

# Information on Speakers



## Associate Professor Merrilyn Walton

Merrilyn Walton is the Director of Patient Safety in the Postgraduate Medical Education Office and Coordinator of the Personal and Professional Development Theme for the Sydney Medical Program. Prior to appointment with the Faculty of Medicine in 2000 she was the Commissioner for the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission, a position she held for 7 years. Since joining the Faculty Merrilyn has had significant input into developing curriculum about patient engagement and patient safety at all levels – undergraduate, prevocational and vocational. As author of the National Patient Safety Education Framework, she adopted a patient centred approach for developing and identifying all the patient safety competencies required by health professionals. The Framework has received international acclaim and is being used by many countries including the WHO in developing patient safety curriculum for medical schools. Merrilyn is immediate past chair of the NSW Prevocational Training Council (2006-8) and sits on the Management Committee of the NSW Institute for Medical Education and Training. In addition to her work in the Faculty she is currently a visiting professor and affiliate of The Buehler Center on Aging, Health and Society Northwestern University USA and is a Director of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre.



## Associate Professor Michael Agrez

Associate Professor Michael Agrez has been affiliated with The University of Newcastle for the past 23 years and coordinates the undergraduate surgical program. He is also Director of Pre-vocational Education and Training for John Hunter and John Hunter Children's Hospital within Hunter New England Area Health Service – a role that includes supervision of and advocacy for junior medical officers within the network. This role extends to participation in state and national committees involved in implementation of the Australian Curriculum Framework for junior doctors. Associate Professor Agrez's commitment within HNE Health to ongoing junior doctor professional development complements his role as Clinical Director of the Hunter New England Skills and Simulation Centre aimed at minimising adverse events and, thereby, promoting patient safety.

Associate Professor Agrez's extensive experience in cancer research grew from his clinical experience as a colorectal surgeon. His many published articles in international journals have covered aspects of epidemiology, screening, molecular biology and biochemistry related largely to bowel cancer. His twenty-five years of basic cancer research have led to the discovery of new anti-cancer compounds currently undergoing pre-clinical testing and this research is underpinned by numerous granted patents.



## Dr Sue Ieraci

Sue Ieraci is a specialist emergency physician with interests in work-practice design and system-thinking within health care. While maintaining a continuous clinical role, she has also worked as a department manager and has participated in many state and federal planning committees and College activities. She has spent her clinical career working with junior staff in a high-risk and demanding clinical area. She is currently focussing on teaching cognitive skills to junior doctors and international graduates.

## Associate Professor Willcock

Associate Professor Willcock is a general practitioner who has worked in both rural GP and now urban NSW. He is Discipline Head of General Practice at the Northern Clinical School of the University of Sydney, and Associate Dean for Postgraduate Medical Education in the Medical Program. His educational and research interests include musculoskeletal medicine, generational change in the medical workforce and the health of doctors.

Associate Professor Willcock is Chair of General Practice Education and Training (GPET), a Commonwealth company that oversees general practice training around Australia, and Director of the NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET). He is also a member director of AVANT, Australia's largest indemnity insurance provider for medical practitioners.



## Associate Professor Chris Roberts

Associate Professor is Associate Dean (Educational Department), University of Sydney and Head of the Office of Postgraduate Medical Education (OPME). He is a general practitioner. He is internationally recognised as an expert in medical education particularly around assessment. He has provided consultation extensively in Australia, North America, Europe and the Middle East. He was one of the writers on the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide for Medical Schools. He is interested in the relationship between patient safety and professionalism. His major research interests focus on the measurement of professionalism and professional behaviours in both medical students and healthcare professionals. His work is underpinned largely by psychometric measurement theory. He has expertise as a qualitative and quantitative researcher and has published on topics such as admissions procedures into medical school, professional behaviours of medical students, high stakes clinical assessment, provision of musculoskeletal services, e-learning and postgraduate training, with over 30 peer-reviewed journal publications.



## Dr Rola Ajjawi

Dr Rola Ajjawi is a Lecturer at the Office of Postgraduate Medical Education. She trained and worked as a physiotherapist before moving into academia. She completed her PhD looking at how experienced clinicians learned to make decisions and learned to communicate these decisions with patients and students. Since then she has investigated the impact of interprofessional learning with medical and dental as well as medical and pharmacy students. She is leading educational research looking at GP registrar prescribing. Her research interests include: developing clinical reasoning capability, clinical education, workplace learning and learning and teaching across the continuum of health professional education. In her current role, Rola is director of the Master of Medical Education program and is heavily involved in curriculum design, development and delivery. She has published several journal articles and is co-editor of a book 'Communicating in the Health Sciences'.



