

2009

Master of Medicine (Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine)



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA



The University of Queensland

The University of Queensland (UQ) is one of Australia's premier learning and research institutions. It is the oldest university in Queensland and has produced generations of graduates who have gone on to become leaders in all areas of society and industry.

The University is a founding member of the national Group of Eight, an alliance of research-strong "sandstone" universities committed to ensuring that Australia has higher education institutions which are genuinely world class. It belongs also to the global Universitas 21 alliance.

The School of Medicine works in partnership with a dedicated community of scholars, clinicians and stakeholders from a wide range of disciplines (both domestically and internationally) to deliver excellence in medical education by providing inspirational professional development opportunities for doctors and healthcare practitioners.

Letter from the Master's Program Director

Dear Colleague,

This Master of Medicine degree is by coursework rather than research, the learning program is structured and clearly set out to provide a comprehensive review of skin cancer practice. The workload has been carefully designed to be manageable for busy Doctors who want to further their understanding of their work over the equivalent of one year of full time study. Graduates of the Masters program will hold a postgraduate degree that formally acknowledges a higher level of knowledge and skill in this field. Masters Alumni are invited and encouraged to maintain a connection to the University after graduation. Masters Alumni have opportunities to contribute to Masters courses and examinations and to mentor future Masters students. Completion of the Masters also fulfils all of Part 1 for the pathway to Fellowship of the Skin Cancer College of Australia and New Zealand.

Since the launch of the Masters in 2006, the program has evolved to be a well established collection of quality practical learning experiences with a clear focus on cutaneous malignancy. Masters graduates have greater confidence in appropriately managing more advanced work in a professional manner.

I look forward to meeting you in due course

Dr John Pyne
Program Director



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Essentials

The Master of Medicine (Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine) is a 16 unit Masters degree which consists of

- Six 2-unit courses
- One 4-unit course
- One compulsory Surgical workshop

The program, abbreviated to MMed(SkinCancer), is only offered externally and is delivered online. Five of the seven courses have end of semester exams which are conducted in hard copy format at the University campus or University of Queensland External Testing Centre (located across Australia and internationally).

The MMed(SkinCancer) program can be studied in a full time capacity in one year or part-time equivalent.

Entry Requirements

Students in the MMed(SkinCancer) must have an MBBS with a minimum 2 year of clinical experience in Skin Cancer Practice.

It is expected students will be actively practicing in general practice or in skin cancer medicine during their study.

Mission

To improve patient outcomes within the primary care skin cancer setting.

Objectives

Upon completion, doctors should be skilled in diagnosis and management of skin cancer in a primary care setting, specifically:

- Have a detailed understanding of the structure and function of the skin
- Understand the epidemiology of skin cancer and regional human anatomy
- Be able to undertake a consultation (history and examination) for a skin check
- Ability to assess skin lesions through dermoscopy and dermal imaging and be competent in differential diagnosis
- Ability to advise and manage the most appropriate treatment by using medical, surgical therapeutic and/or pharmacotherapy in partnership with the patient
- Have a sound understanding of how to minimise indemnity risk in their practice
- Know when to refer patient for further opinion of more advanced treatment
- Demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism

Courses

MED7001: Core Knowledge and Professional Practice

Core Knowledge and Professional Practice is a foundation subject for the Masters covering the core concepts in Skin Cancer Medicine. Key content areas include: the normal anatomy, development of and physiology of the skin, the biology and pathology of skin cancer, principles of dermatology in primary care (including terminology), risk factors for the development of skin cancer and associated conditions, skin cancer incidence and mortality and skin cancer prevention.

IMED7002: Common Clinical Problems

Another foundation subject, Common Clinical Problems looks closely at clinically problematic lesions. To learn the main clinical features, differential diagnosis, and approaches to diagnosis for all common benign, pre-malignant and malignant skin lesions, will be covered in detail along with a number of rare, but important malignant skin lesions. A number of uncommon benign, pre-malignant and malignant skin lesions will also be covered.

