

HIV & HCV

EDUCATION PROJECTS

Newsletter No 13 – November 2008

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NEW STUFF

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WOMEN'S HEALTH?

Family Planning Queensland is seeking mature women to be 'simulated clients' in their clinical training courses in the area of cervical screening.

- As a simulated client you will rotate through a number of consultations doing "role-plays", while being supervised by experienced FPQ Clinicians.
- You will be paid an hourly rate for your time and training.
- Your time will make a valuable contribution towards the quality of women's health services.

For more details, contact: **Dianna Earl**

Email: dearl@fpq.com.au or **Ph:** 07 3250 0249



Partnership to develop Cert IV courses

The HIV & HCV Education Projects have entered into a partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation for Health Education & Training (ATSICHET) and Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) to develop a Sexual Health Short Course. The three organisations jointly tendered for this project from Queensland Health. The first course is set to be staged in the first half of 2009. UQ's role is to assist with curriculum development, evaluation strategies and some running of the courses.

Advanced Education in HCV Management and Prescribing for clinicians working in the Drug and Alcohol Sector

In our last newsletter we announced the HIV & HCV Education Projects partnership with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) to design and deliver a course examining advanced issues in HCV management and treatment for Clinicians working in the drug and alcohol sector. This is part of the 'Enhancing Treatment for Hepatitis C in Opioid Substitution Settings' (ETHOS) Project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

The course program has now been finalised and is pitched at the level of Medical Practitioners (and advanced nurses) who wish to be involved in the shared care of patients on HCV treatment and/ or possible community based prescribing. The course is to be staged on **Wednesday 18 February**. If you work in the Drug and Alcohol setting, and would like to register to attend this training, please download the registration form from our website contact Jean Martin on j.martin3@uq.edu.au or 07 3346 4749.

MORE NEW STUFF

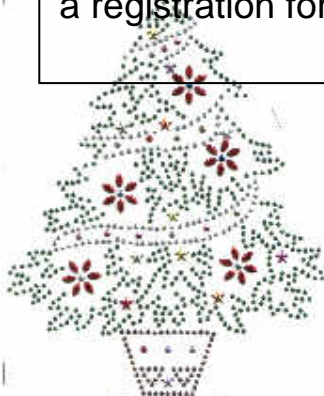
HIV & HCV Testing Policies Update

Do you know anyone who needs updating on the revised pre and post discussion requirements when requesting HIV or hepatitis C tests? This update is for them!

These updates are designed for any front line health professional who may order or request these tests. As well as those working in these clinical areas (nurses, doctors and health workers), this course is suitable for any health professional ordering or requesting HCV and / or HIV tests including blood collection centre personnel; those involved with antenatal screening (eg midwives; obstetricians); health personnel working in Alcohol and Drug Services; Corrective Services; Mental Health Services; Sexual Health Services; as well as counsellors and psychologists involved in pre and post test discussions.

Updates will be staged in Townsville (5th Dec); Brisbane (28th Feb); and Tweed Heads (22 Jun).

Please download the registration form from our website or contact Jean Martin on j.martin3@uq.edu.au or Dale Symons on d.symons1@uq.edu.au for a registration form.



2009 'Meeting of HIV Clinicians'

Something new! As well as the usual 'Meeting of Sexual Health Clinicians' (set for Thurs 21st & Fri 22nd May 09), Queensland Health have funded a separate 'Meeting of HIV Clinicians'. This is the first time this has occurred and it will be staged on Wed 20th May 09 – the day prior to the meeting of Sexual Health clinicians. 70 places have been set aside for this day. Information will be sent to 'everyone we can think of' prior to the end of 2008. To express interest in attending (or even being a part of the steering committee) please contact Brad Reuter on b.reuter@uq.edu.au or 07 3346 4870.

HIV and Sexual Health now included in the UQ MBBS Program

The University of Queensland (UQ) conducts a four year graduate entry medical program, the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) that is designed to produce doctors able to meet the challenges of the new century. In 2008 the second year course contained a two –week block on Sexual and Reproductive Health, including sessions on HIV. This two week block was organised with the assistance of the HIV & HCV Education Projects and lectures were presented by key personnel in the sector. This block has been the most highly and favourably evaluated component of the entire year two program. Thank you to all those who assisted with this education.

