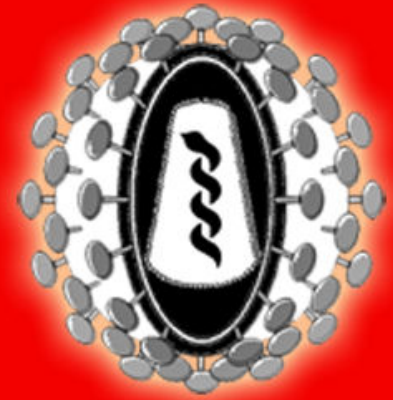




The UNSW Medical Society presents

# VIRION

The Official Publication of the Assistant Secretary



AMSA Convention

# Melbourne 08

SUNDAY 6TH JULY TO SUNDAY 13TH JULY

desire. **enquire.** **inspire.**

# LOOK OUT MELB

**UNSW IS COMING!** See page 2

## Upcoming Events

- Honours Information Night - Thursday 19th June
- End of Session (Cocktail Night) - Friday 27th June
- Global Health Conference - 4th to 6th July
- AMSA Convention - 6th to 13th July
- ANZAME Conference - 10th to 13th July

## Cocktail Party

We cordially invite you to celebrate the end of session at the inaugural Medsoc cocktail party. As our end of session does not coincide with the rest of the uni, we have planned a private function especially for UNSW Medical students. Canapés and drinks will be served early in the night. This event is not to be missed!

Where: Altitude Bar, Level 4 Shelbourne Hotel  
Address: 200 Sussex St (Corner of Market St) Sydney CBD  
Transport: 5 minute walk from Town Hall station or bus stops near QVB  
Who: All years  
RSVP or queries at [social.medsoc@gmail.com](mailto:social.medsoc@gmail.com)

## THE LOW DOWN ON THE LOWY BUILDING

While past medical students may reminisce on the comforts and pleasures of the Med Lawn that was, first year students will never know what the Med Lawn ever looked like. It's a privilege that will be lost for future Med students as well. However, in the ashes of a past Eden lies the promise of one of Australia's greatest scientific and social endeavours: the building of a \$100 million-plus facility for up to 400 researchers pooled from both UNSW and the Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA).

The Lowy-Building will be one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere; and the only Australian Centre to integrate both child and adult cancer research. According to Prof. Peter Smith, it also aims to be the first Australian facility dedicated to linking cancer research activities in the Centre with cancer registries and clinical trials nationally and internationally.

(Contd.)



Mr. Lowy's donation of \$10 million to the development of the centre is the largest single donation made to UNSW for charitable purposes. Funding from the Federal and State Governments, The Australian Cancer Research Institute and UNSW constitute the remainder.

And though naturalists may have their concerns, the building's design principles also aim to make it environmentally friendly. It is also hoped to achieve a 5 Green Star Rating.



Artist's Impression of the Lowy and Wallace Wurth Buildings, completed by 2009  
Source: <http://www.unsw.edu.au/about/pad/thebuilding.html>

The Med Lawn will always maintain itself as an iconic image in the history of many past and present UNSW Med Students. However, future students and current first years, will be exposed to the hope and possibilities offered by the Lowy Building. And if the artist's impressions are anything to go by, there will still be enough 'green' to go around.

Vikram Joshi (Year 1) - Assistant Secretary

# UNSWUH CONVENTIONALLY UNSWerving

The scene is set. It is cold. It is grey. It's Melbourne, so let's face it, it's probably snowing. Throughout the winding streets countless people are running around unravelling big balls of wool and in the midst of it all, UNSWuh waits... ready to pounce.

Some say the UNSWuhnian is one of nature's most elusive creatures. A social animal, they tend to be found in packs, swarming around local drinking holes filled with caffeinated or ethanol-infused beverages, clad in garments of bright colours, which decrease in size after dark. (Contd.)

The UNSWuhnian has developed infallible instincts, lightning reflexes, and can leap tall buildings in a single bound, making it the natural predator of rival delegation herds, and a very sought-after mate.

## AMSA Convention Melbourne 08

desire.  
enquire.  
inspire.



This year the grandest delegation of UNSWuhnians will bravely venture forth, in greater numbers than have ever been seen before (83 proud UNSWuhnians, making us the 5th largest delegation - our best result ever!). They return triumphant from last year's hunt, (1st Emergency Challenge, 2nd Intersivity Debating, 1st Australia's Nerdiest Med STUDENT) and with their supreme skills, cunning and prowess, and ridiculous good looks, UNSWuh will climb to giddy new heights. Training is underway in all disciplines, costumes and warcries are being perfected...

Not much can be revealed - the UNSWuhnian is sought as prey by many an intersivity poacher, and spies are everywhere, but be assured, we are ready, and we will do you proud!  
UNSWuh - CONVENTIONally UNSWerving

Tiffany Fulde (Year 4) - AMSA Representative

## REPORT FROM THE NSW MSC

This year, the New South Wales Medical Students Council (NSW MSC) welcomes to its ranks two more med schools: Notre Dame Sydney and the University of New England (in conjunction with the University of Newcastle). The NSW MSC has certainly been busy - we recently made a submission to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, an enquiry set up by the Commonwealth Government (Contd.)

to look at problems in the health system. In it, we detail some of the principal concerns of med students on a state level, including the increasing numbers of medical students, the negative effect this will have on the quality of our clinical education and the availability of internship positions once we graduate. We also discussed the problem of internship allocation procedures and proposed ways of addressing these and other problems. This submission, and more, can be found at [groups.yahoo.com/group/nswmsc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nswmsc/). Watch this space though, a dedicated website for the MSC will soon be launched at [www.nswmsc.org.au](http://www.nswmsc.org.au).