IMED7003: Assessment & Diagnosis

In Assessment & Diagnosis, students will quickly move through a review of clinical history and examination relevant for skin cancer assessment and diagnosis before detailed modules on dermoscopy. These modules will begin with a discussion of the background of dermoscopy, equipment and epidemiology, then cover basic dermoscopy (the 3-point checklist) and finally advanced methods of assessment and diagnosis of skin cancer, particularly melanoma. Additional modules follow augmenting the use of dermoscopy in clinical skin cancer medicine in the primary care environment including simple clinical photography, teledermatology and interpretation of histodermpathology results.

IMED7004: Therapeutics 1: Medical Treatments

This course has a two fold purpose: i) to gain a sound knowledge of medical treatments and ii) the therapeutic relationships in clinical practice. Students will learn the medical alternatives to surgery, including medications, cryotherapy and photo-dynamic therapy. Medical Treatment outlines patient education and appropriate patient care including referrals.

IMED7005: Therapeutics 2: Surgical Repair

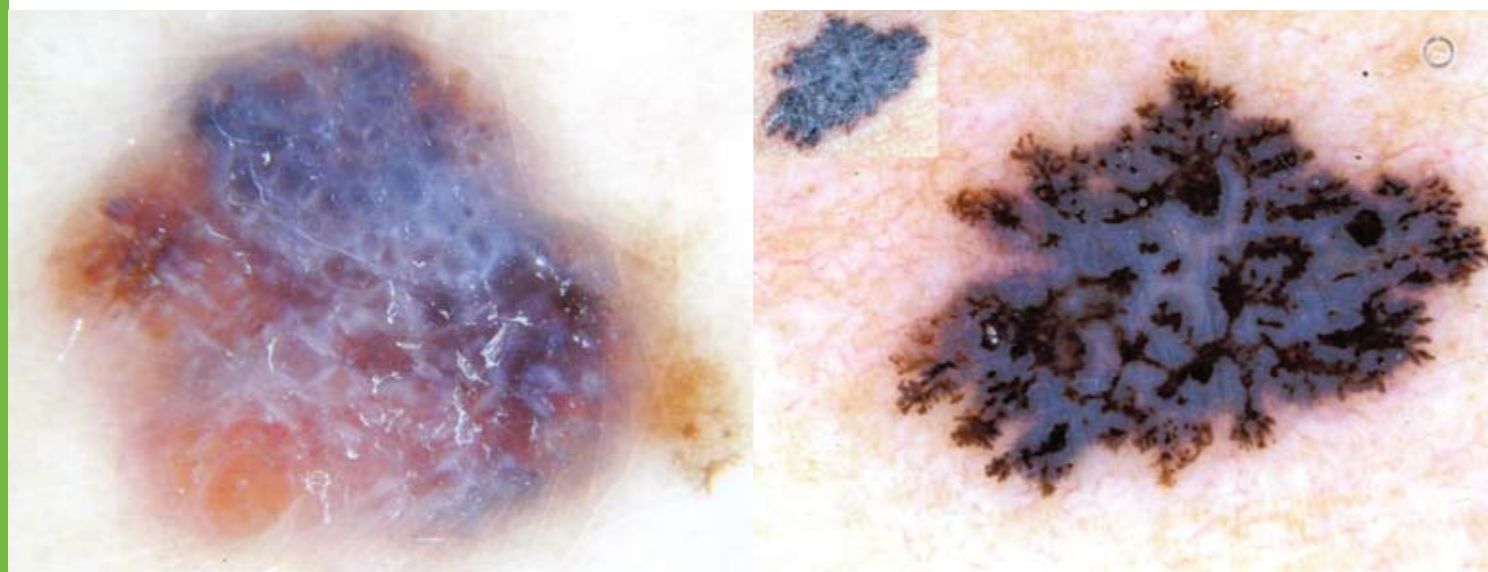
As the name suggests, Surgical Repair teaches the procedures to safely and effectively excise skin cancers and other lesions. From completing a biopsy, including its interpretation, right through to situations where closure by a simple suture is not possible, this course covers a range of clinical cases, plus simple flap and skin graft. The 2-day compulsory surgical workshop is included in IMED7005's course fees.

