



## April 2008 Update

It seems that the pace of forward motion has jumped a quantum now that Professor Massey has joined the Implementation Program and has taken the reigns of the School of Dentistry and Health Sciences. He is taking giant leaps into the development of the dentistry and the oral health courses and has been liaising with all of the key proponents of the program.

The end result is leading towards a truly unique and exciting development in dental education and a contribution to recruitment and retention of the workforce, particularly in rural areas. Professor Massey has been presenting seminars and talks to a variety of stakeholders on the benefits to be gained from the program. Benefits particularly for our local communities in relation to the provision of additional dental services, to young school-leavers seeking to enter the profession and also to local practitioners who may have held concerns about accessing new graduates for succession planning in their practises.

All is on track for the 2009 start for both programs and we are now engaging in the fine details of developing a quite different and high-end clinically loaded program.

Again, I invite you to access this update and other information provided on the CSU dentistry website to keep abreast of the development and provide your own input into the process: <http://www.csu.edu.au/student/dentistry/> or if you would like to be added to the automatic distribution list please speak to Judy Stone on (02) 6365 7883 or email her on [jstone@csu.edu.au](mailto:jstone@csu.edu.au)

Professor Mark Burton,  
Director, Dentistry (Implementation)



## Another Key Appointment

The School of Dentistry and Health Sciences is pleased to be able to announce the appointment of Dr Sabrina Manickam as a Senior Lecturer in Dentistry within the dental program.

Dr. Manickam received her degree from the University of Sydney in 1993 and was the recipient of the University of Sydney Faculty of Dentistry, Alumni Jubilee Medal 2001 for Outstanding Contributions to the Profession & Clinical Dentistry. She has recently held the position of Area Clinical Director for Oral Health in Greater Western Area Health Service, with a Conjoint Appointment as Sub-Dean, Rural Dental Programs with the University of Sydney.

She has held significant roles with the NSW Branch of the ADA and is currently a Councillor, is active on the Executive, the Professional Indemnity Committee, the Dental Practice Committee and with the Western Division of the Branch.



Dr Manickam has also been a central figure within dental areas of NSW Health with roles on the State Oral Health Executive, the State Clinical Advisory Group, the Rural Advisory Committee and groups engaging with ISOH. She was a Ministerial Appointment to the Dental Care Assessment Committee of the NSW Dental Board from 2003-2007.

Her research interests are in the area of oral malignancy.

## Website Update

Please note that the Dentistry Implementation Website has gone through a fortuitous update process. Take a look at the new content and let us know if you have any suggestions on information that you would like to access. You may also like to direct prospective dentistry and/or oral health students to the website for the School of Dentistry and Health Sciences (<http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/science/dentistry-health/>) and to the website for the dentistry feeder degree, the BClinSc ([http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/clinical\\_science/](http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/clinical_science/)).

## Student Enquiries on the Increase

There has been a great deal of student interest in both the proposed dentistry degree and the oral health (therapy and hygiene) degree. Since we opened a venue for enquiries, mid



last year, over 400 student approaches have been recorded. The vast majority of these are from prospective applicants in country NSW (about two thirds) but also about 40 Victorian and 15 Queensland enquiries have also been received.

Other enrolment enquiries have come from the ACT, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, UK and USA.

## The CSU Clinic Model

Last year workshops were held in Orange and Wagga Wagga to seek input and provide feedback to local practitioners with information on the establishment of the campus clinics. It was indicated at those workshops that the design of the clinics was to encompass a variety of opportunities for students, staff and other practitioners to engage with local patients.

Each patient treatment will incur a fee which will vary with the treatments provided by students through to treatment by staff and specialist practitioners. Patients will need to be informed that treatment by students, though incurring a lower cost than standard, will take longer and will require more visits. More complex treatments will need to be referred to either local practitioners, to staff or to in-house dentists.

Special enclosed dental suites are being built in the clinics to supplement open, 8 bay student treatment clinics. The enclosed suites will allow access to visiting specialists and invited resident single or group practitioners.

The recent call for expressions of interest for clinical partners (see website and last newsletter) was designed to seek the inclusion of local practitioners or new practitioners to work in the teaching and clinical environment. We have received a number of responses to the call and are currently evaluating the opportunities entailed in those submissions for their contribution to clinical education and to the local community for service delivery.

Clearly the evolution of new clinical partnerships will continue through the development of the dentistry program.

## Change in Degree Name

Some readers may have noticed from the website that a strategic change in the name and the structure of the dental degree has occurred. After significant discussion with leaders in the profession and in order to minimise any confusion over the structure of a dual tiered program, the Schools Courses Committee has settled on the nomenclature of a Bachelor of Dental Science.

The BDentSc will remain a discrete 5 year undergraduate program with no structural linkages to the Oral Health degree. Students will enrol directly from high school or via an alternative first degree with no need for UMAT or GAMSAT.

## The Rural Dental Action Group

Many readers will be aware of the great work that the Rural Dental Action Group (RDAG) do for the promotion of dentistry and oral health issues in the Central West and beyond. The Group was also instrumental in providing and building the support base for the CSU dental program. Professor Massey met recently with the lead drivers in RDAG (pictured with him are Lucy Needham and Marj Bollinger) and addressed the last meeting of the group in Orange. We are confident that we can provide significant return to their investment in the development of the CSU program by enhancing dental services across the region.



## Feedback

For us to be able to develop a program with wide application and of a quality that will be of the highest standard we need your input. We would welcome any feedback on the progress of the development and any ideas or comments that you would like to provide. Please feel free to telephone the Dentistry Program on (02) 6365 7883 or send an email.

