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Australian Centre for Complementary Medicine

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

A MESSAGE FOR CLIENTS AND ASSOCIATES

Joint venture changes from 1 July, 2006 to expand services

The University of Queensland and Southern Cross University are about to expand their services to the complementary medicine sector with a more commercial, needs-oriented offering to clients.

With worldwide consumer usage of complementary medicine products growing rapidly every year, the two universities are now set to use resources across both their institutions to ensure high quality information, advice and laboratory-based scientific analysis, product testing and clinical trials are available to the complementary medicine sector.

The University of Queensland and Southern Cross University are highly experienced in complementary medicine. Five years ago, they joined forces to establish the Australian Centre for Complementary Medicine Education & Research – also known as ACCMER. In the last five years, ACCMER has been a significant contributor to global knowledge of complementary medicine development and usage, and specifically, the integration and interaction of complementary and conventional medicine.

Chairman of the ACCMER Board, Dr Julian Clark, said “ACCMER has established a strong brand in the community in the past five years but it is structured as a small centre and hence operates with limited resources. The two universities have recognised that they have so many more resources and expertise to offer complementary medicine.”

“The Board of ACCMER has agreed that as of 1 July, 2006, ACCMER will be restructured to become the portal through which industry can access the research, clinical trial facilities and education products of the two universities and even beyond, to help such businesses meet the increasingly competitive and challenging needs of their sector. The plan is for ACCMER to project manage the application of a wider pool of expertise and facilities than it currently has available.”

The University of Queensland’s Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Peter Brooks, said he was pleased to be part of the evolution of ACCMER.

“The new structure should help meet an industry need, particularly where there are complex problems needing skills of a multidisciplinary team for their investigation,” Professor Brooks said.

The Executive Dean of Health and Applied Sciences at Southern Cross University, Professor Jenny Graham, said “ACCMER’s new structure will ensure better access for industry to the key universities at the forefront of conventional and complementary medicine.”

“With complementary medicine businesses needing to provide the evidence-base for any of their product claims, ACCMER can source appropriate expertise from The University of Queensland or Southern Cross University and if it is not available from those institutions, ACCMER can link to other organisations as necessary, providing an attractive one-stop shop for expertise and facilities,” Professor Graham said.

Clients of ACCMER can continue to access the Centre by contacting the CEO, Beryl Morris, whose immediate focus will be on servicing existing relationships and building new business links. The best way to contact ACCMER is via an email to accmer@uq.edu.au. As the restructure takes shape, information bulletins about services and expertise will be published on the ACCMER web site at www.accmer.edu.au.