IMED7006/7: Integrative Clinical Discussion

This course will form the crux of developing and assessing doctor's clinical practice in skin cancer medicine. This will involve a series of clinical cases that will require active engagement from each student, discussion will be conducted online with a clinical expert. These will prepare students to complete a portfolio of their clinical work including case summary, photographs, and interpretations.

IMED7008/9: Critical Thinking and Research Principles

Introduction to critical thinking, assessment of relevance and validity of research evidence, and evidence based evaluation of everyday clinical practice. Students will critically appraise research papers, apply research evidence to clinical practice and develop, undertake and evaluate a clinical audit of a specific aspect of their clinical practice.



Fees

\$1,365 per unit for Australian Postgraduate Students

\$1,600 per unit for International Students

Students pay at the beginning of each semester for the courses being undertaken in that time period (eg If a domestic student was only taking IMED7001 (2 units) in semester 1, the total fees to be paid for semester 1 would be \$1365 x 2= \$2730).

Domestic students are also eligible for FEE-HELP, a government assistance scheme in which repayments are repaid through tax over time.

Financial Credit

The University does not expect students to unnecessarily “re-learn” material or expect students to pay “unnecessary” course material. However, we have an absolute obligation to quality, and especially quality in assessment. As such we need to be sure that when we grant credit we do so against explicit standards, so that we can confident in terms of equivalence.

If a student feels that he/she has already covered all the material contained in one or more of the Master of Medicine courses, he/she may apply for financial credit. We call this credit financial because all students who apply for ‘credit’ or ‘recognition of prior learning’ are required to successfully complete the university assessment for the Masters course for which financial credit has been applied. This is a rule that has been introduced to ensure the quality and credibility of the program. Once the assessment requirements are complete, credit will be granted for the course and this will be noted on the student’s transcript. For more information, please visit www.skincancermasters.com.

The following is a table of common courses for which financial credit is often awarded:

Organisation	Program	Subject for which financial credit is awarded
HealthCert	Certificate in Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine	IMED7001
HealthCert	Certificate in Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging	IMED7003
HealthCert	Certificate in Skin Cancer Surgery	IMED7005
Skin Cancer College of Australia and New Zealand	Australian Diploma of Dermoscopy	IMED7003
Graz University	International Diploma of Dermoscopy	IMED7003

Staff



Dr John Pyne

Program Director; IMED7001 & IMED7008 Course Coordinator

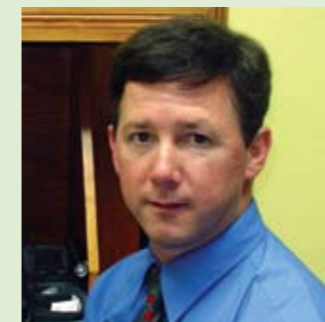
John served in the Australian Military (Army) prior to studying Medicine. He is a Sydney graduate with 20 years clinical experience. John has previous appointments to the Melanoma Unit, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney and St George Skin Cancer Clinic, St George Private Hospital, Kogarah, Sydney. John completed the Master of Medicine (Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine) at UQ in 2007 and is currently practicing in Private Skin Cancer Practice at Miranda (Sydney).



Prof Giuseppe Argenziano

IMED7003 Course Coordinator

Currently working as a Professor of Dermatology at the Second University of Naples, Italy, Giuseppe graduated in 1992 and holds a specialized diploma in dermatology and venereology. With a growing list of publications, Giuseppe is an active researcher into the diagnosis and early recognition of Melanoma.



