

Notes of the U21 Pharmacy group teleconference at the University of Lund, Sweden

Wednesday 28 September 2005

Present:

(Chair) Prof Robert Sindelar	Dean, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences	The University of British Columbia
Prof Helen Burt	Assoc. Dean, Research & Graduate Studies, Faculty of Pharm. Sci.	The University of British Columbia
Lorraine Devitt	Executive Officer, U21 Health Sciences	

Participating by teleconference:

	Head, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences	The University of Auckland
Prof John Shaw	Head, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Sciences	The University of Queensland
Prof Nick Shaw	Head, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science	National University of Singapore
Prof Sui Yung Chan		
	Head, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science	The University of Nottingham

Apologies:

Prof Saul Tendler

Proceedings

During the ensuing discussion, participants explored opportunities for sharing information, expertise and experiences. It was agreed that email dialogue would take place throughout the year on a range of matters, and that key representatives within the U21 Pharmacy network would be nominated for inclusion on the U21 Pharmacy email list.

Major themes identified for follow up at the U21 Health Sciences meeting in Nottingham in 2006 included:

Accreditation

Participants noted that the University of Auckland's School of Pharmacy planned to apply for full accreditation in 2006, and that re-accreditation was scheduled at UBC in 2005 and at Nottingham, Queensland and Singapore in 2006. It was agreed to continue the discussion on a range of issues, including an exploration of the various accreditation processes, guidelines and criteria currently in place across the U21 network. Information on best practices for systematic program evaluation would be most valuable.

U21 e-health

R Sindelar provided participants with a brief overview of the U21 e-health workshop convened in Lund prior to the U21 Health Sciences annual meeting.

It was noted that major initiatives included a proposed partnership with the UK Swinfen Trust for provision of telehealth to underserved population, involving development of a business case to support student and staff exchange, service delivery and research; as well as a proposed partnership between the U21 e-health group and WHO. The aim of this partnership would be to jointly establish a committee under WHO's global observatory for e-health, and to report on outcomes and recommendations at the U21 Health Sciences meeting in 2006.

Participants discussed the potential for involvement by the U21 Pharmacy group and it was noted that the proposed partnership(s) could include placement of senior-year pharmacy students to support underserved populations. It was agreed that N Shaw would act as the specific point of contact for the U21 Pharmacy group on matters of e-health by liaising with the Executive Officer and the U21e-health steering committee.

Participants also noted that a series of articles arising from the U21 e-health discussion paper had been published in the Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare and it was agreed that the Executive Officer would forward copies of the publication to members of the U21 Pharmacy group, along with selected proceedings from the e-health workshop.

Inter-professional Education and the Pharmacy Curriculum

Participants briefly discussed the challenges and strategies related to inter-professional education in pharmacy programmes. It was noted that the 2006 meeting in Nottingham provided the U21 pharmacy group with a unique opportunity to share and explore models and innovations in this area.

Other areas targeted for follow up at Nottingham included a focus on how best to ensure the right balance between science and practice in the pharmacy curricula, and sharing information pertaining to the various graduate programmes across the U21 Pharmacy network.

The Research Context and Scope of Practice

Participants' discussion focused on the challenges involved in funding and undertaking research, highlighting structural and cultural constraints including the predominance of medical research and the use of science education funding models to support clinical science education programmes. It was noted that the current U21 Pharmacy network revealed a range of institutional arrangements including being a School/Department in a Faculty of Science (Nottingham and Singapore); being a School in a Faculty of Medical/Health Sciences (Auckland and Queensland), and existing as a stand-alone Faculty (UBC).

Scope of Practice

It was noted that the various 'Practice Acts' would provide a useful mechanism for exploring the development and future direction of Pharmacy within each of the U21 member universities, and it was agreed that participants would exchange web site details to enable access to the various statutory / legislative documents.

Benchmarking

Participants noted that the benchmarking exercise undertaken prior to the 2005 meeting in Lund had been a very useful exercise.

It was agreed that each U21 Pharmacy Dean/ Head would provide U21 Pharmacy colleagues at the Nottingham meeting with a brief 'snapshot' of the local situation and circumstances, to enable greater comparability and understanding of the existing benchmarking data.

Prior to the close of the meeting, the Chair reported on the potential for expanding the U21 Pharmacy group to include the Deans at Fudan University and the University of Peking.

For Action:

U21 Pharmacy Deans

- Nominate and direct to the Executive Officer, key representatives for inclusion on the U21 Pharmacy email list
- Exchange web site details to enable colleagues to access the various 'Practice Acts' determining scope of practice.
- Preparation of a 10 minute 'snap shot' of local circumstances/information to enhance colleagues understanding of benchmarking data (for the Nottingham meeting).

Executive Officer

- Support ongoing liaison between the nominated specific point of contact for U21 Pharmacy and the e-health steering committee
- Forward copies of the e-health publication to members of the U21 Pharmacy group, along with selected proceedings from the e-health workshop
- Facilitate ongoing email dialogue amongst U21 Pharmacy members
- In consultation with the U21 Pharmacy group, devise an agenda for the discipline meeting(s) scheduled during the U21 Health Sciences annual meeting in Nottingham in 2006
- Work with R Sindelar to establish contact with Pharmacy Deans at Fudan University and The University of Peking.