

## Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for the ALTC funded project “Interprofessional education (IPE): enhancing the teaching of medication safety to nursing, pharmacy and medical students”. Here is a brief progress report of our activities since the project commenced in November, 2010.

## Project Overview

The quality use of medicines (QUM) involves selecting management options wisely, choosing suitable medicines if a medicine is considered necessary, and using medicines safely and effectively to get the best possible results.

Medication safety is a global concern and IPE is recognised as vital for preparing nursing, pharmacy and medical students for their roles in the medication team. IPE occurs when students from two or more professional groups learn about, from or with each other. IPE enhances students’ ability to communicate effectively and work as part of an interdisciplinary team.

The aims of our project are to:

1. Scope the approaches currently used to teach and assess practices relevant to medication safety in Australia; and examine the needs of nursing, pharmacy and medical programs in relation to the integration of IPE and medication safety into curricula (Stage 1 – cross-sectional survey).
2. Develop and implement a range of multimedia teaching and learning resources that engage students with interactive and authentic ‘patient journeys’ and enhance students’ interprofessional communication skills related to medication practices (Stage 2).

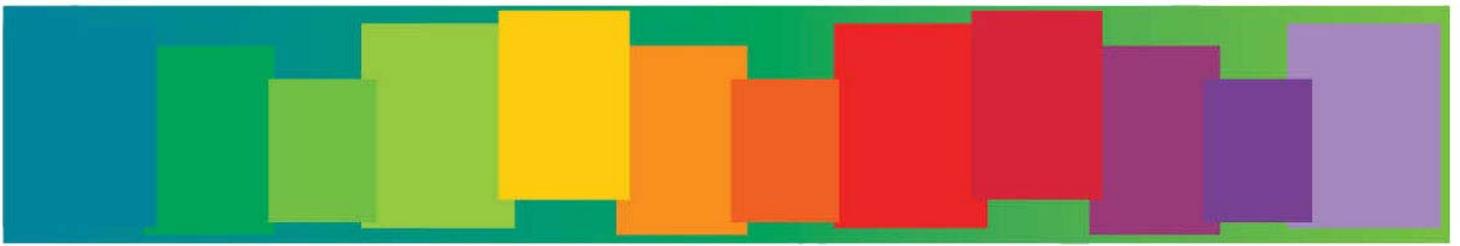
3. Examine the impact of the teaching and learning resources developed on students’ communication skills, knowledge, attitudes toward interdisciplinary collaboration, and satisfaction with the learning experience (Stage 3 – quasi-experimental study).
4. Examine the feasibility of IPE when used for teaching medication safety (Stage 4 – cost utility analysis).

## Who We Are

We are fortunate enough to have a dedicated and experienced team working on the IPE for QUM project. The project team and associated members are:

### University of Newcastle

- Associate Professor Tracy Levett-Jones, Deputy Head (Teaching and Learning) – School of Nursing & Midwifery
- Dr Conor Gilligan, Lecturer, Discipline of Health Behaviour Sciences, School of Medicine & Public Health
- Dr Helen Bellchambers, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery
- Dr Sue Outram, Lead – Discipline of Health Behaviour Sciences, School of Medicine & Public Health
- Dr Teresa Stone, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery
- Associate Professor Rohan Rasiyah, School of Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacy
- Ms Joyce Cooper, Lecturer, School of Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacy



## University of Newcastle (continued)

- Mr Samuel Lapkin, PhD Candidate, School of Nursing & Midwifery
- Dr Annette Moxey, Project Manager, School of Nursing & Midwifery

We also welcome two new team members from the University of Newcastle:

- Dr Kerry Hoffman, Lecturer, School of Nursing & Midwifery
- Ms Lyn Ebert, Lecturer and PhD Candidate, School of Nursing & Midwifery

## University of Western Sydney

- Professor Alison Jones, Dean – School of Medicine

## University of Tasmania

- Professor Gregory Peterson, Head – School of Pharmacy
- Ms Alice Burns, Quality Assurance & Marketing Officer, School of Pharmacy
- Ms Josie Hughes, Clinical Research Pharmacist, School of Pharmacy



*Some of the team (L-R): Annette Moxey, Joyce Cooper, Conor Gilligan, Samuel Lapkin, Alison Jones, Lyn Ebert, Kerry Hoffman, Teri Stone, Tracy Levett-Jones*

## Study Progress

### Systematic Review

A protocol for a systematic review submitted by Samuel Lapkin has been accepted by the Joanna Briggs Institute. The paper will review the effectiveness of IPE in university based health professional programs. If you would like a copy of the protocol, please visit:

<http://connect.jbiconnectplus.org/ViewSourceFile.aspx?0=4673>

### Focus Group Study

Ethics approval has been granted for a focus group study exploring recent nursing, midwifery, pharmacy and medical graduates' experiences of and attitudes towards IPE during their health program. Focus groups in the Newcastle area are due to commence in April 2011.

