

Issue 2, 2008

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Upcoming events



July 4 - 6:
Global Helath Conference
(Australia)

July 16:
NZMSA Face to Face

July 17:
NZMSA Consultative
Workshop

July 18 - 20:
Conference '08

August:
Blood Drive

August 24:
NZMSA AGM

Winter is upon us, and a record number of patients and visitors seem to be passing their winter bugs off to poor unsuspecting students. I think the stethoscope is a terrible viral vector personally! Luckily there is lots to look forward to keep you going through winter from an NZMSA perspective. Bulk buy orders will be arriving at your centre in the next week and second years will get to put on a bright shiny new stethoscope for the first time! Next month is also Conference08: Made in New Zealand, the NZMSA annual conference which is being held in Wellington from July 18-20th. 150 medical students from around the country will kick the weekend off with a bang at the Cocktail Opening Function (watch out for the signature Conference08 Cocktail), followed by a weekend of presentations and workshops from some of New Zealand's best kiwi doctors. We will also be launching our National Blood Drive "Keep Bleeding" in August, with the winning school taking home the inaugural Vampire Cup.

Being an election year things have been heating up down in Wellington with the announcement by John Key that National would look to introduce bonding or incentive based debt relief to keep medical graduates in New Zealand. This created a media frenzy and NZMSA has been able to continue to advocate for the introduction of our Incentive Based Debt Relief policy. Debt relief in the form of loan write offs would be offered on graduation to NZ medical students in return for a service commitment to New Zealand, and particularly to areas where there are workforce shortages (currently pretty much everywhere, but especially rural practices and regional hospitals – check out inside for more details). In 2005 the average medical student owed \$65 206 at graduation, and debt was a significant reason why junior doctors considered moving overseas. Loan write offs would be a great way to ensure staying working in NZ when you graduate is a viable option. With both Labour and National in on the idea in one form or another, we are hopeful we can see some form of debt relief for medical students come out of this year's general election.

NZMSA is also looking to run a survey of all our members to see what things you see as a priority for your national association to be doing for you. Please take the time to fill out one of the e-surveys and let us know what you think!

Coughs, sneezes and general regrets I didn't bother with the flu vaccine this year - Anna Dare

president@nzmsa.org.nz



National Blood Drive

Ever wished you could be more useful in an operating theatre?

Well here's a good start! In July/August, NZMSA is coordinating a nation wide medical school blood drive in conjunction with your local medical student association. We're recording how much blood each centre donates and will be awarding the Vampire Cup to the school of biggest bleeders. Keep your eyes peeled for further details closer to the time.

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Medical Student Wellbeing Survey

The Medical Student Wellbeing team, lead by Will Perry (NZMSA VP External) & James Hillis (AMSA, Melbourne), are working through statistical analysis of the data and will have results ready for students and universities in the not too distant future. It is hoped that the findings will help shape NZMSA & AMSA policy around medical student wellbeing in the University setting. The research has received much international interest, having been selected as part of the AMEE Medical Education conference in Prague, and the BMA-AMA-CMA Doctor's Health Conference in London later this year.

Will Perry
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Our Workforce

New Zealand faces a medical workforce crisis. While many factors impact on doctor migration, high student debt remains a key driver for new graduates. In 2005, 92% of medical students graduated with debt. The average amount owing at graduation was \$65 206, and 10% of graduates owed over \$100 000.[i] Two thirds of graduates cited they would consider leaving New Zealand within 3 years to work overseas.[ii]

The NZMSA has proposed an 'Incentive Based Debt Relief' programme as a feasible solution to New Zealand's retention problems. This programme would provide student loan relief to medical students upon graduation in return for a service commitment to New Zealand. We recommend such an incentive programme should provide fair and adequate remuneration preferentially targeted at New Zealand medical school graduates and such remuneration should be in the form of direct student loan write offs proportional to the length of service in NZ.

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[i] Moore J, Gale, J, Dew, K et al. Student debt amongst junior doctors in New Zealand; part 1: quantity, distribution, and psychosocial impact. NZ Med J 2006;119:1229

[ii] Moore J, Gale, J, Dew, K et al. Student debt amongst junior doctors in New Zealand; part 2: effects on intentions and workforce. NZ Med J 2006;119:1229

News from your membership officer

ACE Evenings

These information evenings about the matching process for First Year House Officer Jobs were held throughout the country last month and a good turnout was seen at all. Students on the whole found these useful, and a good opportunity to give feedback to the ACE administrators. ACE applications for this year's TI class have now closed, with employment offers due out 11 August. For next year's TI class, NZMSA is aiming to keep you well informed of the details/deadlines and any changes regarding ACE next year, so keep an eye out for more snippets like this one!

