

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS provides an answer to the big business of complementary medicine

The University of Tasmania's School of Pharmacy will from semester one 2014 offer health professionals a new online course to address increased patient use of Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAMs).

The Graduate Certificate in Evidence Based Complementary Medicines will significantly help health professionals across a range of disciplines, said Course Coordinator Dr Jason Hawrelak.

"It is important for health professionals to learn more about commonly utilised CAM modalities and CAMs themselves, so they can provide accurate and informed guidance to their patients," said Dr Hawrelak.

"The course will provide an evidence-based approach to investigating the safety profile of commonly utilised CAMs.

"It is hoped that through increasing knowledge of CAMs important patient-provider discussions on their safe use will become more commonplace."

Acting Head of the UTAS School of Pharmacy, Dr Luke Bereznicki, sees the course as supporting professional development of health professionals in this growing industry.

"In a 2007 article in the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, it was identified that more than 70 per cent of the Australian population is currently using CAMs," said Dr Bereznicki.

"Now more than ever before, health professionals need to be confident in addressing patient enquiries regarding CAMs and this course will address this."

For more information on the course, please visit www.utas.edu.au/pharmacy or contact the School of Pharmacy on (03) 6226 2190.

Information Released by:

The UTAS Communications and Media Office

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 or 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au