First clinical supervision awards night

More than 170 representatives of the health and education sector attended the Clinical Supervision Inaugural Awards Night on 12 September at the Perth Town Hall.

It was a much-anticipated event that gave members the opportunity to celebrate the quality of clinical supervision in Western Australia and to acknowledge the important role that clinical educators play.

The Clinical Supervision Awards were presented by WA Health in partnership with the WA Clinical Training Network, Health Workforce Australia and the Art of Clinical Supervision. The WACTN would like to congratulate all nominees and award winners. We look forward to continuing to support clinical supervision in WA. Winners in the four categories were:

**CATEGORY 1 – EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL SUPERVISION**
- **Nursing and Midwifery:** Robyn Bozsa – Registered Midwife/Registered Nurse, St John of God Subiaco
- **Allied Health and Health Sciences:** Sarah Prickett – Occupational Therapist, WA Country Health Service – Midwest
- **Medicine:** Donald Howarth – GP, Banksia Medical (Esperance)
- **Dental:** Robert Fisher – Regional Dental Officer, Dental Education Unit, Dental Health Services

**CATEGORY 2 – EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL SUPERVISION**
- Kristy Tomlinson – Clinical Facilitator, Go Global (Curtin University)

**CATEGORY 3 – INNOVATION IN CLINICAL SUPERVISION**
- REACH – REACH Population Health Checks Team, Central Institute of Technology

**CATEGORY 4 – LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO CLINICAL SUPERVISION**
- Antonia Bagshawe – Director Medical Specialties (ret), WA Health

Members of the Mental Health, Primary Care and Interprofessional Learning (IPL) Communities of Interest (CoI) groups welcomed representatives of the WACTN Steering Group to a project presentation workshop on 20 September. This workshop allowed CoI members to showcase their collaborative efforts and to seek feedback on their emerging CoI project proposals.

This was the fourth in a series of CoI workshops for participants. Throughout the series, CoI participants have developed a Charter for each CoI and have identified the following as key opportunities to further improve the quality and quantity of clinical placements in WA:

- Developing a statewide clinical placement management system;
- Enhancing support for clinical supervisors;
- Identifying international best practice Mental Health/Primary Care/Interprofessional Learning (IPL) clinical placement models;
- Developing, maintaining and growing the CoIs through joint leverage of key stakeholders;
- Promoting the benefits of mental health, primary care and IPL clinical placements to students;
- Developing a generic clinical placement toolkit for health service providers; and
- Developing a clinical placement mentor program.

From these opportunities, CoI members identified priorities and formed four project working groups to collaboratively develop project scope statements. The four projects presented to the WACTN Steering Group for feedback related to:

- Developing benchmarks and standards for clinical placements in each context (mental health, primary care and IPL);
- Developing an IPL clinical placement toolkit for health service providers;
- Developing a marketing strategy that promotes the broad range of health settings in which professionals work; and
- Developing and piloting a clinical supervisor mentor (buddy) program.

WACTN Steering Group Members were encouraged by the level of passion exhibited by the CoI members and look forward to supporting these proposals further.
The potential of simulation-based learning to help equip students for the realities of the workplace is something that WACTN steering group Professor Cobie Rudd would like to see more broadly recognised and understood.

Cobie is Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Health Advancement) and Professor of Mental Health at Edith Cowan University (ECU) and leads a major research project within ECU’s Collaborative Research Network program to develop evidence-based models of health care and the subsequent educational approaches required.

As one of five National Teaching Fellows appointed by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching in 2011, she investigated the uptake of learning through simulation in health on a national scale and saw the potential that this type of learning has to offer.

“The use of simulation-based education and training is growing rapidly in most health disciplines in Australia – there was a 30 per cent increase in simulation education hours delivered in 2012 compared to 2011 according to Health Workforce Australia – and this is a trend consistent throughout the developed world,” she explains.

