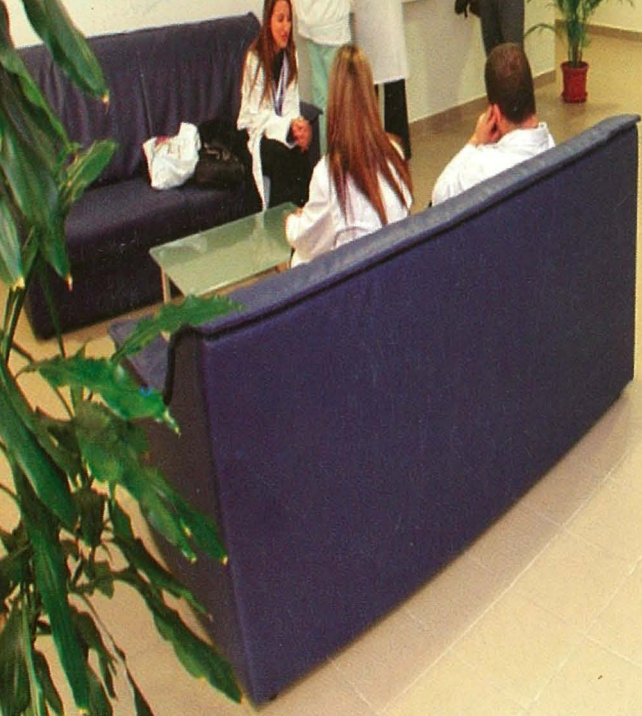




UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
INSTITUTE OF HEALTH CARE
BIENNIAL REPORT 2008/2009



Institute of Health Care
University of Malta





UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
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BIENNIAL REPORT
2008/2009

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Chairman's Address



Professor John Rizzo Naudi, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P. (Edin.)

The years 2008 and 2009 have been quite eventful and rich in experience. During these two years the Institute of Health Care made the important move from the inadequate building that had originally housed the old School of Nurses at St. Luke's Hospital and settled in the new purpose-built premises at Mater Dei Hospital near the Medical School and the Library. The Institute of Health Care now operates on a single floor with offices for the administrative and academic members of the staff that facilitates easier communication between the various departments. The new premises at Mater Dei also have fully functioning laboratories for the various divisions and are equipped with the latest technologies and facilities for the students' practical sessions.

The original mission statement of the Institute – “To achieve excellence in the education and training of reflective, caring, accountable health professionals, in response to the health and health service needs of the population,” which was formulated in 1992, reflected the needs and the social climate of the Maltese Islands at that time but is very relevant today.

The IHC has grown in stature and beyond recognition during the last twenty years. Over the last ten years the Institute began to put a greater emphasis on research as part of the formation of our academics and has been assisting them in attaining postgraduate qualifications at Masters and Doctoral levels. This has proved a good investment and it is a great pleasure to report that six academic members of staff completed their doctoral studies during 2008/2009 and that at present nine out of ten divisions have members of staff with Ph.D.'s.

When one takes into consideration that twenty years ago there were no Maltese members of staff who were in possession of post-graduate degrees, and we were heavily dependent on foreign staff to teach in our various courses, one must congratulate all our teaching staff for their dedication and commitment to the advancement of their various disciplines. We can today state that the vast majority of our teachers have attained post-graduate qualifications at Masters level without neglecting their teaching commitments.

We can also state that we are no longer dependent on foreign teachers for the running of our various courses. This fact must be recorded as the greatest achievement of the Institute of Health Care and the most important and urgent of its targets as stated in its mission statement at its birth twenty years ago.

We have to remember the difficulties and handicaps we had at that moment in time. Twenty years ago recruitment into the Health Care professions was a great problem and we used to have very few recruits with 'Advanced Level' degrees applying to join our courses. We must also note that historically 'Nursing' in particular had suffered, for various reasons, from a very poor image among the general public right up to the nineteen eighties and our gratitude should go to the few nursing students of that period who must be considered as the true 'pioneers' of the modern nursing profession. It is very satisfying to note that, over the last ten years, there has been a steady increase in the number of students entering our various courses; so much so, that today we have a problem of numbers and had to introduce a 'numerus clausus' for some of our courses on account of our limited facilities. As a matter of fact last summer (2009) we had the problem of selecting the admissions out of the several hundreds that had applied for the diploma and degree courses in Nursing Studies. At present we have a total of 888 students following courses in the ten divisions, while a total of 2,769 students graduated during the last ten years.

During the year 2009 discussions started at IHC Board level regarding the possibility of the Institute moving towards faculty status. The discussions focused mainly on the strategic analysis of each Division within the Institute of Health care, as well as the formulation of a future strategy that would define each Department within a Faculty of Health Sciences. Throughout the year several meetings were also held with the Rector, while the Director had meetings with the Secretary of the University and the Director, Human Resources Management and Development to explore the impact that a faculty status would have on the current human and financial resources. On 26th March 2010 the Rector encountered all the academic members of the IHC. During this meeting the Rector remarked on the great academic progress that had been made by the Institute over the last twenty years and that in his opinion the Institute was ready to become a faculty and that he would be setting in motion the necessary procedures for this purpose with Senate and Council of the University.

Another important event that has to be recorded for this year is the setting up of the Midwifery Division as a separate division from Nursing. Midwives in Malta have always been considered as a separate profession from nurses. As a matter of fact the University held three-year courses for midwives, at irregular periods from 1915 onwards until 1946 when they were taken over by the Department of Health. By 1958, midwives in Malta were "fully qualified to render the best service" but there were not enough of them, since there were no facilities in Malta for the training of midwives at that moment in time, and aspiring midwives had to go overseas (usually the UK) for training. In 1974, Miss Mary Vella Bondin took over the running of the Midwifery Training courses and of other educational programs related to Maternity Care and to in-service education of midwives until her retirement in 1993. With great sadness I have to report that this great pioneer and founder of Midwifery training in Malta died on 13th December 2009 mourned by all of us.

A shortage of trained midwives persisted and in the nineteen nineties the Institute of Health Care decided to hold four direct entry courses for midwives, which helped to relieve this problem.

An important initiative undertaken by the Institute of Health Care was the introduction in October 2009 of an E-learning B.Sc. (Honours) Degree with the aim of facilitating and providing more accessible education to qualified health care professionals by allowing flexibility and by decreasing the demands on the health service sector for the release of staff. This course was offered to health care professionals in possession of a 'Diploma' qualification and replaced previous diploma-to-degree programs that various divisions at the Institute were offering.

