

Inaugural Health Care Team Challenge held

The inaugural Australian event was held on 4 April, 2007.

The Challenge featured three interprofessional student teams who competed to present the best health treatment plan for a person with complex needs. The event held at the St. Lucia Campus attracted an audience of 200 students, academics, clinicians and community sponsors. The State Health Minister, Mr Stephen Robertson voiced his support for the future of the event in his speech and presented the student prizes.

Three teams of nine students, with representatives from the disciplines of audiology, dentistry, exercise physiology, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy and speech pathology were given three weeks to work on a client case study. The task included an interview of an 'expert' client and collaborative development of a healthcare management plan. The teams presented their plans and were then given several 'complications' that required them to quickly plan their responses and present their modified plans to the audience.

According to Project Coordinator, Ms Monica Moran, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, all the teams more than achieved the goals of the event. Positive student feedback on the event has flowed in.

"The Challenge is all about students learning to practice in a team and the process really happened in the preparation stage, during the preceding three weeks, when the students met by themselves, after hours, to work on the case. They were all very dedicated and committed to their teams and really are all winners. Their performances on the night inspired the younger students, who now want to participate next year," Ms Moran said.

Faculty of Health Sciences Director of Studies, Professor Helen Chenery, said the event offered students an important opportunity.

"Most health science professionals do not get to experience inter-professional practice on a significant level until they graduate or achieve their relevant qualifications," Professor Chenery said.

"The UQ Health Care Team Challenge not only gives students the chance to extend their knowledge about the dynamics and possible challenges of modern healthcare, but also enhances their knowledge about other health professions and their respective roles in the clinical area," she said.

The UQ Faculty of Health Sciences is committed to the success of the UQ HCTC and aims to embed the competition as an annual fixture within the life of the University. The Faculty strongly believes that by building on existing initiatives, this unique approach to IPE will respond to practice arena demands where worldwide workforce reform is driving the need for a team ready worker.

The original concept for the Challenge, developed by Ms Moran and the School of Pharmacy's Dr Rosalie Boyce, was modelled on similar competitions run by a small number of North American universities, specifically the University of British Columbia.

Organisers wish to thank all students and staff involved in the event and in particular the judges:
Dr Bernadette Watson, Lecturer in Communications, School of Psychology, UQ
Ms Karen Martin, Occupational Therapy, Community Services Manager, Redland Centre, Blue Care
Ms Glenys Webby, Physiotherapy, Allied Health Manager, Brisbane Region, Blue Care
Ms Jann Offer, Speech Pathology, Regional Care Manager, Suncoast Hinterland Region, Blue Care
Ms Lyndell Turton, Nursing, Director of Nursing, Sandgate Centre, Blue Care.



Photography - Chris Stacey, The University of Queensland