

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS medical books bound for Cambodia

A hefty 550 medical text books have been donated by individual University of Tasmania School of Medicine staff to be donated to medical students in Cambodia.

Organised by lecturer and researcher Dr Jamie Chapman, the huge donation came about as a result of a conference presentation on the lack of text books for the Cambodian students late last year.

Dr Chapman said today he has been overwhelmed by the generosity of his work colleagues and now is looking for innovative ways to raise money to get the books to the International University in Phnom Penh.

“The presentation at the conference gave an historical overview of Cambodia and mentioned how the Medical Schools were in desperate need of textbooks,” Dr Chapman said. “It was apparent that many were either very old or entirely in French.”

The conference came just as staff at the School of Medicine started to prepare to move to the new University Medical Science Building in Hobart’s CBD.

“I had been wondering what to do with textbooks that might otherwise be discarded in the office clean-up,” Dr Chapman said.

Dr Chapman put out a call across the School of Medicine asking for text book donations for Cambodia and the response was immediate.

“I was inundated with more than 550 medical text books on anatomy, biochemistry, pathology and immunology,” he said.

After spending time collating, organising and listing the books into discipline subjects, the booklist was sent to the initial conference presenter who then passed it onto his contacts in Cambodia.

“I’d expected that they would only select more recent titles and ignore others but to my surprise they said they would like all of the books!”

Now the books are destined for the International University in Phnom Penh and the challenge is getting them there. Dr Chapman is currently trying to raise the funds and his target is \$2500.

Dr Jamie Chapman is available for interview TODAY at 10.30 am. Please contact Michelle Nichols on 0418 510 121 for more details

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