

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Wednesday 23 July 2014

Singapore medical students lead way with Tasmanian exchange program

Eleven second-year Singaporean medical students are in Hobart for a week-long familiarisation tour under a new partnership between the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Health and the National University of Singapore.

For the first time, the Asian Medical Students' Association – Singapore Group (AMSA-SG) and the Singapore Medical Society of Australia (SMST) Tasmania branch, will co-operate to showcase the unique historical, cultural and social qualities Tasmania has to offer.

The visiting students will also be introduced to the Australian health care system, student lifestyle, and medical facilities at the Faculty of Health in Hobart.

Activities will include:

- A buddy system with local medical students in classroom-based learning;
- developing surgical skills;
- an Expedition Medicine course;
- visiting the Australian Antarctic Division medical service;
- a biodiversity walk at Mt Field,;
- trip aboard the Aurora Australis;
- an aboriginal heritage tour at Risdon Cove; and
- a reception at the Hobart Town Hall.

The student-led exchange is supported by the University School of Medicine's Internationalisation and Elective (SMILE) Program.

Program Director Dr Nick Cooling said: "There is an increasingly large number of international students from Singapore enrolled in the School of Medicine's Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery MBBS course.

"Such is the growth, it was decided to form the Singapore Medical Society of Tasmania which is part of the Singapore Medical Society of Australia," he said.

"This exchange program with the prestigious National University of Singapore is very important to us. It is part of the internationalisation of our medical school through development of the global citizenship and intercultural competence of our students.

"Our links with Singapore are increasing with student exchange and high levels of recruitment into our MBBS course."

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