



ANNUAL MEETING

U21 Deans/Heads of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing & Rehabilitation Sciences



October 31 to November 1, 2002, Hong Kong



Scale of Participation

The 2002 U21 Annual Meeting of Deans/Heads of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences was held on Thursday, October 31 and Friday, November 1, 2002 at the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China. The two-day meeting attracted attendance of 79 delegates representing the following U21 member institutions:

The University of Auckland	The University of British Columbia	The University of Glasgow
Lund University Sweden	McGill University	The University of New South Wales
Peking University	The University of Birmingham	Fudan University
The University of Hong Kong	The University of Melbourne	The National University of Singapore
The University of Nottingham	The University of Queensland	



The Programme Outline

The meeting was made up of combined and parallel sessions of individual groups as follows:

Day 1 (October 31)

9:00 - 12:30

- Opening Ceremony
- Keynote speech
- Reports on the developments since the 2001 meeting
- Highlights of the Hong Kong programmes

14:00 - 17:30

- Parallel meetings of individual groups

19:00

- Banquet for the whole group



Plenary session



Day 2 (November 1)

8:45 - 13:00

- Parallel meetings of individual groups

14:30 - 17:45

- Report session
- The Way Forward

19:00

- Banquet for individual groups

All sessions were held at the Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre of the Faculty of Medicine Building except the meeting of the Dentistry Group on November 1 that took place at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital.

Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speech

At the Opening Ceremony, Professor Lap-chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong and Professor Siu-kam Lam, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, extended a warm welcome to all delegates attending the meeting.



Professor Lap-chee Tsui

Following the Opening Ceremony, the keynote speech on "The Impact of the Internet on Health Education" was delivered by Professor Peter Harris of The University of Melbourne. In his presentation, Professor Harris quoted the results of a number of studies to illustrate the potential of postsecondary e-learning (as reflected by the remarkable increase in the value of shares in postsecondary education companies compared with the NASDAQ) and the extent of penetration of internet into the higher education market (as one of the six mega-trends shaping the higher education market and achieving 25% penetration of the market within only 7 years as compared with 15 years for the PC).



Professor Siu-kam Lam

Comparison of internet with other ways of learning in terms of effectiveness supported the proposition that internet was superior to lectures. Multiple uses of the internet in health education are identified in two main areas: as source of information (including primary publications, literature databases and search engines, portals to web-sites, provision of educational materials, digital libraries and catalogues), and for communication and collaboration (including administration, asynchronous and synchronous discussions, shared documents and presentations, and video-over-IP). Various issues relating to e-learning in the context of equity and ethics were discussed, such as intellectual property rights, changes in the nature of academic work, privacy and confidentiality etc. Professor Harris also alluded to the criteria for evaluation of computer-based teaching and learning, quoting the EvNet programme from McMaster University as a comprehensive example using twelve "Best Practice Labels" as parameters. To conclude, internet has not yet made as dramatic an impact on health education as might have been anticipated on the basis of its uptake and effectiveness in other areas such as healthcare industry. However, the appropriate selection of learning designs that are focused towards the students and their interactions with each other and with their future patients can result in effective electronically mediated materials that are powerful and engaging.



Professor Peter Harris



Outcome of the Meeting

An extensive range of topics were discussed throughout the meeting and the major outcomes are summarized below:

1. Mission Statement

The following has been adopted as the mission statement of the U21 Health Sciences Group: *"To enhance our individual and collective contributions to health education and research and to social transformation through sharing of experience, expertise and resources."*

2. Secretariat



Professor Richard Larkins

A Secretariat for the Health Sciences Group would be established and located at the University of Melbourne under the supervision of its Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. It should comprise a senior full-time Executive Officer who would be responsible for liaising with each of the discipline groups, carrying forward the action agenda between the meetings and liaising with local organizing committee concerning the staging of the next meeting. The EO would also be responsible for liaising with the person with delegated authority for implementing the Learning Resource Catalogue (LRC). The Secretariat would be funded by allocation from each of the participating Faculties.

3. An Executive

An Executive would be formed and chaired by the Dean of Medicine of the forthcoming host University (the University of Glasgow) with core group comprising of the Deans of Medicine of the immediate past host University (The University of Hong Kong), the host University for the year after next (The University of Queensland) and the host University of the Secretariat (The University of Melbourne).

