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 THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2009

PRESENT
Clinical Professor Martyn French (Chair), Dr Jill Finlayson, Clinical Associate Professor Richard Herrmann, Associate Professor Patricia Price, Professor Don Robertson, Associate Professor Frank van Bockxmeer.

Ms Cora D’Souza (Minutes)

APOLOGIES
Professor Jeff Hamdorf, Professor Jennet Harvey, Professor David Ravine, Clinical Associate Professor Sam Vasikaran, Professor Paul Waring.

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 12 February were confirmed.

2 BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Update on Improving Current Third and Fourth Years of MBBS Course
In Professor Harvey’s absence, this update was held over until the next meeting.

2.2 Update on Improving Pathology Teaching in Fifth and Sixth Years of MBBS Course
In Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran’s absence, this update was held over until the next meeting.

2.3 Update on Progress on Improving PATH2201 Introduction to Human Disease
Associate Professor Price reported that improvements to the unit involved changes that had been agreed upon in relation to the laboratory component and the overall assessment of the unit. These would be introduced in Second Semester 2009. Approximately 50% of the students who complete PATH2201 enrol in third year Pathology units. Although minor modifications such as the addition of a Genetics component are possible, it is difficult to incorporate major changes without encroaching upon units presented in other schools. The unit is popular among students and there are no plans for further changes.

2.4 Proposed Changes to the Third Year of the BSc Degree
Associate Professor van Bockxmeer spoke to the attached Powerpoint presentation which had been prepared in order to initiate discussion. The current structure for majors in Pathology provides pathways for research and diagnostic careers. It was noted, however, that the diagnostic pathway required AIMS accreditation which is only available through degrees offered by Curtin University. Current arrangements do not provide for UWA courses to meet the AIMS accreditation requirement.
The discussion paper outlined three possible models for pathology majors. It was agreed that the paper would be circulated to members for further discussion at the next meeting. The Chair noted that the first step for the School would be to establish its strategic direction with regard to its teaching in Science. The second step would identify staff, laboratory and computing resources needed to deliver these units. These requirements would need to be addressed prior to any decision being taken with regard to changes to the Third Year Science units.

**Action**  Associate Professor van Bockxmeer

### 2.5 Proposed Changes to the MLM Degree

The Chair advised that Clinical Associate Professor Richard Herrmann had agreed to take on the role of co-ordinating the restructure of the Master of Laboratory Medicine course. He noted the general view that the MLM should be aimed at providing medical laboratory scientists, working within PathWest, with a mechanism to advance their careers.

Associate Professor Herrmann advised that the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists does not recognise the MLM as fulfilling the qualifications required by medical laboratory scientists. He noted the need for this industrial issue to be resolved in order to provide a rationale for the course. Associate Professor Herrmann reported that he had met with Professor Waring, Mr Brett Tizard, Ms Janette Judge and Mr Paul Sheehan to determine the way forward. Professor Waring had suggested that he establish a working group of medical laboratory scientists from each of the disciplines.

Associate Professor Price noted that course fees for the MLM were significant and suggested that this be reduced if possible.

**Action**  Clinical Associate Professor Herrmann

### 3 UPDATE FROM DISCIPLINE GROUPS

#### 3.1 Update on Formation of Discipline Teaching Groups and their Activities (including MBBS, BSc and MLM)

- **Haematology**
  Dr Finlayson advised that a Haematology Teaching Sub Group consisting of consultants and scientists had been established. The group is examining possibilities within the existing curriculum to switch to case-based teaching. The long-term aim of the group is to present core topics in the new curriculum in a manner which integrates laboratory medicine teaching with clinical teaching. Dr Finlayson noted that assessment weightings are integral to the determination of how the curriculum is presented as this relates directly to the extent of student effort.

  During discussion of the wider issues concerning the presentation of the curriculum, it was agreed that there is a need to make adequate budgetary provisions for greater computing facilities.

  The Chair noted that the School will be making an appointment to assist with the development of the case-based aspect of curriculum delivery.

### 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Discussion regarding Existing MSc Degree and Possible Master of Molecular Medicine Degree (in conjunction with FLaPS)

The Chair reported that Professor Waring had held preliminary discussions with the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences with regard to the possibility of a joint Master of Molecular Medicine degree.
During discussion, Associate Professor Price clarified that the MSc, PhD and MMedSc were research programmes administered by the Graduate Research School. The MSc is considered a useful safety net for those who wish to undertake a PhD but who may not meet initial entry requirements for PhD candidature. The MMedSc contains provision for students to undertake research in a range of areas, e.g. molecular medicine, immunology, microbiology, and could provide an appropriate framework for postgraduate study in Molecular Medicine.

Professor Don Robertson undertook to discuss the proposed programme with the Head of the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences, and report back to the next meeting.

**Action** Professor Robertson

5 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 9 April 2009 at 8.00am in the ten Seldam Seminar Room 1.6, First Floor, M Block, QEIIIMC.

The meeting closed at 9.05 am.