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MEDIA RELEASE

Health Students in National Healthcare Battle

Health students from universities across Australia will battle it out in the first national HealthFusion Team Challenge (OzHFTC) at The University of Queensland next week.

Students from five universities will compete in the event. They will test their knowledge and teamwork skills, as they present a management plan, for a patient with complex needs, to an expert panel.

Teams that make the final will be faced with extra patient complications and will need to work quickly to respond. They will have three minutes to plan their response and three minutes to present their modified plan.

This is the third time UQ has held a healthcare team challenge, but for the first time will compete against student from Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, Monash University and Curtin University. Observers are expected from the University of Melbourne, University of Canberra and Bond University. It will be the only public event of its type in the world.

Teams will include student representatives from a wide range of professions and will reflect the current health workforce, with the traditional professions joined by nutritionists, social workers, psychologists, paramedics and podiatrists.

Dr Monica Moran, one of the event's project directors, said the aim of the OzHFTC was to highlight the importance of a teamwork approach to healthcare.

“This event is a unique student learning activity that promotes excellence in teamwork, with the ultimate aim of helping to prepare graduates to provide optimum patient care.

Faculty of Health Sciences Deputy Executive Dean (Academic), Professor Helen Chenery said the concept of health students in different disciplines working as a team was a relatively new concept in universities.

“In our health system, effective healthcare teams are now seen as critical to best practice patient care, particularly in the management of chronic diseases. Universities are now working on integrating interprofessional education (IPE) so that graduates are prepared.

“UQ is a leader in this area, with all health students are required to complete IPE activities as part of their assessment.

“This ensures students understand that their profession is not an isolated silo of knowledge and skills, but that they have an important role to play as part of a health delivery team,” Prof Chenery said.

She said the OzHCTC represented the culmination of several years work by the Faculty to promote IPE in health faculties throughout Australia.

The OzHCTC will be held at the UQ Centre, St Lucia Campus on Friday, 7 August. Heats will be held from noon to 2pm and finals from 4pm to 5.30pm.

Media inquiries: Faculty Communications Officer, Marlene McKendry - 0401 99 6847.