UPCOMING COURSES in 2009

December 2008 - July 2009

Course	Date	Location
HCV & HIV Testing Policy Course	05 Dec	Townsville
Hepatitis C Management Course for ATODs	18 Feb	Brisbane
HCV & HIV Testing Policy Course	28 Feb	Brisbane
Education Course in HIV Medicine	14 -15 Mar	Brisbane
Sexual Health Course for GPs	21-22 Mar	Brisbane
Hepatitis C Management Course for Health Care Workers	6 Apr	Rockhampton
Education Course in HIV Medicine & Sexual Health	5-7 May	Thursday Island
Prescribers Course in HIV Medicine	30-31 May	Brisbane
S100 Prescribers Update Course	31 May	Brisbane
HCV & HIV Testing Policy Course	22 Jun	Tweed Heads
HIV & Wellness	18 Jul	Cleveland
HIV Nursing Practice Course	30-31 Jul	Brisbane

For further information on any of these up coming courses and conferences please visit us at www.som.uq.edu.au/hivandhcvprojects, email j.martin3@uq.edu.au or use our fax back sheet.

Purchase Our Services

Does your organisation need customised workplace clinical training in the areas of HIV, Hepatitis and Sexual Health? Due to changed funding mechanisms we are now able to offer assistance on a 'fee for service' basis. We are also able to assist in **Event Management, Facilitation, Resourcing and Monitoring & Evaluation** for your next training session. To obtain a copy of our newly developed prospectus, please phone Jean Martin on 07 3346 4749 or email j.martin3@uq.edu.au.



HIV & HCV Education Projects Oral Presentation, Viral Hepatitis Conference – *What Do GPs in Queensland Really Think About Community Based HCV Prescribing?*

In late 2007, the unit surveyed General Practitioners in Queensland about their thoughts on community based prescribing of HCV antiviral therapies. This data was presented at the recent Viral Hepatitis Conference held in Brisbane. Five hundred and eighty (11.6%) responses were received by end of February 2008. The survey asked the following questions with responses recorded on a 5 point Likert Scale.

1. If prescribing hepatitis C antiviral therapy was available in a community setting, what would be your level of interest in prescribing antiviral therapy? (43% expressed interest and 39% expressed little or no interest)
2. Given your current level of knowledge and skill in hepatitis C antiviral therapy and management, how confident are you that you could initiate antiviral therapy right now, without any further education? (8% expressed confidence and 79% expressed little or no confidence)
3. Given your current level of knowledge and skill in hepatitis C antiviral therapy and management, how confident are you that you could maintain (meaning not initiate but continue to prescribe medication started by a specialist) antiviral therapy right now? (35% expressed confidence and 38% expressed little or no confidence)
4. How likely would it be for you to attend education to enable you to initiate and prescribe antiviral therapy if it were available? (54% expressed interest and 28% expressed little or no interest)

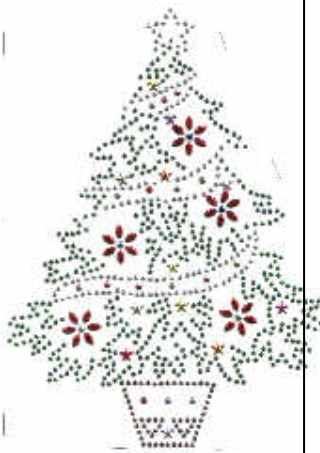
Complete data has been submitted to Queensland Health and is available on request.

Facilitation

The HIV & HCV Education Projects has developed a strong reputation in effective outcome – focussed facilitation. In 2008, members of the team have facilitated events across the state on a ‘fee for service’ basis including:

- Facilitation of the two day Child Protection Liaison Officer workshop for - 60 participants
- Facilitation of the two day Fatigue Management Seminar - 90 participants
- Facilitation of the one day Patient Safety Workshop - 300 participants.

If your organisation requires outside outcome-focussed facilitation for any event please contact any members of the HIV & HCV Education Projects.



In 2008...

HIV & Mental Health

The HIV & Mental Health Seminar was again successfully staged in September. This year's seminar included a Neurology breakfast session led by Professor Harry McConnell from the Griffith School of Medicine as well as the full day seminar with presentations by Dr John Linnane, Ms Georgia Ash, Mr Anthony Weller and Mr Ross Aubrey.

