

**U21 ANNUAL MEETING OF DEANS/HEADS OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, NURSING AND  
REHABILITATION SCIENCES**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG - FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

**Report of the Rehabilitation Sciences Group**

Present

Co-convenors

Dr Leonard Li                      University of Hong Kong  
Prof Joan McMeeken              University of Melbourne

Prof Pat. Wrightson              University of Birmingham  
Prof Lesley Bainbridge          University of British Columbia  
Prof Charlotte Ekdahl              Lund Universitat  
Mrs Gillian Webb                  University of Melbourne  
Prof Gwendolyn Jull                University of Queensland  
Dr Sylvia Rodger                    University of Queensland

Invited guests

Mrs Sheila Purves                  Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation  
Prof John Gilbert                    University of British Columbia  
Dr Chan                                Hong Kong Polytechnic  
Prof C Hui-Chan                      Hong Kong Polytechnic  
Prof N Wang                          Peking University (Peoples Republic of China)  
Prof T Yan                              Sun Yat -Sun University (Peoples Republic of China)  
Dr H Xiaolin                          Tongi Hospital  
Dr M Lu                                 Tongi Hospital

Introduction of individual institutions policies and processes for student exchange

Dr Leonard Li from the University of Hong Kong chaired the first session.

A representative from each of the U21 institutions gave a brief summary of the research and teaching activity at their own School. Professor Christina Hui-Chan gave a detailed presentation of the work of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Mrs Purves presented an interesting overview of her work in China as Project Director for the Hong Kong Society of Rehabilitation. Professor Wang gave further insight into the delivery and stage of development of rehabilitation within China from Peking University and other medical representatives from hospitals within China.

Professor Gilbert, presented the UBC's academic approach to team learning, that recognises profession specific training, and which provides opportunities for inter professional learning towards the end of their individual discipline courses.

Discipline specific issues

Professor Joan McMeeken from the University of Melbourne chaired the subsequent sessions.

It was agreed to develop a three-year plan with the focus on:

- Communication
- Education
- Research
- Benchmarking

## **Communication**

A web-based communication network, located in Birmingham will be implemented to facilitate on-going discussion. Members of the group agreed to contribute up to \$AUS1000 each to offset development and running costs

- Linkage to the Secretariat in Melbourne would be established as soon as possible  
Prof Pat Wrightson at Birmingham will investigate the use of the U21 website as a platform for the group
- Heads of programmes in Audiology in Melbourne, Speech Pathology and Audiology in the University of Queensland, Speech Sciences and Audiology at UBC would be contacted to join the group in Glasgow in 2003
- Attendees would disseminate information to staff in their own institutions regarding opportunities available through the U21 network and encourage appropriate communication to facilitate collaboration in research and education.

## **Education**

- Those members who had checked the Learning Resource Catalogue indicated that due to the classifications employed it was not 'user-friendly' for physiotherapy and occupational therapy.
- Sharing of education materials was discussed and peer review of teaching modules planned for 2003 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.

## **Research**

- The meeting provided the opportunity for members to consider fellowship opportunities for PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows and staff. Research building at PhD and postdoctoral level would be the initial focus with the first postdoctoral fellowship of a Lund university physiotherapist located at the University of Melbourne in 2003.
- Adjunct appointments between institutions and collaborative research projects would be fostered.

## **Benchmarking**

The group agreed to undertake a benchmarking process over the next three years. This will provide a limited, but useful international comparison of the disciplines. The primary purpose is to learn from one another and enhance academic performance of all members.

Professor Gwen Jull of the University of Queensland will coordinate the project and aggregate data is required. Student and staff profiles and research performance would be collected.