4. Specific Projects of Individual Groups

4.1 Medicine

4.1.1 University/Hospital Relationships



Marked variations were noted across the U21 medical schools as to how clinical services were funded. There was general agreement that there continued to be challenges at the university-health service interface and that development of transparent funding scheme for teaching, research and clinical service would enhance the development of a strategically evolved workforce that is fit for purpose. This project is designed to produce a position paper identifying the issues and range of possible solutions around relationships/agreements between medical (health

professional) faculties and teaching hospitals/health services. The accountable individuals would be the Executive Officer and a reference group comprising Professor William Doe (Birmingham), Professor Michael Farthing (Glasgow) and Professor Jan Nilsson (Lund).

4.1.2 Global E-Health Project

Funding for this project would be provided by the greater U21 Group as agreed in the recent U21 Managers meeting. It is intended to produce a paper providing an inventory of E-Health and E-Learning activities of U21 Universities together with an action plan for developing these activities. Accountability lies with Dr. Kendall Ho (UBC) and a reference group from all the participating Universities interested in this area.

4.1.3 Sharing Learning Resources

This would comprise the formation of U21 Health Sciences Education Working Group with the task of producing a specific proposal for implementing the Learning Resource Catalogue in a form which is really useful to the education activities of our Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences. This project is led by Professor Peter Harris (Melbourne) with the support of the Executive Officer. A budget of US\$10,000 has been allocated for this project which will be part of the allocation of the Secretariat.

4.1.4 Website

The product would be a specific website for U21 Health Sciences acting as a link to home pages, scholarships available to international students, student elective opportunities, postdoctoral openings and research activities in the participating faculties. It would be ensured that there are reciprocating hyperlinks from the faculties' home pages to the U21 Health Science site. Accountability for this lies with the Executive Officer and the Executive of the Group.

4.1.5 Scientific Misconduct

The product of project would be the sharing of policy documents relating to scientific misconduct which are in existence at various universities. The accountability lies with Professor Bruce Downton (NSW) and with the Executive Officer.

4.2 Dentistry

4.2.1 Project Funding Mechanism



Each school would commit AU\$10,000 annually to fund specific projects that have been prioritized by the Group. The Group would develop the application process for 'project fund' for collaboration that would not be funded necessarily elsewhere. UBC and Queensland would be responsible for designing the form and collection of applications while adjudication of research fund applications would be done at the Glasgow meeting.

4.2.2 Learning Resources

Each school would identify key faculty members and staff with expertise to collaborate in developing shared electronic learning resources and, with the help of local LRC administrators, would post at least two modules on the LRC to determine the level of interest.

Some immediate projects have been identified. Electronic assessment



procedures for case scenarios would be evaluated by Queensland and Birmingham. HKU and NUS would evaluate the benefits of the electronic simulation system. Melbourne and UBC would undertake to develop competencies for transcultural functionality of graduates which would help develop the standards and criteria for assessment.

4.2.3 Research

Members should share annual research reports to facilitate identification of collaboration opportunities. In each school, priority research areas would be identified with key researchers to contact. Each school would also identify specialized equipment and research techniques available. The information should be submitted to Professor Eric Reynolds (Melbourne).

Individual schools assigned to each immediate project should develop specific timetables for project design and reporting deadlines (e.g. progress report, final report before Glasgow meeting) with copies of report sent to relevant individuals at each school.

4.3 Nursing

4.3.1 Benchmarking for Clinical Education and Research



Two working groups have been formed. The one responsible for developing the process for benchmarking clinical education comprises Professor Collette Clifford (Birmingham), Professor Judy Kilpatrick (Auckland) and Dr Sioban Nelson (Melbourne) while the one for research benchmarking

has Dr Sally Thorne (UBC), Professor Veronica James (Nottingham) and Dr Sioban Nelson (Melbourne) as members. Both working groups are charged with the duty to produce a working paper and template for benchmarking.

4.3.2 Staff and Student Exchange

A team from Birmingham, Hong Kong and Melbourne would explore the cultural variations between U21 nursing partners in terms of definitions and interpretation of titles and roles within respective organizations. This would be followed by maintaining an annual audit of collaborative activity between institutions in order to monitor the impact year on year. Priority for future development work should be focused on staff exchanges and associated staff development.

4.3.3 Research Collaboration

Members would place on the U21 nursing website information on three to five areas of research of their faculties along with abstracts and recent publications. Interaction among members should be enhanced through participation in international conferences or through targeted visits to each others' campuses. Other possible means include exploration of international funding opportunities, formalization of partner relationships, developing guidelines to govern research collaboration among member schools and encouraging faculty members to publish in refereed journals in countries other than their own.

