

Welcome



This is the first edition of the Charles Sturt University's CSU Dental Update. The newsletter aims to provide the dental and oral health profession and members of our inland communities with a brief update on the latest news about CSU's new dental and oral health program. The newsletter will be released electronically each quarter on the Internet at <http://www.csu.edu.au/student/dentistry> or ring Jillian Webb on (02) 6365 7823 to

receive the update by email.

Professor Mark Burton, Director, Dentistry Implementation, CSU.

CSU Appoints Dental Head

CSU is proud to announce that Professor Ward Massey from the University of Maryland's Baltimore College of Dentistry has been appointed the inaugural Head of School for dentistry. Professor Massey will formally commence with CSU in January 2008.



Professor Massey received his Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Adelaide prior to commencing practice at the Broken Hill Mines Dental Clinic and subsequently in the South Australian Dental Hospital.

He has gained extensive experience in academia in Australia with appointments at the Universities of Adelaide, Sydney and Western Australia. His clinical experience was grounded in Westmead Hospital Clinical School, with the armed forces and as Clinical Director at the Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre in Adelaide.

Moving to the United States in 2001 to further his academic career, Professor Massey accepted a teaching and research position with the University of Maryland's School of Dentistry, the direct descendant of the world's first dental college – the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery – specialising in restorative dentistry and comprehensive care.

He subsequently took up an appointment as Assistant Professor in Restorative Dentistry & Biomaterials at Harvard University School of Dental Medicine.

In November 2005 he returned to the University of Maryland as Professor in Endodontics, Prosthodontics & Operative Dentistry and was a key participant in the planning and construction of a new ten storey 328 chair dental clinical school which opened in September 2006.

Professor Massey's research interests are focused on the fields of clinical dentistry and oral health. In 1988, he was the recipient of a National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NRMHC) four year postgraduate scholarship. His research has focused on the role of bacteria in inflammation of the oral tissues and degradation of bone in both human and animal models.

In March 2002, he commenced clinical research activities in the Gene Transfer and Therapeutics Branch of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in Bethesda, Maryland, investigating the relationship between the presence of specific micro-organisms, auto-immune disease and dry mouth conditions. He is presently involved in a number of clinical trials, including being a co-investigator in a study sponsored by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratories.

Professor Massey brings to CSU a significant international reputation and in-depth understanding of curriculum and dental clinical education.

Professor Massey will visit the new school in September to meet with staff and to be updated on the construction program and curriculum development. He is looking forward to the announcement of further academic appointments in the near future of leading dental and oral health staff.

Local Dentist Workshops

CSU is looking to local dental practitioners in inland NSW to assist it in the development of its dental clinics and programs. A workshop involving local dental practitioners from the Central Western and Orana regions will be held at the Orange Campus (Conference Room) starting at 7.00pm on Friday 10 August 2007. For local dental practitioners in the Riverina and Murray regions the workshop will be held at the Wagga Wagga Campus (Conference Centre) starting at 7.00pm on 16 August 2007. The workshops will be facilitated by Dr Matthew Fisher, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Dental Association (NSW Branch) and will include staff from the dental implementation committee at CSU and a full update on the dental program.

Similar workshops are to be held for regional dental therapists and dental hygienists later this year to get their feedback and input into the programs being developed.

Architects Appointed

CSU has appointed Brewster Hjorth Architects to design and manage the construction of the dentistry pre-clinical and clinical facilities in Orange and Wagga Wagga. Design and construction is estimated to be completed in January 2009. Tenders for appointment of architects for the Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst and Dubbo facilities will be published shortly, with anticipated completion dates in mid-2009.



Dentistry - Economic Impact

On 30 July 2007, the Western Research Institute issued a report commissioned by CSU into the economic impact of the establishment of the new dental program in inland NSW. The report found that the new School will create 906 new jobs during the construction phase, contributing more than \$52.6 million in gross regional product and \$24.7 million in household income when flow-on effects are taken into account. When fully operational in Year 6, the program will create an additional 227 full-time equivalent jobs, with an annual contribution of \$12.3 million in gross regional product and \$8.27 million in household income.

In a 2005 report on the economic impact of CSU in its local inland communities, it was found that CSU generated more than \$260 million in annual gross regional product, \$164 million in household income and over 3,100 full-time equivalent jobs when flow-on effects are taken into account. CSU and international and non-local students attending the university generate the equivalent of 12 per cent of Bathurst's employment in the Central West statistical division and the equivalent of 9 per cent of Wagga Wagga's employment in the Murrumbidgee statistical division. The impact of the new dental program will be incorporated into new calculations to be undertaken with the release of the new editions.

Student Demand Strong

Without any advertising of CSU's new dental and oral health program, CSU's student information centre has already received more than 300 calls from prospective students from across inland and rural Australia. A marketing campaign is currently being prepared by CSU staff and it is expected that, with expanded awareness, CSU will be able to select from a large range of high quality students from across our inland and rural communities. To register to receive information on the program and entry criteria as it becomes available, call Info.csu on 1800 334 733 or email to inquiry@csu.edu.au.

Curriculum Development

A Curriculum Development Committee is being established under the guidance of Associate Dean Geoff McKenzie to begin the formulation of the content framework for the two new degree programs. A/Professor McKenzie will be working closely with consultant Professor Marc Tennant (University of Western Australia), Professor Ward Massey and Professor Mark Burton to assemble a core team to initiate the documentation stage prior to opening the curriculum to input from a diverse advisory panel including local experienced practitioners. The framework will be the basis for the detailed subject content to be written in the new year.

Comment on ADJ Article

In an editorial in the July issue of the *Australian Dental Journal* (2007:52:2) titled "Do we need more Dental Schools?" the editor asked whether Australia needed another

dental school and whether new providers will find appropriate staff to establish new dental programs.

This was despite an article appearing in the same journal that concluded that Australia "...must explore avenues to improve dentist numbers [such as] creating new university places" (Schofield and Fletcher, *Baby Boomer retirement and the future of dentistry* ADJ:2007:143).

This is a familiar issue for CSU. When CSU started its pharmacy and veterinary science programs to address critical professional shortages in inland Australia (in those areas that were not being addressed by metropolitan universities) it was also argued that CSU would not find high quality academic staff. In both cases, CSU proved them wrong.

To understand the issue, it is important to go back to the reasons why CSU decided to progress this initiative and why it was backed so strongly by our communities, local professions, industry association and the Government. Inland Australia is experiencing a debilitating crisis in oral health care provision. For CSU, this is not about statistics in academic journals but about real people and preventable suffering and mortality.

Despite all the reports and publicity about the rural dental crisis over more than a decade, no one has come up with an effective plan to address the problem in any real way. Indeed, in some cases, institutions have increased program duration, reduced clinical practice exposure and reduced intakes.

CSU has the evidence that our programs are more effective in addressing rural health workforce needs and contribute to the retention of highly skilled health professionals in rural areas. CSU is one of Australia's recognised leaders in health education, placed in the Top 10 universities for Learning and Teaching in the health sciences in 2007.

In our proposal, we publicly acknowledged the challenge that staffing will present, but we do not believe that this is the real issue. We fear that these arguments are not about institutions working together to ensure our communities get the oral health services they deserve, but about institutions protecting their position and not allowing real alternatives to emerge.

CSU is building a new and innovative dental program based on the twin goals of: a thorough clinical grounding, and inter-professional learning. This is what will attract great staff and great students from around Australia. We want to help produce oral health professionals to ensure the long term health of our communities.

The issue is not whether Australia needs a new dental school, it is about how dental schools will now work together to solve the dental crisis in this country.