### Cross-sectional Survey

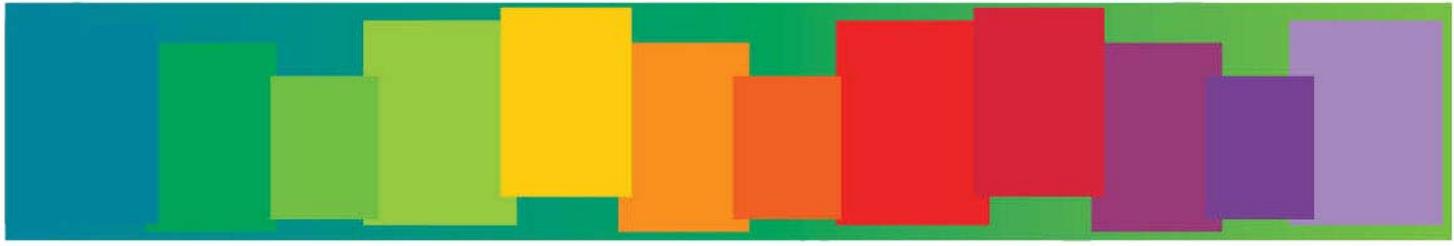
Thank you to all who reviewed drafts of the proposed cross-sectional survey, which aims to scope the approaches currently used to teach and assess medication safety, and examine the needs of nursing, pharmacy and medical programs in relation to the integration of IPE and medication safety into curricula. An ethics application for this stage of the project was recently submitted – we hope to begin distributing the survey to universities across Australia and New Zealand in May 2011.

### Development of Teaching and Learning Resources

The team has commenced drafting scenarios to be used for the web-based resources.

### Reference Group Meeting

Our first Reference Group Meeting was held at Noah's on the Beach, Newcastle, on 11 February 2011. The input and feedback provided by the reference group members and the project team was extremely valuable. We look forward to our next meeting later in the year.



## Other Project Activities

### Congratulations to Samuel Lapkin

Samuel Lapkin, PhD Candidate, successfully completed his PhD confirmation in February 2011. This is a huge milestone within the PhD program, and demonstrates that his research is heading in the right direction. Well done!



*Samuel Lapkin successfully completes his PhD confirmation at the University of Newcastle*

### Project Website

We will be launching a website for the project in the coming weeks. The website will enable people to keep up-to-date on project activities, and will eventually host the teaching and learning resources developed as part of this project.

### Recent and Upcoming Presentations

The project has already been introduced at a number of conferences and symposiums. In December 2010, Helen and Tracy held a workshop at the Network of Clinical Coordinators Annual Meeting, Tasmania and Tracy presented at the Healthcare Communication Symposium 2010 in Melbourne. Also at the end of 2010, the project was presented by Conor at Simulation and Beyond: Creative Teaching Approaches for Improving Patient Safety Symposium in the Hunter Valley.

*Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Ltd, an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The views expressed in the project do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council.*

Tracy will be presenting a poster at the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care, Amsterdam, in April and Kerry will be presenting at the 4th International Clinical Skills Conference in Tuscany in May.

### Australian Learning & Teaching Council (ALTC)

As some of you may be aware, the ALTC will discontinue at the end of the year. From January 2012, funding for project grants and award programs will be administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). Fortunately, our project will continue to be funded. For further information, go to:

<http://www.altc.edu.au/March2011-Board-dismay>

We have a busy year ahead, but look forward to the challenges as well as achieving some important project outcomes.

Regards,

Tracy, Conor and the Team

### Contact

Please contact us if you would like further information about the project, or wish to be placed on our mailing list to receive regular newsletters and updates.

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Project Website (under development):  
<http://www.ipeforqum.com.au/>

