

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Special patient role players needed for Medical education

Do you want to play a role in better health care for men and women? Comfortable with your body? Good at communicating? Then the next generation of medical professionals needs your help.

The UTAS School of Medicine is seeking women and men over 18 to be trained as casual Clinical Teaching Associates (CTAs).

CTAs are employed to play a vital role in training future doctors by acting as "professional patients" who undergo physical examinations by third-year medical students.

CTAs of both genders undergo sensitive examinations, including breast exams and pap smears for women and prostate examinations for men, to help students develop the most appropriate skills for such exams.

CTAs work within the University's Human Simulation Program and are comprehensively trained prior to contact with students.

Professor Richard Turner, UTAS School of Medicine, said CTAs play a vital role in training future doctors.

"Teaching Associates help ensure our students have a strong background of training grounded in real-life human interaction.

"The feedback provided to our students by CTAs on appropriate technique, etiquette and communication skills, is a valuable source of information for students to continue to improve and develop their patient-related skills," Prof Turner said.

"It is important our students are given the best possible preparation for becoming quality medical professionals."

No professional experience in health sciences is necessary to become a CTA. On-going professional development is also provided.

Work sessions for women CTAs are held on Wednesday evenings throughout the academic year and men on Thursdays. Each CTA is only examined by one student once per session. Confidentiality is ensured.

There is a public information evening on BOTH the male and female CTA programs coming up: Tuesday 5 March 2013, 5:30pm, at Medical Sciences 1 building on the corner of Campbell and Liverpool Streets.

For more details about becoming a Clinical Teaching Associate: Please contact Mona Loofs-Samorzewski, WCTA Co-ordinator, wcta.coordinator@utas.edu.au or phone: 0439 567 630

Information Released by:

The UTAS Communications and Media Office

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 or 0447 537 375 (Cherie Cooper)

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au