### **Samantha Van Staalduin**

Samantha Van Staalduin is an Associate Lecturer with the Office of Postgraduate Medical Education. She joined OPME after a number of years at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, where she was actively involved in research, curriculum development and community outreach in the areas of doctor-patient and cross-cultural communication, as well as the management of CPD for health and human service professionals. Samantha brings 7 years of experience in health sciences research, project management and program/curriculum development to her work at OPME. She is actively involved in curriculum design and development for the Personal and Professional Development Theme of the USyd Medical Program and co-coordinates a unit of study in the Master of Medical Education program. She is currently working on a project investigating the education, training and support of NSW's prevocational doctors and international medical graduates, having recently completed collaborative work on a patient safety curriculum guide for the World Health Organization.



### **Gillian Nisbet**

Gillian Nisbet is a PhD student with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney. Her research interest is interprofessional learning. Previous positions held include Senior Lecturer and Project Leader for the University of Sydney Interprofessional Learning Project. This position was responsible for IPL research and curriculum development to provide IPL opportunities for students from Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health professions. Prior to this position, Gillian worked within NSW Public Hospitals as a Dietitian, covering clinical, education and management positions.



### **Dr Philip Hoyle**

Dr Hoyle is Director, Clinical Governance, for Northern Sydney & Central Coast Area Health Service. Responsibilities within that role include quality, safety, risk management, policy systems and accreditation

With a clinical background in rural general practice, Philip has worked as a senior manager and medical director in hospitals and health systems, large and small, in Australia and the UK. Previous roles include Director of Acute Services for Northern Sydney Area Health Service, Executive Director of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, General Manager of Royal North Shore Hospital, various senior medical management roles and Director, Clinical Services Strategic Review, Royal Victoria Infirmary NHS Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne.



### **Associate Professor Peter Procopis AM**

Associate Professor Peter Procopis has been President of the NSW Medical Board since 2005. He was appointed to the Board in 1999, was Chair of its Conduct Committee and became Deputy President in 2004 before taking up the Presidency in 2005.

Peter is a Paediatric Neurologist and works as a Senior Staff Specialist at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. He was Director of Medical Services and Executive Director of the hospital from 1985 to 2005.

He has held many senior committee posts in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and is currently Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Continuing Medical Education. He is a past President of the Australian College of Paediatrics. In 2003, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.



### **Professor Clifford Hughes**

Professor Clifford Hughes is the CEO of the Clinical Excellence Commission in New South Wales. For 25 years, until January 2005, he was a Senior Partner in an extremely busy cardiothoracic surgical practice at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He has led five medical teams to China and performed numerous cardiac (open heart) procedures in six provinces in China. He has also operated in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India and Bangladesh. He was a Member of the Australian Council on Safety and Quality in Health Care and chaired taskforces on Safe Hours, Fatigue and Device Tracking. He holds fellowships in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Chest physicians as well as the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Hughes was awarded the Order of Australia in 1998 for "service to cardiac surgery, international relations and the community".



### **Professor Stewart Dunn**

Professor Stewart Dunn is Professor of Medical Psychology at the University of Sydney Northern Clinical School, based at Royal North Shore Hospital. His clinical speciality is the psychological care of cancer patients, their families and medical staff. He has extensive teaching commitments in the USyd Medical Program. His research and clinical interests are in psychological aspects of medical illness, doctor-patient and interprofessional communication, professional burnout and human factors in medical error. He has over \$4.6 million in peer-reviewed grant funding, 250 journal articles and scientific abstracts. Stewart has received nine research travel awards and five teaching awards including the USyd Faculty of Medicine Outstanding Teaching Award in 2005. He chairs the NSCCH Human Research Ethics Committee.



### **Professor Bruce H Barraclough, AO**

Bruce Barraclough is President of the International Society for Quality in Health Care, Chair of the Board of the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission, Associate Dean (Clinical Strategy) of the University of Western Sydney Medical School and e-Health Medical Director, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. He serves on a number of working parties for the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety. He was President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (1998 – 2001), Professor / Director of Cancer Services, Northern Sydney Health and the University of Sydney, (2000- 2005) and Chair of the Australian Council for Safety & Quality in Health Care (2000 – 2005).