Funding is being sought to ensure that this can become a free annual course for all interested. Please check our website or email Jean Martin on j.martin3@uq.edu.au for details on the 2009 seminar

HIV & Wellness

The 6th HIV & Wellness afternoon entitled ***Navigating Selected Co – morbidities for PLWHA -Type 2 Diabetes-*** was held at Cleveland on Saturday 19th July, 2008. Attendance continues to be strong, as the reputation of this yearly event develops. Participants are becoming familiar with the style of the workshop and what to expect. Consequently, those attending expect a certain format and standard and this evaluation shows that participants were not disappointed. The detail in the planning of the development and structure of the workshop has proven to be successful. The HIV & Wellness Workshop has been developed by a collaboration with: Positive Directions, Spiritus Care Services and Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals and HIV & HCV Education Projects of the School of Medicine.

This year key presenters included, Dr David Paterson who linked the days presentations in his opening address, Dr Andrew Morton and Dr Diana Conrad who provided insight & expertise in their presentations on Kidney disease and ophthalmology respectively.

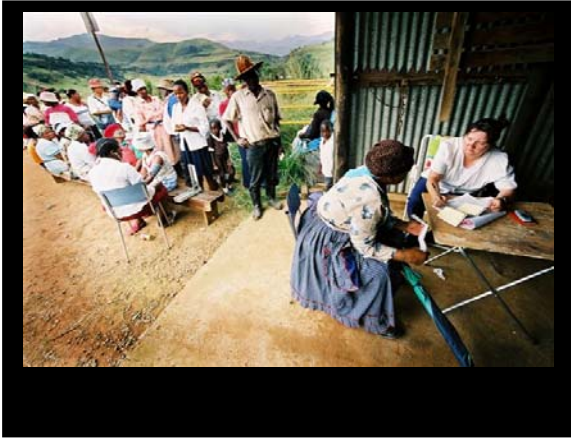
The topic has already been set for **2009 - Navigating through modifiable Cardiovascular Risk Factors for PLWHA** and this will be staged on July 18th. Please mark this date in your diary.

The seminar is open to all health care professionals including medical practitioners working in the field of HIV medicine.



Website Update

The website of the unit is continually updated as a result of the unit having a resident IT specialist – Brad Reuter. Check out the website for latest courses, information, PowerPoints and evaluations from previous activities, as well as links to other sites that offer education and training.



Calling for Expressions of Interest - *Introductory Workshop on HIV & International Work*

The HIV & HCV Education Projects are currently seeking expressions of interest in the *Introductory Workshop on HIV & International Work* (previously titled the Workshop on *HIV & Overseas Work*). If you have ever considered working or spending time abroad in a developing country this is the course for you. Through successful partnership with a number of the major health development organisations the HIV & HCV Education Projects have now staged four of these workshops. For further details or to express interest please contact Mr Dale Symons on 07 3365 5026 - d.symons1@uq.edu.au or Ms Jean Martin on 07 3346 4749 - j.martin3@uq.edu.au

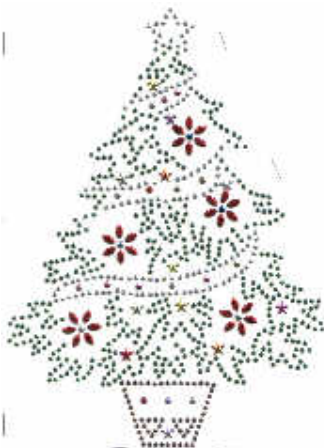
Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

In the first half of 2008, the HIV & HCV Education Projects in collaboration with Family Planning Queensland designed and conducted a survey on sexual and reproductive health for General Practitioners. 7,755 surveys were sent out through the Medical Board of Queensland and 1,061 were returned. The results of the knowledge questions on SRH were presented as a poster at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference held in Perth.

The poster can be viewed at www.som.uq.edu/hivandhcvprojects

Queensland Positive Speakers Bureau

The unit continues to play a partnership role in the development of the Queensland Positive Speakers Bureau (along with QPP; ECCQ; and HCQ). Recent training was staged on 29th November with great success. If you are looking for positive speakers in Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and / or HIV, contact Steve Lambert on s.lambert@uq.edu.au or the speakers bureau directly on qpsb@qpp.org.au



WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED in 2008

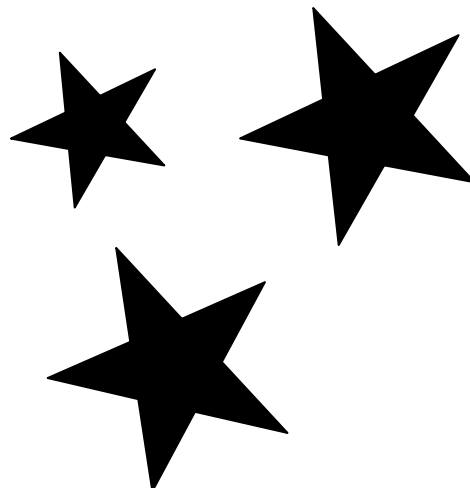
2008 has been a very busy year for the unit. As well as conducting 25 courses across Queensland, the unit has staged courses interstate and overseas. A highlight has been the staging of a one day hepatitis B and C course in Penang and in Kuala Lumpur for 94 nurses and pharmacists in June.