A major event that must be recorded was the successful organisation by the Nursing Division of the conference 'Nursing and Midwifery – A celebration of Care' that was held in May 2009 against the background of the global financial crisis.

The Institute of Health Care through its various Divisions has remained very active on the international front. Indeed, the Institute of Health Care has been quite heavily involved with staff and students' exchanges, as shown in the Divisional reports. Furthermore, the Institute of Health Care has invited a number of visiting lecturers and professors from international academic institutions, to deliver lectures to our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Director, Dr Sandra Buttigieg, the Coordinators of the various divisions and all the academic members of staff for their enthusiasm and dedication to the advancement of the Institute to its present academic level. In particular, I wish to thank all the administrative and technical members of staff for their hard work and continued support and assistance whenever it was required.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I present this biennial report for 2008/2009.



Professor John Rizzo Naudi
Chairman
Institute of Health Care

Director's Address



Dr Sandra Buttigieg, MD Ph.D. (Aston) FFPH (UK) M.Sc. MBA MMCFD

This report covers the years 2008 and 2009, and therefore the first two years, in which the Institute of Health Care settled in the new premises of Mater Dei Hospital. I am pleased to say that the Institute of Health Care now operates on a single floor with offices for its staff and hosts fully functioning laboratories which are equipped with all the latest technologies intended to create up to date facilities for student practical sessions.

The years 2008 and 2009 have proved to be particularly busy and exciting on several counts. Our main aims remain that of attaining high educational and training levels in all the courses offered. Furthermore, our commitment towards strengthening the research profile has become a necessity for the academic standing of the Institute. I am also pleased to state that the support that was given by the University over the past ten years to academic members of staff to attain postgraduate qualifications has proved to be good investment. It is certainly a pleasure to mention that six academic members of staff successfully completed their doctoral studies in 2008/2009. Indeed, there are now academic members of staff with Ph.D.'s in nine out of ten Divisions.

During 2009, discussions started at IHC Board level regarding the possibility of the Institute moving towards Faculty status. The discussions focused mainly on the strategic analysis of each Division within the Institute of Health Care, as well as the formulation of a future strategy that would define each Department within a Faculty of Health Sciences. Throughout the year several meetings were also held with the Rector, the Secretary of the University and the Director, Human Resources Management and Development to explore the impact that a Faculty status would have on the current human and financial resources.

Another major happening in the academic year 2008/2009, was the setting up of the new or rather separate Midwifery Division. It was agreed that since midwives constituted a separate professional body to nurses, the Nursing and Midwifery Division could be separated into two Divisions. Indeed, the demarcation had also occurred previously as regards their education and training programmes in that midwives were no longer required to qualify as nurses prior to attaining their midwifery qualification. The decision to integrate the two professions in one division was taken at the inception of the IHC, when

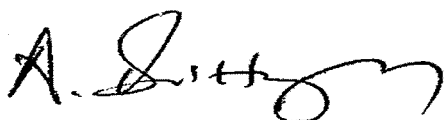
the Coordinator at that time was both a nurse and midwife. In view of the constant expansion in the programmes of studies offered by the Nursing Division and the ever increasing number of students, the reduction in size of the Division has also turned out to be more manageable from an administrative point of view.

With regard to our courses, I would like to mention that with effect from October 2009, all diploma and degree nursing programmes of studies have been changed from four to three year duration. This entailed a major restructuring of the programmes, which now project a more integrated approach to teaching and learning. I would also like to mention that the Institute of Health Care introduced a new e-learning B.Sc.(Honours), with the aim of providing more accessible education to qualified health care professionals by allowing flexibility and by decreasing the demands on the health service sector for the release of staff. This new Health Science course was offered for the first time in October 2009 to health care professionals in possession of a Diploma qualification and replaced previous diploma-to-degree programmes that various Divisions at the Institute were offering.

A major event for the Institute was the organization of the conference 'Nursing & Midwifery – A Celebration of Care' between the 27th and 29th May 2009. The Nursing and Midwifery Divisions organized this conference to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the introduction of Nursing and Midwifery programmes within the University of Malta. The conference's keynote speakers were Dr Alfred Caruana Galizia, President of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, Professor Ingalill Rahm Hallberg, Professor in Health Care Science, Lund University, Sweden and President of the European Academy of Nursing Science and Professor Kathryn L. Vigen, Professor Emeritus North Park University, Chicago.

The Institute of Health Care has remained very active on the international front. Indeed, the Institute of Health Care through its Divisions has been quite heavily involved with staff and students' exchanges, as shown in the Divisional reports. Furthermore, the Institute of Health Care has invited a number of visiting lecturers and professors from international academic institutions, to deliver lectures to our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Professor John Rizzo Naudi for his continuous support and direction. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the members of staff, be they academic or support for their hard work and contribution. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to present this biennial report, which reflects the hard work undertaken by all the members of staff.



Dr Sandra Buttigieg
Director
Institute of Health Care

Action Research in the Development of a Physiotherapy Curriculum – A Means to an End

Dr Mark Sacco, Coordinator, Physiotherapy Division

Introduction

Physiotherapy was introduced to the Mediterranean island state of Malta following the poliomyelitis epidemic of 1943. For the next 30 years, the service was staffed by expatriate British physiotherapists and Maltese physiotherapists trained in the UK. In 1976, a training course was begun on the island using the curriculum of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (C.S.P.), the physiotherapists' professional body in the UK. The course tutor was a British expatriate and a member of the C.S.P. Despite far-reaching changes in education of physiotherapists in the UK in the last quarter of the 20th century, the Maltese curriculum could be said to be stuck in a time warp, more suited to health needs in the UK in the 1970s and 1980s than to health needs in Malta following the new millennium. In 1992, the physiotherapy course was incorporated into the Institute of Health Care (IHC) of the University of Malta (UoM) and the qualification was upgraded from a diploma to a degree.

Objective of the Study

Earlier investigation of locally trained physiotherapists' perceptions of the physiotherapy course at the IHC revealed that past students were dissatisfied with certain components of the course (Sacco 1999). This quantitative research produced some alarming data. For example: 84% of all the respondents considered the course to be stressful and only 11% thought that it allowed them to reflect on and critically evaluate their development as a physiotherapist. Only 18% of the respondents thought that the clinical teaching delivered during the course met their needs, and 64% were not satisfied with the clinical supervision available to them. These initial data, together with reports delivered by senior clinical staff regarding the quality of physiotherapy practised by newly qualified physiotherapists (Board of Studies 2002), led the author to the conclusion that a total revision of the course curriculum was required.