Bulkbuy 2008

Thank you to all students who got their order forms and money to us to be part of this year's Bulkbuy, and we hope that this annual member service has been helpful in making sure you have the right tools for the job! We'll be in touch shortly regarding how to collect these goods. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that you will have these before winter holidays, but you can be certain that your stethoscopes and clinical handbooks will be available from your local NZMSA Rep at the start of Semester Two. On a brighter note, next year's Bulkbuy should be far more convenient with our plans to introduce an online ordering/payment page on our new website. Stay tuned for more details.

Cheers,
Alex McLeod
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Wellington Medical Students' Association



WMSA has seen a flurry of activity in recent weeks with the ball, quiz night and a considerable amount of advocacy work. Giddings and Kiyomi organised the WMSA Ball - what dedication and class! The balcony at WSM amped like never before with predrinks before the girls trekked in their high heels over gravel, down stairs and past ED to the waiting buses. We were dropped at the Cable Car before ascending into the Wellington clouds to the Skyline Restaurant in Kelburn for the evening. The evening was filled with plenty of boggie and booze, and of course a bit of scandal. Check out the photos. See if you recognise anyone!

Last week MAAP and WMSA combined forces for our Pub (nonpub) Quiz. A great night was had by all and over \$600 was raised for a hospital in Rarotonga. Meanwhile on the more serious side of life the class reps have been working hard preparing submissions for the WSM strategic planning process, the AMC review of Otago and the school's curriculum developments over the next 3 years.

Watch out for "Medical School's got Talent" coming up in August. It will be a cracker of an evening.

Al Escott, President

Christchurch Medical Students' Association

The Christchurch School is moving along nicely, with crispy leaves in Hagley park and snow on the mountains to distract us from study, rugby, assignments and OSCEs. With three weeks holidays on the horizon life is looking pretty good! Mountain biking and Port-Hill explorations are continuing. With the chilly nights, what better than videos and dinner in the Den? Organised by various groups these also look set to continue over the next few months.

In May, those interested in rural health went over to the west coast with the Country Scrubs rural health club for a tour of Greymouth hospital and some clinical skills workshops. In Harehare there were some elaborate car-crash scenarios involving the fire department and their rather exciting car eating pneumatic jaws!

Currently on an education front, our new Clinical group reps have had their first meeting and discussed anything that is preventing them from pursuing life, liberty and happiness. Our fifth year revision sessions will be starting after the holidays, and we are gearing up for the AMC review along with Dunedin and Wellington which will take place in August. Renovations of the medical school are progressing - the reception will be moved to ground floor, with an area set aside for the Medical Education Unit and CMSA may even get our own office!

Liz Carr, President

Christchurch Medical Students (L to R: Hamish Wright, Ben Chan, Scott Crawford, Sathish Shanmuganathan) after a champion 1/2 Marathon effort at the recent Christchurch SBS Marathon Championship. A good day had by all!



Otago University Medical Students' Association

It's business time in Dunedin. The social calendar has been rearing its head – Wine & Cheese held at the Savoy featuring local heart-throbs 'Hemi & Bede' serenading the stunningly attired med girls cranking the Dfloor. Big ups to the considerable additions to the OUMSA Score Board achieved on the night. OUMSA now looks forward to 'Babystock' next week – charity gig night at Refuel. On a not so sexy front our education reps have been kept well busy with the barrage of Faculty preparations for the upcoming AMC accreditation later this year. However the Faculty is spoiling OUMSA next week with the delivery of a new office in the new Hunter centre – champion!



Hayden Spencer, President

Auckland University Medical Students' Association

It's been a busy period for the AUMSA Exec as always. Here are some events to look forward to in the next couple of months:

- The second pub crawl of the year will be on Thursday 24 July, a great way to kick start Semester II.
- The legendary Med Revue August 13 - 15 at the Maidment theatre. Send skit ideas to the Directors!
- The AUMSA Ball on August 29, with a completely different setup to last year. We've managed to secure a great venue at Eden Park with a full buffet dinner!

Early in the semester we also have two brand new events lined up for you:

- A symposium run with the Faculty introducing the BHB Honours programme to medical students
- A Law vs Med Sports day followed by an after match social event. Help us put them in their place.

We are continuing to provide a strong voice for students to the Faculty regarding the numerous disappointing situations we are currently involved in at the Grafton campus. We'll be giving you the opportunity to get involved with our advocacy work, with a student health questionnaire in response to the relocation of the Pink Cottage, a petition in response to the chronic shortage of student space, and feedback forms suggesting ways we can make better use of the large Student Commons room behind the Cafeteria.

Remember to check out our website www.aumsa.org.nz, where you will find all the information on our upcoming events and services as well as our Wikinotes

Get amongst it! Sudhvir Singh, President

Member Survey - Keep an eye out!

NZMSA is continually looking for ways to improve what we do, and therefore we want to know what you think! Over the next few weeks we will be creating and distributing a survey asking you what you think our priorities should be. We hope to have this ready to go at Conference '08 and we would love to have your input if you are attending, otherwise the survey will also be available at your local centre.



We make it easy



NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

