



MEDIA RELEASE

Dermatology training accredited



27 November 2007

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) has accredited the Australasian College of Dermatologists' training program for specialist dermatologists after a comprehensive review that benchmarked the College's training program against national standards.

The overall objective of the College's training is: 'To produce dermatologists who are safe, skilled and competent in the diagnosis and management of all aspects of diseases of the skin and its appendages, and able to respond to the changing health needs of the Australian community.' To be granted College Fellowship, which leads to independent practice as a dermatologist, medical practitioners must successfully complete the College's five-year training program while they work in College-accredited posts in hospitals and dermatology practices.

The AMC commended the College's longstanding commitment to training. The AMC report comments on the major changes the College is making to its training processes and particularly on the work to produce the first comprehensive curriculum for training in dermatology. The new curriculum will form the base for vocational training, and have a profound impact on other activities including: selection; training post accreditation; recognition of prior learning; trainee assessment; criteria for assessment of overseas-trained dermatologists and continuing professional development activities.

Despite the small size of the College, a large number of College fellows contribute to the supervision, assessment and mentoring of dermatologists in training. The report commends this contribution.

The AMC expert team's assessment included visits to hospitals, clinics and Skin and Cancer Foundations; a review of College documents and interviews with College representatives; surveys of doctors completing dermatology training and their supervisors; and submissions

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL

Postal Address
PO BOX 4810
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Website: www.amc.org.au

Telephone No: (02) 6270 9706
Facsimile No: (02) 6270 9799
Email: amc@amc.org.au

from external stakeholders such as health departments, other health professional bodies and university medical schools.

The team's detailed report makes a range of recommendations to improve the College's training processes (executive summary available on the AMC website at www.amc.org.au). The report identifies challenges facing dermatology, such as workforce shortages, and the development of new surgical and non-surgical procedures which are widening the scope of dermatology practice. The AMC report commends the College's commitment to expand the training opportunities available so there can be more training positions, and exposure to both common dermatological conditions best represented in private practice and to more complex clinical presentations and skills seen in public hospitals and the Skin and Cancer Foundations.

The President of the College, Dr Glenda Wood, thanked the AMC for the accreditation review. "It has been a rigorous quality assurance experience which has, however, confirmed the College's leadership in dermatological training".

CONTACTS:

AMC – Nicole Newton – M: 0407 998 611