Aims of the Study

The aim of the study was to initiate changes to the physiotherapy course curriculum in order to educate and train the Maltese physiotherapist to the high standards the new health service expects and requires. This new physiotherapist is expected to be a) proficient in the skills necessary to practise the profession, b) clinically and research orientated, and c) confident enough to carry the responsibility of being an autonomous, diagnosing professional.

Physiotherapy education commenced in 1976 with a curriculum inherited from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy in England (D.H. 1976). The course content of the Physiotherapy course in Malta might have started out as a 'clone' of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, but has developed as a 'hybrid', a cross between the C.S.P. course taken

as a core together with the introduction of new subjects. The need for a curriculum that targeted conditions and pathologies specific to the island was highlighted, which together with the fear expressed by some of the clinical members of staff regarding medical dominance via the referral system also illuminated the author of this research that the involvement of the clinical staff was going to be necessary, not just as participants to collect data, but as partners within an action research based study. The literature also highlighted the need for change within the assessment and the teaching and learning that is currently taking place, to review, improve and implement such changes will involve all the primary stakeholders of the physiotherapy curriculum. Hence, the need to involve the students, academic and administrative staff into the research team all working with one eventual goal, the development of a new curriculum that will meet all the needs that each stakeholder considers necessary. Other factors that influence the curriculum directly or indirectly are health care policies and changes that sway the health service. The fact the Government has invested heavily building Mater Dei Hospital and the new rehabilitation hospital that still has to be built, reinforces the need for change from a secondary health care system to one that is going to have to place more emphasis on primary health care acted as the impetus to promote change and the reason why this study was considered necessary and urgent. Another factor that influenced change was the fact that the course was so over assessed encouraging students to develop shallow learning inhibiting inquisition thus eliminating the need for life-long learning. Other factors included the Final Comprehensive Examinations perceived as a cause of unnecessary anxiety to both students and staff and the fact that students had to wait 24 months prior to becoming clinically effective and getting into contact with the practical aspect of physiotherapy. At this stage it became evident that the physiotherapy curriculum was considered outdated and no longer appropriate for autonomous physiotherapists to meet the health needs of the island in the new millennium.

The Curriculum

The course has had the theoretical component praised by foreign modulators on more than one occasion (Selfe 2005, 2006; Lindquist 2007, 2008, 2009) and the Board of Studies are aware that the present curriculum provides a sound theoretical knowledge base, yet are also conscious that the reasoning and treatment skills are lacking. The literature has highlighted a number of inadequacies in the present curriculum. Earlier research showed (Sacco 2004) that there is concern that newly-qualified physiotherapists do not possess the practice skills expected of them by their employers about levels of preparedness for practice (Aquilina 2003) hence not meeting the fitness for practice expectations. However, it is the believe of the Board of Studies that following a short period of time at work, newly-qualified physiotherapists will develop, becoming effective, capable practitioners with critical reasoning skills. This new proposed curriculum has a validated competency framework, built around a new modular system on the effective delivery and integration of theory and practice within the four year programme, because it is the believe that the aim of the physiotherapy curriculum is to produce 'knowledgeable practitioners'. This curriculum ought to meet all the criteria to guarantee that new graduates will reach the standard to practise safely and efficiently as expected both by the profession and the state.

THEORETICAL BASIS OF PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION

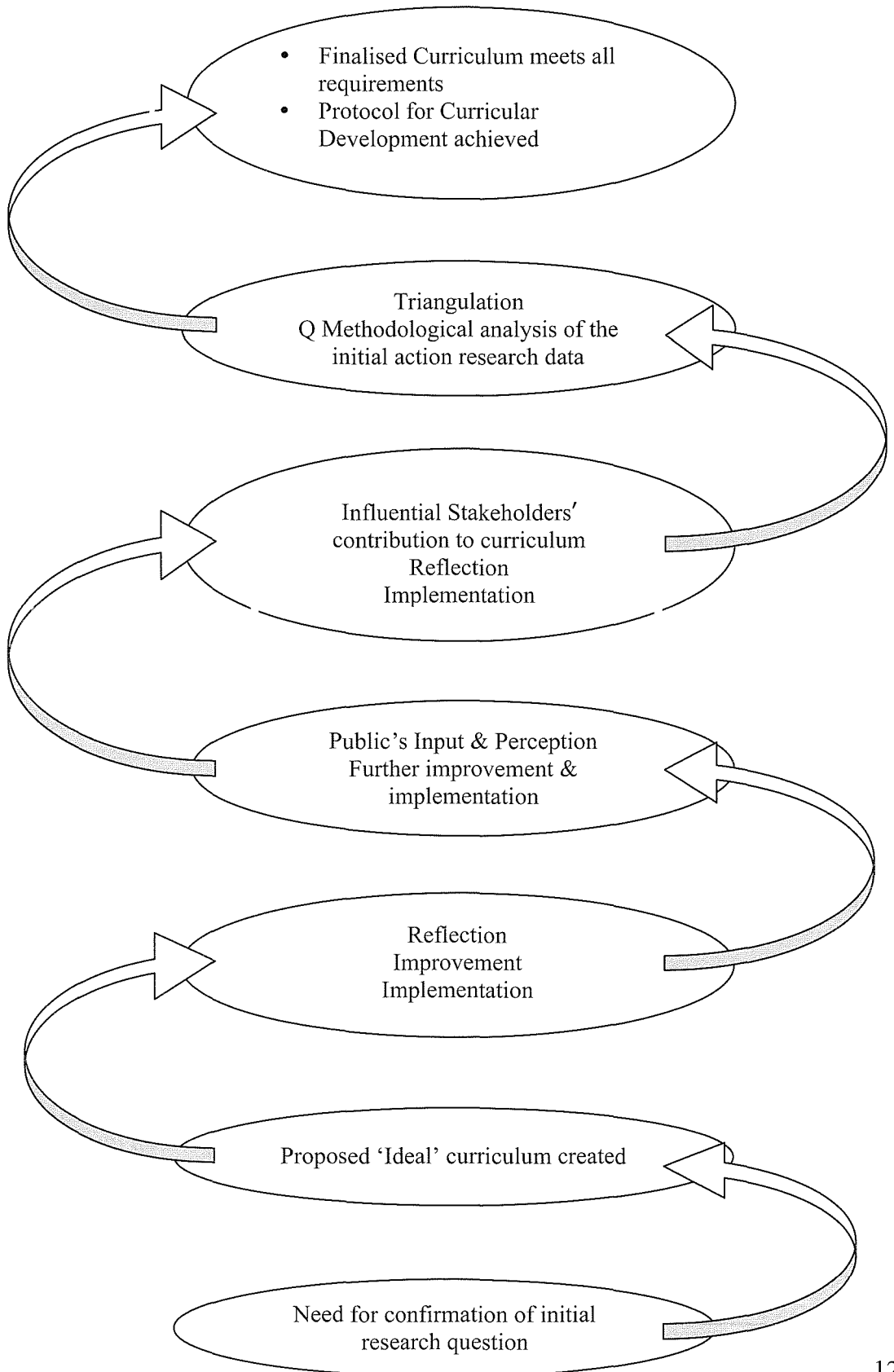
The education of physiotherapy has undergone a number of changes as the profession and its education has developed over the last hundred years. The behavioural theories of education were followed by the cognitive learning theories in which a problem solving approach was utilised. By the early 80s the concepts of critical thinking and reflective practice were introduced to the education of physiotherapists. Literature has demonstrated that the curriculum is much more than just a syllabus of study, but ought to be viewed as a programme of learning. The modern approach to physiotherapy education now revolves around problem solving by means of critical thinking. Modern educational theories adaptable to the education of physiotherapy were researched. The general conceptions of deep and surface learning appear to be consistent and the factors including the teaching manner and course assessment have to be convergent to influence learning. The most striking change is that there has been a transition from education and training to learning. Students, nowadays, have become more demanding and no longer accept what is being taught as truth that has to be memorised. As a result, a paradigm shift has come about: instead of learning being teacher led, it has become student led. Learning by doing, discussion and independent learning all have to be encouraged. The theory underpinning the model for curriculum development considered the most suitable was the '3P' model described by Biggs (2003). This model appears to be linear flowing from left to right. The student approaches education with a set number of attributes, called the presage factors. These are then influenced by a process that describes the approaches to learning that the institute where the education is taking place undertakes. Finally Biggs describes the learning outcomes as the product, taken as a conscientious, efficient, reflective practitioner.