Dr Tim Hackett

IMED7002 Course Coordinator

Tim has worked full time in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine since 2003. Prior to this, he worked for 15 years as a full time GP in his own general practice. His current practice involves assessment of patients for skin cancer, dermoscopy of the skin (including short and long term monitoring), diagnosis and surgical treatment of melanoma, diagnosis of non-melanoma skin cancer and treatment via a number of surgical and non surgical treatments (including Metvix PDT and generic ALA) and reconstruction of small to medium facial defects with a range of flaps and grafts.



Dr Tony Dicker

IMED7004 Course Coordinator

Tony has spent the past 3 years practicing full time skin cancer medicine in Melbourne, and the previous 2 years practicing skin cancer medicine in Brisbane. Prior to this he obtained his PhD in molecular biology of skin cancer with Professor Ian Frazer’s group at Princess Alexandra Hospital and Queensland University in Brisbane, then spent three years as a dermatology registrar at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, Princess Alexandra hospital, and the private practice dermatology registrar position. He graduated from Monash University in 1989.

Staff

IMED7005 Course Coordinator

Alan has worked full time in skin cancer medicine for the past 5 years, when his long-term special interest overtook the rest of his general practice. His practice has a strong emphasis on monitoring and treatment of high-risk patients. Alan maintains other educational commitments, co-editing multiple websites. His current research interests include dermoscopy algorithms and dermoscopy of non melanoma skin cancer, areas where he is a published author.



Dr Alan Cameron

IMED7006 Course Coordinator

Paul has worked full time in Skin Cancer Medicine and Surgery since 2002. He received his medical degree at Sydney University, then worked in general practice for 5 years prior to doing his post-graduate training in dermatology and skin cancer medicine. He has completed the Diploma in Practical Dermatology and the Master of Medicine Degree (Skin Cancer). He holds fellowships in both the RACGP as well as the Skin Cancer College of Australia. Paul has been involved with skin cancer education and training for doctors in his role as Chief Censor of the Skin Cancer College of Australia.



Dr Paul Fishburn

Mentors Program

We realise that studying through the MMed(SkinCancer) program as an external student studying online can feel isolated compared to other degrees. In 2008, we launched the mentors program which is an informal network of student and graduate of the MMed program.

To be part of the mentors program, you need to contact Caroline Irlle (see contacts). Interested students are assigned a mentor in the first instance by geographic area. The reasoning behind this is to allow contact between student and mentor possible face to face if desired as well as by phone and email. If a student is overseas, they may be given a choice between another overseas student, so both have an appreciation from an international standpoint, or Australian residing mentor as to have support from an Australian standpoint. If you would like a mentor, and have preferences as to where and what contact you wish to have, please specify this in your first point of contact.

Clinical Attachments

The aim of the clinical attachment sessions is to give Master's students exposure to the clinical landscape of Skin Cancer Medicine.