This year has seen increasing involvement of the unit in education within the University of Queensland. Of note has been the inclusion of HIV, sexual and reproductive health in the medical course as well as HIV and sexual health lectures presented to students in the Masters in Public Health and Masters in International Public Health courses by team members and key sector personnel.

In addition, the unit has been secured by external organisations to provide training in hepatitis, HIV and sexual health. This has included training specifically for GP registrars through the Rural and Regional Queensland Consortium (RRCQ).

Add to this the continuing resource development of fact sheets and GPs resources and it all adds up to a very very busy year.

“The symposium ...was superb. The speakers...were flawless. They explained things clearly and concisely. The inclusion of an ‘atypical’ HIV positive patient did much to challenge student preconceptions. Having had considerable experience working in HIV medicine I can confidently say that this symposium prepared the students effectively for their future careers. The quality of the symposium was also reflected in the student feedback, both formal and informal. A number of students saw fit to mention that this was the best symposium that they had attended in their 2 years at medical school. Dale Symons is to be warmly congratulated for this event and I am very much looking forward to working with him in future years” Dr Gita Sarda (BSc MBBS DRCOG DFFP JCTGP)



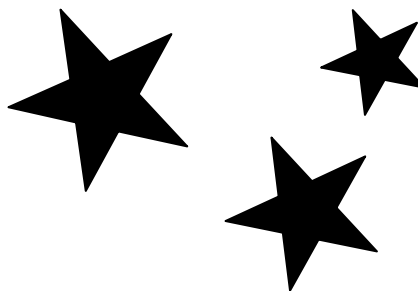
And LASTLY...

Monitoring and Evaluation

In addition to facilitation, members of the team have also developed expertise in monitoring and evaluation through the work of the unit. Recent examples have been the inclusion of team members on the evaluation teams for the UNFPA funded project, Y-PEER, that operates in 38 Eastern European and North African countries and Abortion Conference staged by Children by Choice and FPQ. If your organisation desires assistance with monitoring and evaluation, please contact any members of the HIV & HCV Education Projects.

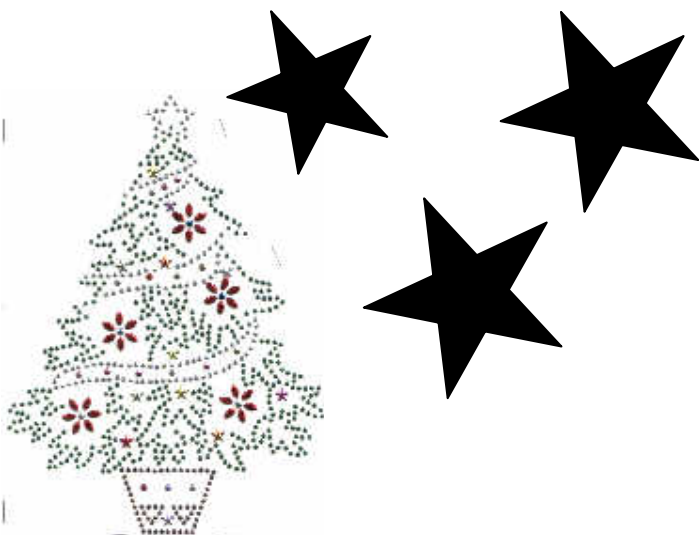
A change of Address

If you have recently changed or are about to change your contact details please use our fax sheet or email Jean Martin on j.martin3@uq.edu.au to let us know. This will ensure that we continue to keep you updated on the latest courses being offered and information regarding the unit. Please also use the fax back sheet or email to indicate whether you would like to receive your newsletter electronically.



A Greener Newsletter

The HIV & HCV Education Projects is continuing to strive for a greener change. We are still hoping to reduce the amount of hard copy mailing of our newsletter. If you are currently receiving your newsletter by hard copy and would like to nominate for the electronic version please contact Jean Martin on j.martin3@uq.edu.au.



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