The Research Path: Philosophy and Methodology

Typical of the classical participatory action researcher, Action Research became the methodology of choice because of the dual role of the author: that of course leader and participator, meaning that of practitioner and interventionist. Hence, Action Research became the methodology used to improve the physiotherapy curriculum at the IHC. The study delved deeper than the limited scope of designing a new 'ideal' curriculum. It led to a methodology that added to the existing theories of knowledge and was designed to cater for the needs of a profession or institution that intends to commence a course from scratch or improve on an established one.

Preparatory research confirmed that researching the curriculum means much more than just researching the actual content. For the content of the curriculum to be pertinent to local health needs and meet academic, professional, cultural and political needs imposed upon it, input from all the stakeholders is necessary. Denzin and Lincoln (1994 p2) assert that "*Qualitative research is about other people studied in their own social setting and understood in terms of the meaning those people themselves bring to their situation*". Patients and students are major stakeholders as much as qualified practitioners and health purchasers, such as the Maltese Ministry of Health.

The Process for Curriculum Development



As the project progressed, it became evident that answering the research questions required the iterative process of Action Research. Reason (2001) implies that the main reason behind academic research is to contribute to an abstract "body of knowledge" available to third-persons, however, "*In contrast the primary purpose of action research is to develop practical knowing, embodied moment-to-moment action by research/practitioner*" (Reason 2001 p2). If the simplest definition of Action Research is "learning by doing", in which a group of people, or an individual, identifies a problem (research), does something to resolve it (action), sees how successful their efforts have been (reflection), and if not satisfied, tries again, then this paradigm suited this study.

This study was typical of action research in that it consisted of a number of cycles (Kolb 1984). These cycles were integrated together into a spiral, as the end of each cycle acted as the catalyst to commence the next. It ought to be emphasised that at the end of each cycle the outcome was a consensus of the participants. This issue is important to this study as the final outcome was a new curriculum that was considered to be ideal by all the stakeholders and participants.

The purpose of the first cycle was to confirm the researcher's hypothesis that the physiotherapy curriculum was outdated and needed to be changed in order to meet the island's medical needs. The opinions and views of all the primary stakeholders were researched and noted. The outcome of the first cycle was that the old curriculum being taught at the IHC was considered dated, very stressful, not conducive to deep learning and critical thinking hence required immediate change. This first cycle consisted of an initial focus group interview. Taking part in this interview were the two full-time academic members of staff, a principal, senior and junior members of the clinical staff working at St. Luke's Hospital and a final year student. Riding the wave of their initial enthusiasm regarding their empowerment to actually play a part in the designing of a new curriculum, all participants of the first cycle were asked to become active participants in this Action Research study. Following this group interview, the participants held meetings with their counterparts and another set of individual in-depth semi-structured interviews with the original participants took place.

The second cycle consisted of a retrospective study into the previous curricula held in Malta researching the curricula of fourteen other universities that have a long history in physiotherapy education within the E.U. and a study of the medical conditions referred to physiotherapy within the state hospitals over a six month period. The academic staff who taught the speciality and the clinician in charge of that unit later held meetings and developed modules that were related to the occurrence of referral; in this manner a proposed curriculum matching the local medical needs was designed.

The third cycle meant returning to the primary stakeholders (the final students and newly qualified staff), to investigate their opinions about the new proposed curriculum. Following this meeting, the participants again held meetings with their counterparts and this was followed by focused individual in-depth semi-structured interviews. Two other interviews were also carried out during this cycle with the co-ordinators of the Radiography

and Occupational Therapy Divisions to investigate whether the problems that the physiotherapy division experienced with the curriculum were present in other divisions.

The next step in the research cycle was to investigate the views and opinions of the public as they were considered to be one of the major stakeholders of this study. The involvement of the public in health and education is well documented and proven to promote positive changes (Taylor and Le Riche 2006). This cycle consisted of eight in-depth semi-structured interviews with members of the public who were both inpatients and outpatients attending state physiotherapy and patients attending private physiotherapy within a private hospital or clinic. Their perceptions regarding the physiotherapy service being presently offered and their views regarding the medical and physiotherapy professions were of particular importance and require further investigation. Having evaluated the data obtained from this cycle any direct or indirect suggestions were discussed with the Curriculum Research Committee and the curriculum was further updated where necessary.

The fifth cycle consisted of unstructured/open elite interviews with influential stakeholders who either directly or indirectly influence the curriculum and one other unstructured interview to a senior member of clinical staff. At the end of this cycle, that culminated with the Registrar's representative at the IHC in an attempt to review and approve the new curriculum prior to presenting to the IHC Board for approval, it became evident that changes to the new 'ideal' curriculum were necessary, as in its present state this was not acceptable to the office of the Registrar. The most important outcome of this fifth research cycle was that the physiotherapy course is held in high esteem by the university administration, but the format of the new proposed curriculum was not acceptable to the Registrar's Office for administrative purposes.

