teaching. While the curricula of the Medical Ethics and Medical Humanities have distinctive features, they share common goals, an important component of which is medical professionalism in students and doctors.

The role of MEHU is to develop an academically rigorous and innovative programme for the teaching and learning of medical ethics and medical humanities. The programmes are being coordinated by academic staff appointed to MEHU in collaboration with other teaching staff from the Faculty members representing a cross-section of Faculty departments as well as students, community and university partners and external advisors.

Introduction to the new staff of MEHU

Dr Harry Wu, Assistant Professor in Medical Humanities (E: hyjw@hku.hk)

Dr Harry Yi-Jul Wu is Assistant Professor at Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit. He received his medical degree in Taiwan in 2004. Before pursuing his career in humanities, he briefly worked at Mackay Memorial Hospital in Taipei as a resident doctor in psychiatry. From 2005 to 2012, he went on studying the history of medicine at The University of Oxford. From 2012-2013, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Centre for the Humanities and Medicine, HKU. From 2013 to 2015, he taught history and medical humanities at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

With a broad range of interests derived from his training background in the history of medicine, Harry has applied historical and ethnographic research methods on several ongoing projects. He had recently published articles on Taiwan Journal of Anthropology, The Lancet, History of Psychiatry, and Medical History. A co-edited special issue on ‘Transnational History of Psy Sciences in East and Southeast Asia’ will be published with East Asian Science, Technology and Society in coming June. He is also preparing his first monograph on the social history of international classification of psychiatric diagnoses.

Mr Samson Wong, Teaching Assistant, MEHU (E: sum41@hku.hk)

After graduating from Faculty of Arts at The University of Hong Kong in 2014, Samson joined the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit as a Teaching Assistant in July 2014.

Samson is currently helping to coordinate teaching and assessment in the MBBS Medical Humanities Programmes.
Dr Cansu Canca, Lecturer in Medical Ethics, MEHU (E: canca@hku.hk)

Dr Canca is a philosopher working on bioethics. She joined the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit as a Lecturer in Medical Ethics in November 2014.

She received her PhD (2012) in philosophy from the National University of Singapore with a thesis defending the moral permissibility of a regulated market in kidneys. Prior to coming to HKU, she was a project coordinator at the Fogarty International Research Ethics Initiative in Turkey and Central Asia based at Harvard Medical School and funded by the U.S. National Health Institutes. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of her area, she pursued her research in various institutions: Harvard Law School (Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics), Harvard Medical School (Program in Ethics and Health), World Health Organization, and Osaka University Faculty of Medicine (Medical Ethics Department).

Dr Canca’s current research focuses on human subject research and performance enhancements in sports and arts. She sporadically contributes to the Harvard blog for health law and ethics (see: http://blogs.harvard.edu/billofhealth/category/contributors/cansu-canca/).

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks:

10. Holm M, Leung JPY, Johnston JD. ‘Developing and evaluating an interactive online concept map for Evidence Based Practice teaching in undergraduate medical education. 13th Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC), Singapore National University of Singapore, Jan 13-17, 2016.
13. Lam TP Symposium on Social Responsibility and Accountability in Health Professions Education. 13th APMEC, National University of Singapore, Singapore, January 13-16, 2016.

Recent publications and presentations:

BIMHSE Seminar Series:
Narratives and Uncertainty at the Edge of Medical Omnipotence

Date: May 17, 2016 (Tuesday)
Time: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Venue: Mrs Chen Yang Foo Oi Telemedicine Centre, 2/F, William MW Mong Block, Faculty of Medicine Building
Speaker: Dr Harry Wu, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit

While contemporary medicine focuses more and more on its ability to cure, little has been emphasized concerning its limitation in lieu of disease chronicity. In medical education, too, while more and more boxes are to be ticked on the checklist of skills and competencies, students might at the same time feel lost at sea of numerous clinical guidelines without being able to explore origins of ailments. In this talk, citing examples in the history of medicine and his own field experiences, Dr Harry Wu will comment on why narratives and perspectivism are important for medical practitioners and learners to grow awareness of the temporality of knowledge, as well as the ability to tackle issues of uncertainty while medicine can no longer claim its all-powerfulness in the context of modern day suffering.


Did you know that you can apply to BIMHSE for conference attendance and matching or top-up research grants related to medical and health sciences education?

BIMHSE Conference Funding Support
- For national/ regional conferences (in Mainland China/ other countries in the Asia-Pacific region): maximum award up to HK$7,000
- For international conferences (outside the Greater China and the Asian-Pacific region): maximum award up to HK$16,500

BIMHSE Research Matching Grants
To be eligible for the matching fund for research undertakings (applicable to projects related to medical and health sciences education), the conference support and the research postgraduate studentship under BIMHSE, applicants must follow the research proposal submission procedures to register their research proposals with BIMHSE and receive the endorsement from the Director of BIMHSE or his delegates before submission of any formal applications for research funding/grants. No retrospective application is accepted.

For more information, please contact us by e-mail at imhse.hku.hk.