We also recently held our academic launch at RPA Hospital. This was an interesting evening at which the Dean of Sydney Uni, the Vice-chair of IMET and the AMSA President spoke about some of the issues confronting medical education. Perhaps the biggest NSW MSC event of the year, the annual 'Medlympics', or NSW MSC Sports Day, is also coming up in a few months. Last year's sports day was a huge success, with teams from each of the State's med schools competing in netball, soccer and touch football. Unsurprisingly, UNSW won first place overall – hopefully we can maintain our dominance this year too!

If you'd like to help organise Med-lympics, get involved or find out more about anything the MSC is up to, you can contact me at [chris\\_m@bigpond.net.au](mailto:chris_m@bigpond.net.au). The next meeting of the MSC will be on Saturday July 26 at AMA(NSW) House in St Leonards.

Chris Mulligan (Year 3) - NSW MSC Secretary

## MEDSHAVE UPDATE

A huge congratulations to everyone involved with MEDSHAVE 2008 - in particular to all the individuals who got their heads shaved or coloured on the day.

A total of \$3,100 was raised for the Cancer Council NSW. A cheque was presented to Ms Christine Attenborough (Community Relations Coordinator) at the June Medsoc Council Meeting. Also in attendance, was Ms Dinethra Menon, representing our principal sponsor, MDA National.

On a final note, a huge shout out to Michael Chan, MEDSOC Charities Co-ordinator, for his amazing work and dedication.



# Medicine Jerseys

MedSoc is proud to offer all UNSW medical students the official UNSW Medicine Jersey for 2008. After 5 years in hiding, this proud med student tradition has returned and is available to order online for students in ALL years at the low cost of \$55.00 - thanks to our hardworking 2nd year reps Kathy Fu and Kieran Dang.



An online sizing guide will be made available. You can also try sample sizes on Library Lawn 11am-12pm Wed 11 June, 12-1pm Tue 17 June and 11am-12pm Wed 18 June.

Orders close 12 MIDDAY TUESDAY 24 JUNE!!!

For further details head to the MEDSOC website - [www.medsoc.org.au](http://www.medsoc.org.au)

**DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT  
THE FORUMS  
@WWW.MEDSOC.ORG.AU**

Editor - Vikram Joshi (Year 1)  
Assistant Secretary

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the VIRION, please contact Vikram at [assistant.secretary@medsoc.org.au](mailto:assistant.secretary@medsoc.org.au)

VIRION will be available from the MEDSOC website @ [www.medsoc.org.au/virion](http://www.medsoc.org.au/virion)

Next Issue: August 2008





## Editorial

### Internships in the 21st Century

2008 first year medical students were told that we wouldn't have independent control of our career until 2026. We were fine with that. We were told that Medicine had a high level of drug and alcohol abuse. We were fine with that. We were told that 20% of us will suffer from mental illness some time in our career. We were fine with that.

Now we're being told, that due to the increasing number of medical students, there's a possibility that some of us won't have a job upon graduation.

You have to draw the line somewhere.

The impending shortage of intern places is slowly gaining attention in the long list of issues facing the medical profession today. And because it takes about 10 to 15 years to fully train a doctor, it wouldn't make much sense that, in light of current workforce shortages, the system begins to pump out ever-increasing medical graduates with a degree but no practical way of applying that knowledge. However, it does make you wonder how and why the situation ended up like this.

There remains today a growing call for a greater range of health professionals in Australia to tackle the hapless shortage of employees and resources in our system. While it may suit in the short-term to pack-house universities with new med students, this reaction will inevitably result in a new type of pressure on an already vulnerable and unsustainable system.

Though solutions are still being conceived, (don't mind the pun), many fear that this is the way things will remain until the tsunami of new medical graduates actually hit the wards. MedSoc, the NSW MSC and AMSA are each fighting on multiple fronts to see that the solution is found before the situation starts compromising our livelihoods.

It might be youthful idealism to sing the words of Dido and say "I will go down with this ship". Or it might be blissful ignorance to just hope that the problem won't affect us, because 'someone will think of something'. But while many of us may feel comfortable with this, maybe the situation itself highlights the need for a little more forward thinking in Medicine, rather than the 'band aid' solutions we seem to rely upon today.

Vikram Joshi (Year 1)  
Assistant Secretary



MDA National

## MOVIE NIGHT "DEEP SEA" IN 3D

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008

6.00pm - 8.30pm

Refreshment will be provided

Please register your interest early as places are limited\*

[dmenon@mdanational.com.au](mailto:dmenon@mdanational.com.au) or  
[mcorso@mdanational.com.au](mailto:mcorso@mdanational.com.au)

\*This event is **FREE** for MDA National Student members as part of the Live Well Study Well program. If you are not a student member and would like to join, please visit [www.mdanational.com.au](http://www.mdanational.com.au)