As a result, a sixth cycle was introduced, to alter the proposed new curriculum into one that meets all the administrative rules and regulations. This consisted of a number of meetings between the academic staff, and a meeting between the academic staff and the Registrar's representative. Another final meeting with the Curriculum Research Committee took place in which the new proposed curriculum was discussed and following mutual agreement, this was considered to be 'ideal' at the time.

In order to finalise this study, it was considered necessary to include a final seventh cycle, whereby all the newly qualified staff who were final year students during the first cycle, were again presented with the changes that took place to the curriculum and by means of Q-Methodology had their feedback objectively concluded. Q Methodology is a method for exploring dominant perceptions or patterns of thought within participants. In essence, it was a method that helped to capture the richness and complexity of the various statements presented to them. It was used primarily to identify groups with correlating or conflicting values, preferences and opinions to better understand the differences. It helped to identify the potential areas of the research data findings. In other words, Q Methodology was a complementary tool offering insight and triangulation to the findings of the previous action research cycles.

Q Methodology was introduced by William Stephenson in 1935. It "*combines the strengths of both qualitative and quantitative research traditions*" (Dennis & Goldberg 1996 p104) and can also be viewed as providing a bridge between the two (Sell & Brown 1984). Q Methodology is a technique for the objective study of subjective findings and allows the researcher to understand and interpret the subjective data of his or her respondents (Smith 2001). Typically, in Q Methodology, respondents called the P-Set are asked to rank-order a set of statements (particular themes taken from the Action Research Cycles) from their individual point of view using a quasi-normal distribution according to a scale, usually from strongly agree (+3) to strongly disagree (-3), with scale scores provided to assist the participant to think and answer about the task. These individual subjective ratings are then subject to factor analysis resulting in an objective outcome. Stephenson (1935) described Q Methodology as an inversion of conventional factor analysis, in that Q correlates to the respondents as opposed to the number of tests. Correlation between respondents thus indicates similar or different views that exist on a particular issue (Brown 1995). The factors resulting from Q Analysis thus represents clusters of subjectivity, (the views of the respondents) as opposed to traditional research that would reveal a population of respondents (Risdon et al 2003).

The data obtained in the early stages resulted in a reduction of study-unit assessments. The inclusion of common core study-units into their related modules meant that students would concurrently be learning subjects relating to one another, a departure from the conventional medical model of education that was used on the Island, to a holistic model of patient care. The change and improvement in the design of the course resulted in the 'ideal' curriculum, but this challenged the administration office of the University. The amalgamation of study-units into modules and the assessment of these modules could not be handled by the Registrar's Office, as they did not conform to the software used to record results. As a consequence, this 'ideal' curriculum had to be altered in such a manner that made it acceptable.

This resulted in the development of two curricula. The first curriculum was the 'ideal curriculum' that met the requirements of the entire profession and primary stakeholders, but not those of the administrative staff. The second curriculum met all the professional, administrative and academic requirements laid down by the University, yet not those of the primary stakeholders. The 'ideal' curriculum was selected because the primary stakeholders are the more important factor in this equation. It was not implemented for administrative reasons.

This study confirmed that the problems the Physiotherapy Division was facing within the curriculum were also present in two other divisions with inherited curricula, chosen randomly from all those that constitute the IHC. Most divisions follow professional curricula that have been imported from countries overseas, more often than not, the UK (Jaccarini 2004), (Bezzina 2003), (Mifsud 2003).

The study has brought about change. The actual methodology and the development of the 'ideal' curriculum can be used as a protocol. Any other division within the IHC, as well as any other country where the teaching of physiotherapy has not yet commenced, such as

Cyprus, Luxembourg or Liechtenstein, in Europe (WCPT 2003), or any country that has imported a physiotherapy curriculum from another country and wants to adopt a new curriculum particular to their own specific needs can use this protocol.

Finally, the most important outcome of this study is not an 'ideal' physiotherapy curriculum or the actual 'protocol' for curricular development, but is something deeper and intangible: something 'philosophical'. This study has become a 'force for change'. A single concept has the power to transform thinking, enrich the work environment and produce change.

The new curriculum helped draw the clinical staff, students and academic staff together, forming a common circle of learners and implementers. This helped kindle a spirit of change that is being put into practice at various levels within the university and clinical setting. It was very important for all the contributors to realise and have a clear understanding of the new curriculum and the process of change that this generated. If this change were to be successful, then all concerned had to be involved, consulted and informed, as effective change requires effective communication. The new curriculum was designed to give students the academic foundation and practical training to understand, predict and respond to clinical challenges. Students were involved in the initial curriculum development process as the primary stakeholders at the very heart of change. This curriculum not only incorporates the notions of evidence-based learning; it also encourages students to become life long learners and more importantly, having been taught how to think enables them to become 'agents for change'. If change to the educational system and health services on the Island is to take place, then the future workforce had to be involved and be given the necessary skills and opportunity to become part of this change.

The study had a domino effect that eventually challenged the university administration. Unfortunately, both the outcome of this research and the curriculum development team has 'responsibility without authority', and can influence 'change' but not dictate it.

The research into the curriculum is the force to implement change: a change that takes place on several fronts. Change can only come about if there is a willingness to accept it and this is necessary at both academic staff level and, more importantly, at top managerial level within the University structure. Change issues are not only human issues but also involve culture and subcultures of an organisation such as the University of Malta.

IHC Divisional Coordinators



APPLIED BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE DIVISION



Coordinator: Professor Angela A. Xuereb, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.

2008

- **March 2008** - Dr Bezzina Wettinger was successful in obtaining research funds through the National Research and Innovation Programme for a project on the Genetics of Myocardial Infarction in the Maltese Population
- **May 2008** – A CPD programme was held on “Breast Cancer – One Disease or Many? – Molecular Insights” in conjunction with the Pathology Department, Mater Dei Hospital, and the Malta College of Pathologists. The foreign guest speaker was Professor Andrew Hanby. Local speakers contributing to this programme included Dr Isabella Borg and Dr Godfrey Grech.
- **May 2008** – Professor Angela Xuereb presented research work conducted in her DNA Laboratory entitled “A transversion in the tumour necrosis factor receptor associated factor (TRAF)-6 gene promoter increases gene expression in RAW264.7 cells ” at the 35th Symposium of the European Calcified Tissue Society held in Barcelona between the 24th and 27th May. This work was subsequently published in the journal Calcified Tissue International.
- **May 2008** – A visiting lecturer, Dr Kirsti Litmanen, from Pirkanmaa University of Applied Sciences, Tampere, Finland, gave a lecture on Problem Based Learning to IHC members of staff.
- **October 2008** - The MLS Division was successful in obtaining funds together with other groups through the ERDF Programme through which the MLS Division will gain access to state-of-the-art equipment in the field of Molecular Biology and Genetics

- **October 2008** – Dr Bezzina Wettinger attended the 3rd European Science Foundation Conference on Functional Genomics and Disease in Innsbruck, and also participated in the Course in Integration of Cytogenetics, Microarrays and Massive Sequencing in Biomedical and Clinical Research organized by the European School of Genetic Medicine.
- **November 2008** – Dr Bezzina Wettinger participated in Research Expo week organised by Malta Council for Science and Technology.

