MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TEACHING COMMITTEE OF THE
SCHOOL OF PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE AND PATHWEST
HELD IN THE TEN SELDAM SEMINAR ROOM 1.6, FIRST FLOOR, M BLOCK, QEII
MEDICAL CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2009

PRESENT
Clinical Professor Martyn French (Chair), Dr Jill Finlayson, Professor Jeff Hamdorf, Professor Jennet Harvey, Dr Liam O’Connor, Professor Don Robertson, Associate Professor Frank van Bockxmeer, Clinical Associate Professor Sam Vasikaran, Professor Paul Waring.

Ms Cora D’Souza (Minutes)

APOLOGIES
Dr Patricia Martinez, Associate Professor Patricia Price, Mr Brett Tizard.

DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
The Chair invited members to declare potential for conflict or perceived conflicts of interest with regard to items on the agenda. None were declared.

1 MINUTES
The minutes of the meeting of the Teaching Committee held on 8 January were confirmed as a true record.

2 BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Card Access for Committee Members
Professor Waring reported that those members who possess a University Campus Card have already been provided with access to M Block. Members who do not have access need to apply for Campus Cards. Application forms available from the School Manager, Mr Brett Tizard, need to be completed and then taken by the committee member to Student Administration, Hackett Hall, UWA along with photographic identification.

Action Committee members

2.2 Improving Teaching of Current Third and Fourth Years of MBBS Course
Professor Harvey reported that there had been a delay in the production of the Fourth Year Pathology programme. The 2009 timetable is essentially the same as that for last year, the only difference being that Clinical Biochemistry will be presented at the start of the year whereas Clinical Immunology will be taught in the later part of the year. Although this change has been made as a result of student feedback, Dr Martinez had subsequently expressed the view that it would be preferable for Clinical Immunology to be distributed over the whole year.

The Fourth Year Pathology course includes five 1-hour case-based tutorials each consisting of six cases. These are face-to-face tutorials presented by a pathologist at a multiheader microscope. There is scope for increasing case-based material in lectures, and Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran and Dr Martinez are working towards achieving this outcome.
Professor Waring noted that it will be useful for example templates to be created for the presentation of case-based content. He advised that the School will be making a 12-month part-time appointment to assist with the development of this aspect of curriculum delivery.

The Chair requested discipline teaching sub-groups to work on the details for the presentation of case-based content.

**Action**  Discipline teaching sub-groups

### 2.3 Upgrading Laboratory Skills During Current Fifth and Sixth Years of MBBS Course

As a result of preliminary discussions concerning the upgrading of laboratory skills, Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran made the following proposals in relation to Fifth and Sixth Year students:

- The introduction of elective periods for students with a special interest in Clinical Biochemistry which will provide opportunities for laboratory placements.

- The introduction of 1-2 day laboratory attachments for all students (maximum of 3-5 students at any one time).

Discussion of these options emphasised the need to develop the “bedside to laboratory” approach for all disciplines. In noting that logistical issues will need to be carefully managed, it was suggested that the creation of virtual cases will provide a means of avoiding difficulties associated with accompanying cases from bedside to laboratory.

**Action**  Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran

### 2.4 Update on Progress with Improving Current Path2201 Unit

In Associate Professor Price’s absence, this update was held over until the next meeting.

### 2.5 Proposed Changes to the Third Year of the BSc Degree

Associate Professor van Bockxmeer advised that he had been on leave and had only held some preliminary discussions concerning this matter.

### 2.6 Proposed Changes to Master of Laboratory Medicine (MLM) Degree

Professor Waring reported that the current MLM course caters to the needs of international students and does not address workforce issues experienced by PathWest. There is a need to reorganise the programme, in partnership with PathWest, to provide a mechanism for teaching medical laboratory scientists to specialise in their disciplines and to be trained in laboratory management. For PathWest staff, training will be on-the-job within the student’s workplace and will be supervised in part by Principal Scientists. For international students, among other study components, the course will include a laboratory placement in accordance with the student’s background and interest. Professor Waring advised that Clinical Associate Professor Richard Herrmann has expressed an interested in being involved in this initiative. It is possible that funding could be procured from the Federal Government to support the new programme. It is also hoped that PathWest will offer scholarships for its staff wishing to undertake the course.

**Action**  Professor Waring
3 **REPORT FROM FACULTY CURRICULUM RETREAT (5-6 FEBRUARY)**

Arising from the Faculty Curriculum Retreat, Professor Waring reported that the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (FMDHS) will be recommending the introduction of a graduate stand-alone medical degree. There was very little support within the Faculty for the Bachelor of Health degree to form the pathway for entry into the Doctor of Medicine degree course. Students with outstanding academic ability will have the option of undertaking a Bachelor of Philosophy degree from where they could proceed to the Doctor of Medicine degree. The new medical course will commence in 2015 and although there are no prerequisites, applicants will need to pass the GAMSAT examination.

It is important for PaLM to ensure that all disciplines in laboratory medicine are well represented in the new medical course. This restructuring also provides an opportunity for PaLM to reorganise its teaching in Science and for the FMDHS and the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences to strengthen their programmes for majors. Professor Waring advised that he will be commencing discussions with FLAPS on these issues.

**Action** Professor Waring

4 **UPDATE FROM DISCIPLINE GROUPS**

Teaching representatives provided the following update on progress to establish teaching sub groups:

- **Clinical Immunology**
  In Dr Martinez’ absence, the Chair reported that Dr Martinez had formed a Clinical Immunology Teaching Sub Group. The group had met to discuss case-based teaching.

- **Clinical Biochemistry**
  Although a teaching sub group for Clinical Biochemistry has not yet been formed, Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran had spoken to individual lecturers informing them of the need to move to case-based teaching.

- **Haematology**
  Dr Finlayson advised that the Haematology Teaching Sub Group had been formed although it had not yet held its first meeting. She expressed concern at the small amount of time available for the teaching of Haematology and the need to review the way in which the discipline is currently represented in the curriculum.

- **Anatomical Pathology**
  Professor Harvey reported that the Anatomical Pathology Teaching Sub Group had met in December 2008 and that she had also approached individual lecturers with regard to making their teaching more case oriented. One difficulty that had been expressed is the lack of time available to the pathologists to work up cases for this purpose. Professor Waring emphasised the need for lecturers to take responsibility for changing to this method of content delivery.

- **Infectious Diseases**
  Dr Liam O’Connor advised that he will approach Dr Ben Clark, Co-ordinator of Fourth Year Infectious Diseases, to assist with the move to case-based teaching of the discipline. He advised that some case-based material is already available on WebCT for Fourth Year. It was agreed that there are possibilities for blending the various disciplines into case-based teaching.

**Action** Discipline Teaching Sub Groups
5 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised.

6 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 12 March 2009 at 8.00am in the ten Seldam Seminar Room 1.6, First Floor, M Block, QEIIIMC.

The meeting closed at 8.55am.