Scholarly Activity - RATIONALE

- Postgraduate MD course should incorporate additional scholarly endeavour.

- AQF requirement – some form of research training
  - discussed and agreed by the Faculty
  - all UWA graduates should be research-literate

- A number of ongoing scholarly foci have been discussed – encapsulated into 3 broad categories:
  1. Research (including Evidence Based Practice)
  2. Graduate Coursework
  3. Service Learning
Scholarly Activity – STRUCTURE

- Scholarly activity would be set up as a series of 4 (x 6 point) units.
  - Year 2 = 1 unit, Year 3 = 2 units, Year 4 = 1 unit
  - Each unit would encompass approximately 150 hours work - this may be carried out as ½ - 1 day per week or as 4-8 weeks full-time (during semester breaks)

- When selecting units, students would not be limited to one scholarly activity stream, but could select a mixture of coursework and research units (for example).

- However there should be some cohesion in the combination of units selected

- International projects would be encouraged
Scholarly Activity - Research Stream

Year 1: Online Introduction to Scholarly Activity

Year 2: Research Foundations Unit

Year 3: 2 Research Project Units (1 optional)

Year 4: Final Research Project Unit

Selection of Research Projects/Supervisors
Scholarly Activity – RESEARCH STREAM

- Selected by students who may pursue a medical research / clinical academic career in the future

- With appropriate combination of scholarly activity units will meet the criteria for direct entry into HDR degrees (PhD, Masters by research)
  - research training qualification = minimum of 12 points (2x6 point units) dedicated to a research project
  - individual project
  - preparation of a journal paper/ report
  - examined by two independent assessors

- Group projects will be allowed (but will not qualify students for HDR entry)
RESEARCH STREAM - Structure

- Unit 1- Foundations Unit (Yr2)
  - Research Integrity
  - Human and Animal Ethics Committees
  - Laboratory safety and other required training
    - Specific to research project

- Students will complete their Ethics applications and literature reviews as part of this unit
- Students with significant relevant research experience may be exempt from coursework/ training, but will need to complete the Ethics application and lit review
  - May commence research project instead
- Of the remaining 3 units, at least 2 must be research project units
RESEARCH STREAM - Structure (cont’d)

- Unit 2- Research Project unit 1 (Yr3)
  - Students commence research project
  - Prepare a research proposal
  - Present a seminar

- Unit 3- Research Project unit 2 (Yr3) (optional)
  - Students continue research project
  - Maintain a research journal/ lab book
  - Portfolio

May be replaced with a complementary research training coursework unit (e.g. Biostats 1), or a unit from a different Scholarly Activity stream
RESEARCH STREAM - Structure (cont’d)

Unit 4- Research Project unit 3 (Yr4)
- Students finalise their research projects
- Prepare a report (preferably as a journal article)
- Prepare an abstract and present their findings as a poster or oral presentation (preferably at a conference or meeting e.g. SHMRC)
- Be able to defend their research in response to questions from the audience/examiners
BENEFITS

- Students may be able to publish their research, and be able to present and defend their data
- Supervisors/ research teams will have more continuity with the student
  - Projects could continue for 2-3 years
  - Will be of greater benefit to both students and supervisors

PROJECT PROPOSALS

- Please think about suitable projects- we will be seeking proposals in early 2013
- Remember students will complete their background reading/ literature review AND Ethics submissions in Year 2, so the scope of the research they can undertake in Years 3 and 4 will be much more significant and mutually beneficial to supervisor and student
FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assoc/Prof Denese Playford (Co-Chair)</th>
<th>Assoc/Prof Sunalene Devadason (Co-Chair)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof David Kandiah</td>
<td>W/Prof George Yeoh</td>
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<td>Miss Erica Parker (RCSWA Student Rep)</td>
<td>Miss Melina Ielati (Executive Officer)</td>
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