Publications

Articles in Refereed Journals

- Jaeckle Santos, L.J., Xing, C., Barnes, R.B., Ades, L.C., Magarbane, A., Vidal, C., Xuereb-Anastasi, A., Tarpey, P.S., Smith, R., Khazab, M., Shoubridge, C., Partington, M., Futreal, A., Stratton, M.R., Gecz, J. and Zinn, A.R.: Refined mapping of X-linked reticulate pigmentary disorder and sequencing of candidate genes. *Human Genetics*, **123**, 469 - 476 (2008).
- Vidal, C., Borg, J., Xuereb-Anastasi, A. & Scerri, C.: Variants within protectin (CD59) and CD44 genes linked to an inherited haplotype in a family with coeliac disease. *Tissue Antigens*, **in press** (2008)
- van Minkelen R, Bezzina Wettinger S, de Visser MCH, Vos HL, Reitsma PH, Rosendaal FR, Bertina RM, and Doggen CJM: Haplotypes of the interleukin-1 receptor antagonist gene, interleukin-1 receptor antagonist mRNA levels and the risk of myocardial infarction. *Atherosclerosis*, **in press** (2008)
- Vidal, C., Cachia, A. & Xuereb-Anastasi, A.: Effects of a synonymous variant in exon 9 of the CD44 gene on pre-mRNA splicing in a family with osteoporosis. *Bone*, **in press** (2008).
- Grigoryan L, Burgerhof J, Degener J, Deschepper R, Stalsby Lundborg C, Monnet DL, Scicluna E, Birkin J, Haaijer-Ruskamp F, on behalf of the Self-Medication with Antibiotics and Resistance (SAR) Consortium. Determinants of self-medication with antibiotics in Europe: the impact of beliefs, country wealth and the health care system. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* 2008; published at <http://jac.oxfordjournals.org/> on February 22 (2008) (doi:10.1093/jac/dkn054).
- Borg MA, Suda D, Scicluna E. Time-Series Analysis of the Impact of Bed Occupancy Rates on the Incidence of Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Infection in Overcrowded General Wards. *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, **29**(6):496-502 (2008).

- Borg MA, van de Sande-Bruinsma N, Scicluna E, de Kraker M, Tiemersma E, Monen J, Grundmann H, on behalf of the ARMed Project members and collaborators. Antimicrobial resistance in invasive strains of *Escherichia coli* from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean laboratories. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **14**: 789-796 (2008) (doi: 10.1111/j.1469-0691.2008.02037.x)

Refereed Proceedings presented at Conferences

- Xuereb-Anastasi, A., Cachia, A., Gatt, C., and Vidal, C. (2008) Sequencing of genes in two families with high incidence of osteoporosis. *Osteoporosis International*, P456.
- **Vidal, C.**, Borg, J., Fenech, A., Xuereb-Anastasi, A., and Scerri, C.A. (2008) A silent mutation within protectin (CD59) gene and exon skipping in a family with coeliac disease. *European Journal of Human Genetics* **16**: Supp 1, 243 <http://www.christopher-vidal.com/ESHG2008.pdf>
- **Vidal, C.**, and Xuereb-Anastasi, A. (2008) A transversion in the tumour necrosis factor receptor associated factor 6 gene promoter increases gene expression in RAW264.7 cells. *Calcified Tissue International* **82**: Supp 1, S148.

2009

- **Jan 2009** - Ms Elizabeth Scicluna attended a “European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)” course organised by ECDC in Veyrier Du Lac, France.
- **March 2009** - Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger attended a conference on “Harmonising Biobank Research: Maximising Value-Maximising Use” organised by BBMRI and Phoebe.
- **May 2009** - Professor Angela Xuereb presented her research work at the 36th European Symposium on Calcified Tissue held in Vienna, Austria. The title of her presentation was “A variant within the CD44 gene in a Maltese Family with Osteoporosis”.
- **May 2009** - Ms Elisabeth Scicluna attended a “Time Series Analysis” course organised by ECDC, Santorini, Greece.
- **May 2009** - Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger delivered a SCISEM seminar to graduate students and other researchers on her research entitled “RNA Profiling and the Genetics of Myocardial Infarction”.
- **June 2009** - Professor Xuereb attended the 5th International Conference on Children’s Bone Health held in Cambridge, UK, where she presented her work entitled “A variant

within the TRAF6 gene promoter increased gene expression in the absence of an upstream GATA-1 binding site”.

- **June 2009** - Ms Elizabeth Scicluna attended a “Data Management” workshop organised by EARSS at RIVM in Bilthoven, the Netherlands.
- **June 2009** - Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger visited the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and the Department of Thrombosis and Hemostasis at Leiden University Medical Centre, The Netherlands, to discuss biobanking, standardisation and procedures.



A final year BSc (Hons) Applied Biomedical Science student working on her research project in the DNA Research Lab.

- **July 2009** - CPD seminar entitled Cardiac Pathology took place in collaboration with the Pathology Department, Mater Dei Hospital and the Malta College of Pathologists. Speakers included Dr Anne-Marie Seymour from the University of Hull, UK, and Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger.
- **Nov 2009** - Professor Angela Xuereb gave an oral presentation at the 7th Malta Medical School Conference entitled “A Haplotype within TNFRSF11b (Osteoprotegerin) Gene and BMD in Maltese postmenopausal women”. Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger also attended this conference, and presented a poster.

- **Nov 2009** - Dr Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger attended a course in Rome on “Modern Methods in Epidemiology and Biostatistics” by Professor Kenneth Rothman and Dr Elizabeth Hatch.
- **Nov 2009** - Mr Charles Borg was awarded a M.Sc. in Applied Immunology by the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK. His research project was entitled “*Role of Serum Free Light Chains in the Detection and Follow up of Monoclonal Gammopathies and in Renal Disease*”.

