



## AUT Liaison Report: 2007 - 2008

### Diploma Papers

Overall feedback for the diploma has been generally positive. Trained technicians are now more aware of what the award entails and how best to support their trainees both in theory and practice.

The three anaesthesia papers (I, II, III) have been revised again to take account of feedback from last year.

Anaesthesia I – AUT is grateful to Tania Kennedy for all her hard work marking and revising this paper for the past 3 years. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Eddie Griffiths (Timaru) and Shawn McFlinn (Palmerston North) for their significant contribution as well.

### Anaesthetic Technology I

Based on feedback from the Work Place Assessors course this manual has been revised to reduce ambiguity. Thank you to Kaylene Henderson for her continued input into this paper.

### Anaesthesia II

This is has also been managed extremely efficiently by Kaylene Henderson who has been responsible for both marking and assessment. Numbers for this course will almost double next year and so help may be required in 2009. Kaylene reports that worksheets have generally been completed to a high standard by trainees with a good submission record for most.

### Anaesthetic Technology II

This manual was re-written for 2008 on the basis of feedback from the previous years. The manuals have been checked twice this year by National Assessors and the observed standard is high with expectations of the manual generally being met. It is still the expectation that trainees should be assessed during their case studies but there is the option for them to discuss them retrospectively with an assessor if staffing levels do not permit supervision. Feedback this year will be taken on board for 2009 / 10.

### Anaesthesia III

Lynne van de Waardt (Palmerston North) has continued to manage this challenging paper and complete most of the marking. Thank you to her for her time and dedication. We also thank Annie Gordon (Starship Hospital) for her input into the paediatric worksheets and those anaesthetists from Palmerston North who assist with the pharmacology worksheets. It is disappointing that trainees still do not complete worksheets consistently for this paper despite the 10% loading towards the final marks. Educators must endeavour to encourage their trainees to complete these worksheets as the information required in them is essential learning intended to underpin best practice in the clinical setting.

### Block Courses

These ran well this year and received good feedback. It is getting increasingly difficult to recruit tutors to teach on these courses due to short staffing (technicians and anaesthetists) and so in 2009 we are going to widen our scope to include tutors from further a field. To this end, we will be asking for your help well in advance of block courses so that Charge Technicians can roster to support this.

The Anaesthesia II block course will be reformatted for 2009 to make it an interactive, on-line learning experience for trainees which can be done from their own hospitals. This is in response to discussions about the value of the one day course to trainees travelling from all over New Zealand to attend. The learning experience will be equivalent with the quality of the information being more consistent. It is essential therefore that all trainees are allocated time to access computers at work in order to facilitate this.

The AMERAT Course was again a favourite for the trainees who value the input from anaesthetists and the experience gained during the simulation. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic support this course receives from two Anaesthetic Consultants; Matt Taylor (Middlemore Hospital) and Karen Pedersen (Auckland City Hospital). I would also like to thank Patricia O'Brien for her expert help and support in the organisation of this course. We anticipate that there will need to be 3 AMERAT courses in 2009 to cater for the student cohort.

In 2009 we aim to introduce an extra session in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year block course programme to tutor trainees on the requirements for the Registration Exam. They will be given opportunities to practice OSCE stations and discuss exam technique for both sections of this important exam. We feel this is especially important given the recent changes to the format of this exam.

### **National Assessments**

2008 will have seen 5 National Assessments hosted by hospitals throughout NZ. These have been very successful with excellent pass rates reflecting the good standard of machine check practice by trainees. Liaison with AUT is essential prior to travel arrangements being booked for these assessments as times vary depending on participant numbers.

### **Changes to AUT papers**

AUT are moving away from specialist papers to a more generic format. Biophysics and HAP papers in particular are affected.

Biophysics – remains essentially the same with emphasis on the physics applied to the human body and instrumentation but it will include a section on mechanics and computers in addition in 2009.

Anatomy and physiology papers are undergoing changes. Semester 1 HAP will now cover the *whole human body*. Semester 2 will focus on selected organ systems at a higher academic level than previously. It is anticipated that the semester 1 paper will be adequate for our training programme and this therefore opens up the opportunity to introduce another specialist paper into our programme for semester 2 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. This is currently being explored by NZATS and AUT.

Charge Technicians and Educators should also be aware that the semester length has changed from 14 weeks to 12 but the content remains unchanged. In practical terms this means that trainees have an additional hour of independent study to complete every week.

### **Communication with training hospitals**

Communication between AUT and training hospitals is still in need of improvement. We acknowledge that some Supervisors of Training are not necessarily the best point of contact from AUT. In order to address this National Assessors have been allocated to specific hospitals as a point of contact and these will be advised in due course by AUT. They will be able to assist with enquiries directly or forward them to myself or AUT. Trainees are required to make enquiries via their Educator or Charge Technician only. National Assessors also have a group email which has helped with discussion around the machine check standards this year. AUT will do the same for Charge Technicians and Educators in order to ensure they are receiving relevant information regarding timetables and changes. It is a commitment from NZATS that improved communication will be a particular focus in 2009 and any suggestions from members are welcome.

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