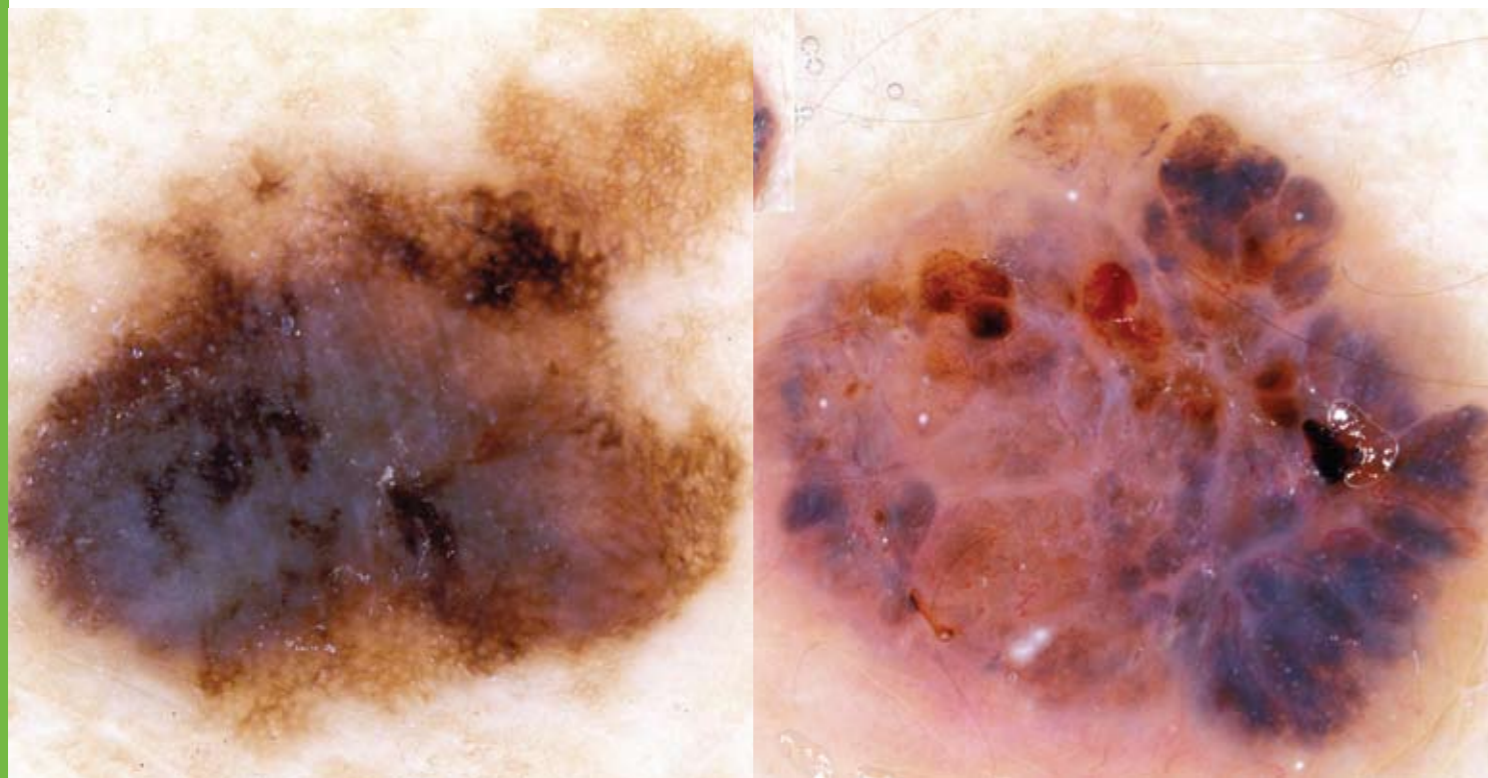
Students have an opportunity to observe and participate in clinics with Australia's leading experts in Skin Cancer Medicine. Sessions range from online training to participating as surgical assistants. We will be launching Clinical Attachments in 2009.

Application Process

The application process happens in 2 stages.

The first stage is registration of interest by sending an "Application for Registration" form. Confirmation emails will be applicant's receipt of submission.

Within 2 months of the next intake, a secondary application form, titled "Application for Postgraduate coursework" will be posted. This form goes into more details regarding applicants' qualifications and experience. When lodging this form, applicants need to submit a current resume as well as an original or certified copy of a University MBBS (or medical degree equivalent) academic transcript. Once more, a confirmation email will be sent once all documents have been received.



Important Dates 2009

Date	
31 January 2009	Last Date for Primary Application Forms Submission for Semester 1
16 February 2009	Last Date for Secondary Application Form Submission
13 February 2009	Due Date to enrol in Courses for Semester 1
02 March 2009	First Day of Semester 1 2009
13 June 2009	Exam Period Begins
27 June 2009	Semester 1 2009 ends
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19 June 2009	Last Date for Primary Application Form Submission for Semester 2
03 July 2009	Last Date for Secondary Application Forms for entry in Semester 2
17 July 2009	Due Date to Enrol in Courses for Semester 2
27 July 2009	First Day of Semester 2 2009
07 November 2009	Exam Period Begins
21 November 2009	Semester 2 2009 ends





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Further Information

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