Publications

Articles in Refereed Journals

- Borg, M.A., Tiemersma, E., **Scicluna, E.**, van de Sande-Bruinsma, N., de Kraker, M., Monen, J., and Grundmann, H. (2009) Prevalence of penicillin and erythromycin resistance amongst *Streptococcus pneumoniae* from invasive isolates reported by laboratories in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* **15(3)**: 232-237.
- Borg, M.A., Cookson, B.D., Rasslan, O., Gur, D., Ben Redjeb, S., Benbachir, M., Rahal, K., Bagatzouni, D.P., Elnasser, Z., Daoud, Z., and **Scicluna, E.A.** (2009). Correlation between meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* prevalence and infection control initiatives within southern and eastern Mediterranean hospitals. *Journal of Hospital Infection* **7**:36-42.
- Hanberger, H., Arman, D., Gill, H., Jindrák, V., Kalenic, S., Kurcz, A., Licker, M., Naaber, P., **Scicluna, E.A.**, Vanis, V., and Walther, S. (2009). Surveillance of microbial resistance in European Intensive Care Units. A first report from the Care-ICU programme for improved infection control. *Intensive Care Medicine* **35(1)**: 91-100.
- **Scicluna, E.A.**, Borg, M.A., Gür, D., Rasslan, O., Taher, I., Ben Redjeb, S., Elnassar, Z., Pieridou Bagatzouni, D., and Daoud, Z. (2009). Self-medication with antibiotics in the ambulatory care setting within the Euro-Mediterranean region; results from the ARMed project. *Journal of Infection and Public Health*, **2(4)**: 189-197.
- van Minkelen, R., **Bezzina Wettinger, S.**, de Visser, M., Vos, H., Reitsma, P.H., Rosendaal, F.R., Bertina, R. and Doggen, C.J.M. (2009). Haplotypes of the Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist Gene, Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist mRNA Levels and the Risk of Myocardial Infarction. *Atherosclerosis*, **203**: 201-205, 2009.
- Vidal, C. and **Xuereb-Anastasi, A** (2009). The Genetics of Osteoporosis in the Maltese Population: A Review. *Malta Medical Journal*, **21 (4)**, 6- 10.
- Vidal, C., Cachia, A. & **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** (2009). Effects of a synonymous variant in exon 9 of the CD44 gene on pre-mRNA splicing in a family with osteoporosis. *Bone*, **45**, 736 - 742.
- Vidal, C. and **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** (2009). Frequency of the CCR5- delta32 polymorphism in the Maltese population at birth. *International Journal of Immunogenetics*, **36**, 301 - 304 (2009).

- Vidal, C., **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** and Scerri, C. (2009). No Effects of a Synonymous Variant within the CD59 gene on its Protein Product in Duodenal Biopsies of Coeliac Individuals. *Tissue Antigens*, **74**, 336 - 339.
- Vidal, C., Borg, J., **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** & Scerri, C. (2009). Variants within protectin (CD59) and CD44 genes linked to an inherited haplotype in a family with coeliac disease. *Tissue Antigens*, **73**, 225 – 235.

Refereed Proceedings presented at Conferences

- Vidal, C. and **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** (2009) A variant within the TRAF6 gene promoter increased gene expression in the absence of an upstream GATA-1 binding site. *Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Children's Bone Health, Bone*, **45**, Supp 2, 81- 82.
- Vidal, C., **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** and Scerri, C. (2009) No association of Polymorphisms within the CD44 gene and the coeliac condition. *European Journal of Human Genetics*, **17**, 239.
- Vidal, C., Cachia, A. and **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** (2009) A variant within the CD44 gene in a Maltese Family with Osteoporosis. *Bone*, **44**: Supp 2, S341.
- Vidal, C., Formosa, R. and **Xuereb-Anastasi, A.** (2009). A Haplotype within the TNFRSF11b (osteoprotegerin) gene and bone mineral density in Maltese post-menopausal women. *Malta Medical Journal*, **21**, Supp, 60.
- Zahra, C., Felice, A.E. and **Bezzina Wettinger, S.** (2009) The Influence of Genetic and Lifestyle Factors on the Risk of Parkinson's Disease in the Maltese Population. *Malta Medical Journal*, **21**, Supp, 149.

COMMUNICATIONS THERAPY DIVISION



Coordinator: Dr Helen Grech, Dip.SpeechPath.&Ther., M.Educ.(Manc.), Ph.D.(Manc.)

2008

The following highlights the main activities that members of staff and students of the Communication Therapy Division were involved in during 2008.

Dr Joseph Agius

- Meeting - collaboration of University of Malta with European University partners (Socrates Programme) on the development/harmonisation and state of the art specialisation module in the field of fluency and fluency disorders (January 2008, Ghent, Belgium).
- Provision of workshop at the European Symposium on Fluency Disorders (April 2008, Antwerp, Belgium).
- Provision of workshop at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference (July 2008, Oxford UK.)
- Participation in intensive week – European Clinical Course in Fluency Disorders (September 2008, Dublin, Ireland).

Ms Rachael Agius

- Awarded Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM), Cost Action A33 Research project (May 2008, Agora Research Centre, Jyvaskeyla, Finland).
- Poster presentation: *Literacy and Bilingualism in Maltese-English Children* at the Research Expo (November 2008, MCST Bighi, Malta).

Ms Daniela Gatt

- Participation in XI International Congress for the Study of Child Language (August 2008, Edinburgh, UK.).
- Presentation of research based paper at the Erasmus Intensive Programme (August 2008, Barcelona, Spain).
- Participation in meeting of ongoing Cost Action A33 Research project on Language Acquisition and Disorders (October 2008, Aalborg, Denmark).
- Poster presentation: Establishing the concurrent validity of a vocabulary checklist for young Maltese children at the Research Expo (November 2008, MCST Bighi, Malta).

Dr Rita Micallef

- Participation in 'Diversity Management Seminar' (February 2008 organised by the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, Malta).
- Oral Presentation at 'General Conference of European Platform for Rehabilitation' (May 2008, Malta).
- Provision of workshop at the Erasmus, Intensive Programme (August 2008, Barcelona, Spain).