“Not only does it provide experiential learning in a safe environment without compromising patient safety, but it enables students to be exposed to rare, complex and high-risk clinical situations that many would miss out on in traditional clinical placements.

“Learning through simulation – particularly when the focus is on human factors – can play a very important educational role because the learning environment can be manipulated to reflect the reasons behind why things sometimes go wrong.

“Of course, how simulation can be vertically and horizontally integrated throughout curricula for all health professions in the context of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme still needs to be resolved. This will require a collaborative approach between clinicians, researchers, academics and regulators.”

Like other steering group members, Cobie is concerned that finding quality clinical placements for students is becoming an increasingly difficult task.

“There has been a marked growth in undergraduate student enrolments in Australian university health courses in the past decade, to the point where there are mounting reports of an unsustainable mismatch between demand and supply of clinical placements,” she elaborates.

“The potential for continued growth, and the implications for clinical training capacity, also need to be considered in the context of the future skills shortage that the nation is expected to face in some health disciplines and geographical regions.

“Developing innovative clinical training programs to increase the number and diversity of quality clinical placements available to students will continue to be a real challenge, given the scope of the collaborations required and the critical need for achieving sustainability.”

(See also the clinical simulation update article this edition)

New Initiative for clinical supervisors

The National Clinical Supervision Skills Initiative has been established as part of Health Workforce Australia’s (HWA) new agreement for Clinical Supervision Support Program (CSSP).

The National Clinical Supervision Competency Resource sets the benchmark for the Skills Initiative by enabling a consistent and transparent approach to the provision of quality interprofessional clinical supervision education and training programs.

Facilitated by WACTN, the Skills Initiative aims to deliver a range of interprofessional education and training opportunities for new and existing clinical supervisors across Western Australia, including (but not limited to) face-to-face workshops, seminars, short courses and/or extended courses.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the recent survey about clinical supervision practices. The survey builds an important picture of the skill level and support needs of clinical supervisors in Western Australia. The survey was distributed across health and education sectors – encompassing public, private, and not-for-profit organisations. Information from this survey will be used to help determine the most beneficial education and training options for clinical supervisors in Western Australia.

If you would like to get involved with the Skills Initiative or for further information, please contact Ana Mairata (08) 9222 2101 or ana.mairata@health.wa.gov.au

Clinical simulation update

The Clinical Simulation Support Unit (CSSU) was established in January 2012 as a result of recommendations in the WA Health Simulation Training Strategy. The mission of the CSSU is to provide a nucleus of expertise and coordinate statewide simulation learning across professions, disciplines and sectors.

A great deal of work has been accomplished by the CSSU. Significant initiatives funded by Health Workforce Australia (HWA) have added to the capacity of simulation learning in WA. These include establishment of a Central Maintenance Unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, development of interprofessional learning resources with Edith Cowan University and the distribution of research grants to investigate simulated learning environments.

Rebecca Crellin has recently been appointed as the Simulated Learning Environments (SLE) Lead for WA within the new HWA funding agreement. Her role is to provide leadership in the planning, development and analysis of system-wide strategic workforce initiatives aimed at meeting interprofessional simulation training requirements.

Rebecca can be contacted via email Rebecca.Crellin@health.wa.gov.au or phone her on (08) 9222 2334.

Please visit the CSSU website http://www.health.wa.gov.au/simulationlearning/home/ and subscribe to the e-newsletter.

WA Health Awards 2013

WACTN is again sponsoring the Excellence in Clinical Training Award at the WA Health Awards. The award ceremony will be held on 19 November 2013 and the nominations will be judged on how effectively they have increased clinical placement activity and quality through engagement with stakeholders. WACTN would like to wish the best of luck to all entrants. For further information please visit the WA Health Conference and Awards 2013 website.

HWA national conference

Health Workforce Australia will hold its 2013 National Conference in Adelaide from 18-20 November. This year’s theme is ‘Skilled and Flexible’. For further information about the conference or to register your interest, please visit HWA’s website.