4.3.4 Sharing of Learning Resources

The group agreed to continue to use the U21 nursing network for email contact/discussion and that the U21 nursing website would be further developed with the following features: links to nursing home pages;

updated email distribution list; adding the URL for the U21 nursing site to members' links bar; better use of the discussion forum; and adding a student level entry.

Three working groups would be formed with the objectives:

- (i) to design templates for collecting information on individual school learning resources from U21 Nursing Group and to produce an example of a sharable resource [Dr Heather Wharrad (Nottingham), Mrs Heather Baker (Auckland) and Professor Collette Clifford (Birmingham)];
- (ii) to produce templates for developing sharable triggers for problem-based learning [Dr Susan French (McGill), Dr Sophia Chan (Hong Kong), and Professor Collette Clifford (Birmingham)]; and
- (iii) to look at course design and resources for independent nurse prescribing [Professor Veronica James (Nottingham), Professor Judith Kilpatrick (Auckland), Professor Ingallil Rahm Hallberg (Lund) and Dr Sioban Nelson (Melbourne)].

4.4 Rehabilitation Sciences

4.4.1 Communication



A web-based communication network located in Birmingham would be implemented to facilitate on-going discussion. Members of the group agreed to contribute up to AU\$1,000 each to offset development and running costs. Linkage to the Secretariat in Melbourne would be established as soon as possible. Professor

Patricia Wrightson (Birmingham) would investigate the use of the U21 website as a platform for the group.

Heads of programmes in Audiology at Melbourne, in Speech Pathology and Audiology at Queensland, and in Speech Sciences and Audiology at UBC would be contacted to join the group in the Glasgow meeting in 2003.

4.4.2 Education

The Group would undertake peer review of shared teaching modules planned with a particular emphasis on electrotherapy and interprofessional areas such as ethics, communication, and professional behaviour. Information regarding fellowships in teaching would be disseminated within the group. Opportunities for U21 students to undertake electives/fieldwork with Peking University (Peking Health Sciences Centre at Beijing University) would be explored.

4.4.3 Research

The Group would investigate fellowship opportunities for PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows and staff. Adjunct appointments between institutions and collaborative research projects would be fostered.

4.4.4 Benchmarking

The group agreed to undertake a benchmarking process over the next three years. This would allow a limited but useful international comparison of the disciplines. The primary purpose is to learn from one another and to enhance academic performance of all members. Professor Gwendolen Jull (Queensland) would coordinate the project and aggregate data is required. Student and staff profiles and research performance would be collected.



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Social Functions

To facilitate the proceedings of the main meeting, a number of social gatherings were arranged for the various groups, giving them both the opportunities to meet in a relaxed atmosphere, as well as enjoying a variety of cuisines at specially selected venues.

The most memorable of these gatherings must be the banquet for the whole group, which was held at the Apex, located at the top floor of Central Plaza, the tallest building in Hong Kong at the time. While enjoying the dinner, participants were able to get the most glamorous and magnificent night view from 1200 ft above ground.

Details of the functions are as follows:



Preconference business dinner



Banquet at Apex

Date	Function	Venue
October 30	Business dinner for Deans of Medicine	Golden Room, Hong Kong Country Club
October 31	Banquet for the whole group	Apex, Central Plaza
November 1	Banquet for individual groups: Medicine Group Nursing Group	Hunan Garden, The Forum, Exchange Square The Centenary Room, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Happy Valley
	Rehabilitation Sciences Group Dentistry Group	Chinese Cuisine Training Institute Shanghai Garden, Hutchison House

Glasgow Meeting 2003



Professor Michael Farthing

The Glasgow meeting will be held on September 4 and 5, 2003 with Professor Michael Farthing as the Chairman.

The following topics have been suggested for discussion at the Glasgow meeting:

- Interdisciplinary themes e.g. multi-professional education; interface research.
- Student participation e.g. in the form of parallel sessions or joint session with U21 Health Sciences Group.
- Current issues e.g. widening access, graduate entry, e-learning, e-health, research in education, 'life after PBL', etc.
- Continuing business, i.e. project reports.

2004 Meeting of the U21 Health Sciences Group

The 2004 U21 Annual Meeting of Deans/Heads of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences will be hosted by the University of Queensland at Brisbane.

Local Organizing Committee of the Hong Kong Meeting

Chairman :

Professor SK Lam
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, HKU

Co-ordinators:

Dr NG Patil (Medicine Group) Dr LSW Li (Rehabilitation Group) Professor LK Cheung (Dentistry Group) Dr SSC Chan (Nursing Group)

Member :

Professor F Lieh-Mak
Director, Medical Education Unit, HKU

Secretariat :

Ms JWS Tsang
Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Medicine, HKU