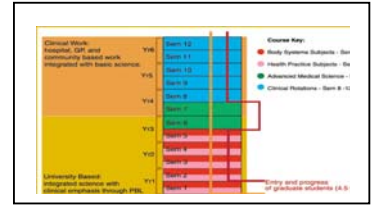


Ophthalmology in the new medical course at the University of Melbourne

FACT SHEET for Ophthalmologist – Teachers. August 2002



- The course structure diagram (right) is from <http://www.medfac.unimelb.edu.au/med/courseInfo/GradCourseInfo.asp>. School leavers are awarded the degree of B Med Science / AMS MBBS, graduates, MBBS. The most advanced cohort in the new University of Melbourne curriculum commenced Semester 8 in July 2002. The total cohort in Semester 4 in 2002 is 267 students.
- The ophthalmology curriculum developed by the Standing Committee Ophthalmology is outlined at <http://cera.unimelb.edu.au/new/education/undgrad.html>. Along with the RVEEH John Colvin Clinical School Saturday morning lecture series dates, a campus list, and the ophthalmology prize exam detail, this forms the basis of the ophthalmology brochure published annually for each clinical school from 1998 to the present. An overview of core curriculum priorities, also drawn up by the Standing Committee in Ophthalmology, is located at <http://cera.unimelb.edu.au/new/education/corecurr.html>. The recommended textbook is Batterbury & Bowling (1999). It can be obtained from the Standish Pride bookshop in Carlton, through some teaching hospital medical libraries, and by internet bookshop order from the Federal RANZCO homepage at <http://www.ranzco.edu>. The most pertinent sections of Batterbury & Bowling (1999) are, for the early years of the course, the ophthalmic history and ophthalmic examination sections. For later years, the eight chapters on clinical problem solving are key.
- The Semester 4 on-campus clinical skills laboratory is offered annually each September. This includes skill development with an on-campus tutor in visual acuity testing, and eliciting visual fields to confrontation, pupil reflexes, and the fundal red reflex. Instillation of eye drops followed by ophthalmoscopy through the dilated pupil, supported by a brief video demonstration, are also included. Each student then completes an off-campus clinical placement with an ophthalmologist or Eye Registrar, either at private rooms, the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, or at another teaching hospital Eye Clinic. Learning objectives and workbook notes in ophthalmology are listed in the Semester 4 Introduction to Clinical Medicine 4 510-213 Tutor Guide, an extract of which is provided to ophthalmologists who volunteer to take students for the ninety-minute sessions in the off-campus clinical placement program. Students should arrive with a torch, pinhole and worksheet. The worksheet lists visual acuity testing (unaided, with pinhole, and with spectacles), visual fields to confrontation, fundal red reflex, and ophthalmoscopy, all to be performed on several patients, where possible.
- Prior learning in Semester 4 - 5 Body Systems includes weekly clinical case studies called the "Problems of the Week", as well as some neuroscience lectures. Semester 5 Problem - Based Learning sessions include a patient with an 'acute red eye'. Lecture notes on the Acute Red Eye are located at the RVEEH Clinical School website at <http://www.rveeh.vic.gov.au/ClinicalSchool/Lectures.htm>. The full schedule of RVEEH John Colvin Clinical School dates for year 2002, along with lecture notes, is located at <http://www.rveeh.vic.gov.au/ClinicalSchool02/ClinicalSchool.htm>.
- Semester 6-7 concludes the Advanced Medical Science degree component of the medical course, a full year of research, for school leavers. There were two Ophthalmology AMS students in 2001-2002, including one whose formal research project itself concerned educational needs for ophthalmology in the later years of the new medical course. An introduction to the AMS research projects on offer in ophthalmology is located at <http://cera.unimelb.edu.au/new/education/ams.html>. There are three ophthalmology AMS students in 2002-3, one again doing curriculum research.
- In Semester 8-9, in the subject called "Integrated Clinical Studies 510-411", students complete six rotations, of six weeks duration each. Ophthalmology teaching is integrated within Block II Neurosciences, outlined in the integrated Block II Block Guide 2002/3: Neuroscience, Ophthalmology, & ENT. This is taught in the clinical schools, with some 'back to base' days. General learning objectives in ophthalmology are provided to students. To orient the students to the curriculum, core clinical problems in ophthalmology are exemplified as a detailed list of common eye conditions. Specific Physical Examination skills objectives, preparation, systematic patient eye examination sheets, and some further learning activities are suggested. Slit lamp examination is one of the items in the Clinical Tasks Log book for Block II. Two structured Problem-Based Learning sessions on Vision Loss, and a tutorial Topic session list, are further parts of the ophthalmology curriculum that are integrated within neurosciences. The RVEEH John Colvin Clinical School Saturday Morning lecture series dates, and lecture notes on the topics of Eye Examination, Acute Red Eye, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Diabetes & Hypertension, Eye Trauma, Glaucoma, Sudden Vision Loss, Lids, Lacrimal & Orbit, and Overview of Blindness, are found at <http://www.rveeh.vic.gov.au/ClinicalSchool02/ClinicalSchool.htm>. For blindness statistics in Australia see the document entitled Eye Care for the Community, at <http://cera.unimelb.edu.au/new/coredoc.pdf>.
- In Semester 10-11, the Paediatrics term will, as before, include Paediatric Ophthalmology, the current curriculum resources for which are located at <http://www.paediatrics.unimelb.edu.au/undergrad.html>, click on old curriculum, click on ophthalmology objectives, and notes. For convenience, the RVEEH John Colvin Clinical School Saturday morning lecture notes on Paediatric Ophthalmology by Dr Joe Reich are accessible for students, duplicated from the RVEEH Clinical School website, within the RCH Eye Dept notes for which the direct URL is http://www.paediatrics.unimelb.edu.au/5th_year/LectureNotes/N-Ophthalmology.pdf. For the list of learning objectives for the Paediatric Ophthalmology Eye Clinic visit see http://www.paediatrics.unimelb.edu.au/5th_year/LearningObjectives/O-Ophthalmology.pdf. For Semester 12, an 'Ophthalmology Skills for Internship' curriculum is under development.

Please email Dr Deb Colville colville@unimelb.edu.au with suggested inclusions for future FACT SHEETS.

A Curriculum Expo to demonstrate teaching materials, including an opportunity for feedback evaluation about ophthalmology in the new curriculum, will be held at RVEEH

on Tuesday 10th December 2002. Suggestions for inclusions to the Curriculum Expo are also welcome.