

ASCEPT Education SIG - AGM 2008
Tuesday December 18, 2008 9:30-10:30

Present:

Liz Davis; Paul White; Harry Majewski; Michael Lew; Lynette Fernandes;
Ian Musgrave; Joanne Favaloro; Hilary Lloyd; Graham Johnston; Margaret Hartley;
James Ziogas; Matt Doogue; Lesley Bryan-Lluka; Luba Tomaska

1. Theme for July workshop scheduled for July 10/11, 2009 at the University of South Australia.

Possible themes for this workshop were discussed. It was felt that there was a need to identify whether it is possible to define minimum standards/skills of pharmacology for students within different courses at particular levels (eg medical students prior to clinical work; biomedical science students prior to specialisation in pharmacology). The results of the ALTC project audits will help to identify what is currently being taught at different institutions and needs of particular stakeholders. However, it would be of value to know what role other national societies (ASPET; BPS etc) play in defining core curricula in professional vs bioscience degrees.

As the data from the ALTC project will be available in the first half of 2009, it was decided that this would time well for a discussion of minimum standards/skills at a 2-day workshop in July. A possible format of the workshop could be:

Day 1 (Friday July 10) - presentation of data from the ALTC project surveys

Day 2 (Saturday July 11) - discussions of implications of this data with respect to minimum standards/skills

It was decided that in order to keep our goals achievable we should focus this workshop on science/biomedical science courses. The aim of this workshop would be to develop a proposal for *the role of ASCEPT in the setting of minimum standards/skills for students preparing for 3rd year specialization in pharmacology* that could be presented to council at the December AGM. In addition, this workshop could identify potential project applications for ALTC funding.

It was noted that while there has previously been work on developing core curricula, this has stalled due to lack of continued momentum. To avoid this happening again, it is important that we identify and work towards achievable goals.

2. Other issues which the Education SIG should consider in future meetings workshops were raised. These included:

- Resource sharing - what; where and how (e.g. how do we deal with IP issues)
- Working towards a unified approach to dealing with ethical issues (animal & human) of practical classes
- Should ASCEPT consider "accrediting" practical classes or protocols
- What role can ASCEPT play in continuing education courses?

3. The program for a workshop at the 2009 AGM (Sydney, December) is still to be finalised. The theme for this workshop is "Teaching Connects Research and Professional Practise" and it is planned to focus on the incorporation of pharmacogenomics into teaching. We are liaising with the Pharmacogenomics and the Clinical SIGs in planning this workshop.

4. Organisational Issues

To facilitate better coordination of our activities, it was proposed that we establish a small organising group which keeps in regular contact via scheduled teleconferences. This group would then regularly feedback to the wider group and co-opt members for specific tasks (e.g. workshop organisation). It will be important to set up a better system for communication to all those who indicate interest in the Education SIG (Liz to organise this with Angela at Meetings First).

Membership of the organising group; Joanne Favaloro, Lynette Fernandes and Ian Musgrave volunteered to be part of the organising group. *Should we consider going for a representative from each state?*