

 <p>UNIVERSITY of <b>OTAGO</b> Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtāgo NEW ZEALAND</p> <p>OTAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL Te Kura Hauora o Ōtākou</p>		<h1>Memorandum</h1>
<b>To:</b>	Mr Jibi Kunnethedam President NZMSA	
<b>CC:</b>	Deans, Heads of Department Trainee Intern Convenors Attachment/Module Convenors Associate Deans Student Affairs Associate Deans Medical Education Associate Deans Regional Y6, 5 and 4 Medical Students Dunedin School of Medicine University of Otago Christchurch University of Otago Wellington Presidents WMSA, CMSA, DSM, OUMSA CEOs related DHBs	
<b>From:</b>	Barry Taylor Acting Dean, University of Otago Medical School ☎ (021) 616229 ✉ <a href="mailto:barry.taylor@otago.ac.nz">barry.taylor@otago.ac.nz</a>	
<b>Date:</b>	25th April 2019	
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Strike Action by RMOs</b>	

You will be aware that the RDA has notified that further strike action by RMOs will take place from **Monday 29 April to Saturday 4 May 2019**. This extended strike is likely to be much more disruptive to patient care and to the teaching and learning of students than previous 2 day strikes. There will likely be a much higher level of stress in our clinical teachers, and some clinical teaching may be cancelled. I note that the strike will not affect the Canterbury region.

As always, these events give opportunity for learning not only about clinical medicine but about professional behavior.

Below is guidance for Advanced Learning in Medicine students and advice on assessment to staff and students.

### **Trainee Interns**

With regard to the situation for our Trainee Intern's during any strike, I would like to advise the following in the event of a strike:

- 1) In hospital attachments the Trainee Interns must gain clinical experience to complete their academic requirements. They would therefore be expected to continue to attend on the wards during any strike period.
- 2) No Trainee Intern should be expected to work at a greater level of responsibility than is usual.
- 3) The clinical duties should, as far as possible, be kept the same as normal. A Trainee Intern should not be expected to take on additional clinical work. For example, a Trainee Intern

should not find that they are spending longer on the attachment than they normally would, or performing duties that they would not normally perform.

- 4) Any Trainee Intern who is in doubt about tasks he or she is being asked to undertake should seek advice from a member of the academic staff.
- 5) No Trainee Intern is to work on a ward where there is not adequate senior doctor cover.

If a TI has concerns arising during or after their time on the ward please in the first instance contact the Module Convenor and, if necessary, the relevant local Dean.

If you have any queries about the above guidelines please do not hesitate to contact Barry Taylor (Dean DSM and acting Dean, Otago Medical school), David Murdoch (Dean UOC) or Sunny Collings (Dean UOW).

#### **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year Medical Students.**

As you are not part of the clinical treatment team, the policies mentioned above are worth knowing but you are not in a position to be asked to take on clinical duties.

The main concern I have relates to the cancellation of opportunities to learn either in the ward, operating theatre or outpatient clinic. Though academic staff will try to maintain the required tutorials and attendance at ward rounds, operating theatres and outpatient clinics, some will be caught up in covering the acute care of patients. You will understand the professional obligations in this situation where the patient is at the center of our professional concern.

Each attachment will try and replace clinical tutorials and exposure but this may not be possible in some situations. Each module convenor will make decisions about what is needed to attain competence over whole attachment, in consultation if necessary with the local Associate Dean for Medical Education. I anticipate that there will be the need for considerable flexibility and the use of alternative methods of learning and/or assessment.

I am available over the week for discussion of any areas of major concern, either by phone (021616229) or email.



**Professor Barry Taylor**  
**Acting Dean Otago Medical School**  
**Dean, Dunedin School of Medicine.**