



MEDIA RELEASE
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**MONASH UNIVERSITY'S
NEW FIVE-YEAR MEDICAL COURSE ACCREDITED**

The new five-year medical curriculum offered by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University has been accredited by the Australian Medical Council until 31 December 2008.

The Australian Medical Council is the national standards body responsible for primary medical training throughout Australia and New Zealand. One of its functions is to advise and make recommendations to the State and Territory Medical Boards on the accreditation of Australian and New Zealand medical schools and medical courses.

In 1999, the Monash Medical Faculty began a major curriculum review with the intention of introducing a new five-year medical course in 2002. The present Monash medical course delivers a six-year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) with the last cohort to graduate in 2006.

In July 2001 an AMC assessment team of seven visited the Faculty to assess the plans for the new curriculum.

The new MBBS is of five years' duration, and designed with a thematic rather than discipline-based structure. The AMC assessment team acknowledged that this structure would enhance the integration of subject matter presented throughout the course.

The AMC approved the Faculty's positive initiative in moving away from didactic teaching towards more student-centred and case-based studies. In the Monash model the patient-orientated cases are used, from the first year of the course, in a "guided discovery" mode of learning.

Other key elements of the newly designed MBBS include a continuation of an undergraduate intake, the inclusion of population and social health issues, and an emphasis on personal and professional development. The basic sciences will be taught from a clinical perspective, using case-based learning extensively in the early years of the course.

Monash's School for Rural Health is one of the nine rural clinical schools in Australia awarded funding to develop its rural clinical sites. Monash is committed to 25 percent of students completing half of their

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clinical training within the rural school. The locations of the proposed school sites and the interactions between them, have been well worked out and the adequacy of teaching resources ensured as an ideal environment to deliver a model for interdisciplinary health team education.

The Faculty has created the Centre for Medical and Health Sciences Education within the Dean's establishment. The Centre has played a central role in the development and implementation of the new curriculum.

Professor Michael Field, Chair of the AMC Assessment Team, believes that the curriculum proposed by the Monash Medical Faculty incorporates many progressive features, while building on the existing strengths at Monash.

“The course is well-balanced and integrated across all the key themes required to prepare students for modern medical practice, while still reflecting the strong background in medical science and research for which the Monash Faculty is well known”, he said.

Associate Professor Chris Browne, one of the Co-chairs of the Five Year Curriculum Committee, has indicated that the Faculty is very pleased with the outcome of the accreditation process. He said “ The very helpful and constructive advice offered by the AMC team have led to further improvements in the quality of the new medical curriculum.”

The AMC will make a further review of the plans for the later years of the course in 2004.

Further information:

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