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The meeting was held to give the students a chance to meet each other and the staff at the Centre for International Health. One student came from as far afield as Falcon, which is a small beach side town about 80km south of Perth. We talked about each others professional expectations and interests in international health. We discovered lots of interesting things about one another; one of these was the fact that, between us we spoke, in addition to English, 22 different languages ranging from Cantonese to Arabic to Italian.

The meeting was deemed a success by students and staff alike. Some of the students’ responses to the meeting are recorded here.

‘I had a really good time and look forward to seeing colleagues and tutors in the near future. There were some very intriguing ideas put forward. It sounds like the work you are doing is very innovative... I am really excited to be apart of it all.’

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Welcome to the Program: Paola’s Address

Welcome to the program and the first edition of the Centre’s newsletter IN TOUCH. The Centre is one of the new initiatives within Curtin University. As with all new enterprises the first stage of development tends to be particularly rapid, energised by new activities, new students and staff members. You are now an integral part of the Centre. Your assignments and your future research project will enhance and enrich our intellectual base and of course your own professional development. I am particularly impressed by the range of professional backgrounds among you, and your individual interests and commitment to exploring international health issues. I know that some of you have already experienced working in developing countries. I hope
Intermediate Award

We are in the process of creating an intermediate award for the Master of International Health. This will be the Postgraduate Diploma in International Health. Initially, students will not be able to enrol directly in the Postgraduate Diploma. However, if when completing the Master of International Health, a student withdraws before completion, providing 200 credits have been accrued, a Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded in recognition of the work completed. The choice of subjects for awarding the Postgraduate Diploma may be negotiated with academic staff.

Think Tanks

We are in the process of establishing regular group meetings with students. These will provide opportunities for students to hear first hand accounts of international experiences from different speakers including students’ own experiences. Students will also participate in brainstorming activities designed to help you choose a project topic and a career path after completing the Master of International Health.

All students are welcome to attend, including students from the eastern states or overseas who are visiting Perth.

If you are unable to attend, you can participate via the Internet.

Health Sciences Project Preparation 692

The project preparation unit may be undertaken in second semester instead of third semester. This allows the project to spread over the second and third semesters. The core units and discipline unit from second semester can be spread between second and third semester.

Student Email List

We are currently compiling a list of students who are willing to be on a distribution list. This means that students can correspond between themselves and find other people from their home state or others in similar occupations to who they may relate. This may be helpful for completing assignments and other learning activities. If you have not received a letter asking for your consent in this matter, please contact Nerellie on (08) 9266 3985.

The aim of the newsletter

The aim of the newsletter is to keep us in touch with each other and we hope that you will find it interesting. We plan to publish an issue four times a year. The newsletter will contain points of interest, new activities in the Centre for International Health and any other information that might effect you during your study with us. We welcome your feedback and contribution with news items.

that the study you are undertaking will increase your knowledge, opportunity and your eagerness to work overseas or in remote areas of Australia. I look forward to keeping in touch with you. Best wishes with your study, Paola.
**Staff Profiles**

Dr Paola Ferroni is the Manager of the Centre for International Health. Dr Ali Mohammed, Sue Gillieatt, Dr Wendy Oddy and Pam Roberts are lecturers and unit co-ordinators. Pam is also our enrolment and advanced standing officer. Nerellie Richards is the administrative secretary for the Centre and Dr Helen Fairnie is the Director, International Liaison.

During the year, there will be staff additions to the Centre. For example, Professors Aileen Plant and Mike Alpers will be joining us in late April and we look forward to telling you a little bit more about them in due course.

Please refer to our website for detailed information about staff’s activities.

**Students Profiles:** we would of course like to know a bit more about you. Why don’t you send us your photo and a paragraph on your activities.

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**Textbooks**

Sue Gillieatt has ordered the “Textbook of International Health” by Paul F. Basch. This reference is particularly valuable and relevant for the whole course. You may purchase it through us for $ Au 101 (same price as Amazon, but you will receive it sooner). If you wish to purchase it, please contact us on (08) 9266 3985. If you wish to purchase it direct from Amazon, the web address is [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Please note that the prices quoted on the Amazon site are in US dollars, not Australian.

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**Special Request**

If anyone has an article relating to international health or one that you consider of interest to others in the course, please submit it as an abstract for publication in **IN TOUCH**. We would also like to know if you go to conferences. This information is of interest to all of us and we look forward to announcing it in the newsletter. Your newsletter! ‘**IN TOUCH**’

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**Calendar of Events**

- **End of Semester One**: 23 June
- **Start of Semester Two**: 24 July
- **Last date for external enrolment**: 28 July
- **Think Tank 1**: Late May
Australia – Pakistan

International activities between the Centre for International Health and the Shaukat Khanam Memorial Cancer Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan are:

- Educational and research projects
- Promotion of joint educational programs and research
- Exchange of faculty members and health personnel

The above are some of the activities that will be undertaken with Pakistan. Two academic staff members from Curtin University, Drs Rouse and Lewis, will be leaving soon to deliver a short intensive course in Health Management.

Mission Statement

The Centre is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and applied skills in international health. Through our teaching and research activities we strive to develop and sustain a direct and meaningful link with the wider community.

We nurture values that respect cultural diversity.

How did you hear about us?

We would like to know how you heard about the Centre for International Health. Please let us know, as it helps us to maximise our resources in advertising.

Finally

It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to meet with some of our Perth based students on the 22nd March. We missed those of you who were not able to attend.

Whenever you are in Perth, we would be delighted to see you at the Centre. If you let us know ahead of time we will organise a morning or afternoon tea and invite local students to come in so that you may meet with as many colleagues as possible. We take this opportunity to encourage you to stay in touch with your colleagues via email. This we think will alleviate a potential sense of isolation and provide valuable opportunities for sharing each others’ knowledge and experience. Please keep us informed through the newsletter about any activities you consider to be of interest.