Dr Helen Grech

- Participation in meeting of the Board of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics (January 2008, Athens, Greece).
- Presentation of ongoing FP6 Marie Curie Project at the Briefing re: FP7 *People* programme (February 2008, MCST, Bighi, Malta).
- Co-ordination of Interdisciplinary Seminar (February 2008, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida).
- Visiting lecturer (March 2008, Catholic Hogeschool, Bruges, Belgium).
- Participation in Symposium on ongoing SLP Glossary Project (April 2008, Gent, Belgium).
- Presentation of pilot project data in Meeting of Cost Action A33 Project (May 2008, Warsaw, Poland).
- Oral Presentation at the 1st Panhellenic Congress of Speech & Language Therapy Students (June 2008, Patras, Greece).
- Participation in Marie Curie Conference for Research Fellows (July 2008, Barcelona, Spain).
- Provision of keynote speech at the Erasmus, Intensive Programme (August 2008, Barcelona, Spain).
- Poster presentation *Speech and Language Assessments for Maltese Children* at the Research Expo (November 2008, MCST Bighi, Malta).
- Oral Presentation at the Research Expo (November 2008, MCST Bighi, Malta).
- Co-ordination of Postgraduate Research Seminar (December 2008, SAS Radisson, Malta).

Erasmus Staff/Student Exchange Programme - 2008

Bilateral Agreement	Incoming or Outgoing	Institutions	Implementation (Date & Duration)
Staff exchange	Incoming	1 KHBO, Bruges, Belgium	April 2008 1 week
	Outgoing	1 KHBO, Bruges, Belgium	1 March 2008 3 days
Student exchange	Incoming	2 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium	Semester 1 (2008-9)
	Incoming	1 University of Oulu, Finland	Semester 1 (2008-9)
	Outgoing	2 Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium	Semester 1 (2008-9)
	Incoming	2 Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium	Semester 2 (2008-9)
	Incoming	1 KHBO, Bruges, Belgium	Semester 2 (2008-9)
Staff/Student mobility (intensive programme)	Outgoing	5 CT students 4 CT members of staff Autonomous University, Barcelona, Spain	August 2008- 15 days

Continuing Education

- Mr Raymond De Giorgio continued with studies re: M.Sc. in HRD and Performance Management, Leicester University.
- Ms Kristina Agius continued with studies re: Masters Degree in Autism, University of Birmingham, UK.
- Ms Daniela Gatt and Ms Rachael Agius continued with Ph.D. studies within the Communication Therapy Division, University of Malta.

Professional Development

Practicing speech-language pathologists, employed by the Health Division were invited by the Communication Therapy Division to participate in:

- several courses provided by visiting lecturers
- the Postgraduate Seminar organised by the Communications Therapy Division half-day Seminar on clinical supervision of students.

Publications

Peer Reviewed:

- Agius, J. (In Press) School-Age Children who Stutter: Attitude changes following a Thinking Skills Programme. *Journal of Stuttering Therapy, Advocacy and Research*.
- Gatt, D., Letts, C. and Klee, T. (2008) Lexical mixing in the early productive vocabularies of Maltese children: implications for intervention. *Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics*. 22 (4-5): 267-274.
- Grech, H. & Dodd, B. (2008). Phonological Acquisition in Malta: A Bilingual Language Learning Context. *International Journal of Bilingualism*. 12, (3): 155-171.

Local:

- Grech, H. (2008). Training for Research in Communication Disorders: Success Story. *Ricerka*. Malta: MCST.

Grech, H. (2008). Searching for Researchers. *The Times Business*, Malta.

Unpublished Manuscripts:

- Grech, H. Gatt, D. & Ransley, G. (Eds.). (2008) *Research Projects: Abstract Book*. University of Malta.
- Grech, H., Zerafa, C. & Gatt, D. (2008). *Clinical Handbook*. University of Malta.



Communication Therapy students during a practical Audiology session under the supervision of the Division Coordinator, Dr Helen Grech.

Research

PROJECT TITLE/PROGRAMME	STATUS	PERIOD
<p><i>Communication Disorders in the Maltese Population Marie Curie Fellowship for Transfer of Knowledge FP6-2002-Mobility-3-Under the European Community Programme “Structuring the European Research Area”</i></p> <p><i>Completed the project successfully – external audit satisfactory.</i></p>	<p><i>Project</i> <i>Co-ordinator</i> Main researchers: Professor Barbara Dodd Dr Helen Grech</p>	2004-2008
<p><i>Fluency and Fluency Disorders Module</i> Socrates Erasmus Programme</p> <p>Development of a European module that aims at developing a joint post-graduate European specialisation module. Specialists in fluency disorders from participating departments contribute their personal expertise to develop this module.</p> <p><i>Completed the project successfully – external audit satisfactory.</i></p>	<p><i>Partner</i> Co-ordinator: K. Eggers Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium</p> <p>Joseph Agius, delegate for CT Division</p>	2006-2008
<p><i>European research network for first-language acquisition with emphasis on semantics/pragmatics and language impairment (SLI). Cost Action A33: an intergovernmental framework for European co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research.</i></p> <p>The broad goal of this project is to coordinate and harmonize European efforts to advance the understanding of the language acquisition process in children and to apply such results to the detection of language impairment. Our particular focus is to develop test methods that are less sensitive to the language(s) and dialect(s) a child is exposed to.</p>	<p><i>Partner</i> Helen Grech is the Malta Government representative in the management committee</p> <p>Co-ordinator: Dr Kazuko Yatsushiro ZAS Jägerstr. 10/11 10117 Berlin Germany</p>	2005-2008
<p><i>Multilingual glossary project</i> Terms related to speech language pathology are being translated in various European languages including Maltese. This data base will be compiled and edited in a book.</p>	<p><i>Partner</i> Co-ordinator: P. Corthals et al, University of Gent, Belgium.</p>	2006-
<p><i>European Network for speech language therapy</i> Annual Socrates Intensive Programme (IP) hosted by one of the partner institutions. 100+ students and 35-40 academic members of staff participate. Hosted in Eindhoven, The Netherlands in August 2007</p>	<p><i>Partner</i> Co-ordinator: H. Chantrain Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium</p>	2002-

2009

Dr Joseph Agius

- Participation in intensive weeks – European Clinical Course in Fluency Disorders - Lessius Hogeschool, Belgium & Trinity College, Dublin.

Ms Rachael Agius

- Oral presentation: 3rd International IALP Symposium on Multilingual Communication Disorders, *Cyprus November 2009*.
- Poster presentation: Literacy Conference, New Zealand, October 2009
- Poster presentation: Science & Technology Festival November 2009, University of Malta.

Ms Daniela Gatt

- Oral presentation: 3rd International IALP Symposium on Multilingual Communication Disorders, *Cyprus November 2009*.
- Poster presentation: Science & Technology Festival November 2009, University of Malta.
- Participation in Meeting of Cost Action ISO804 Project, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Dr Helen Grech

- Participation, as Secretary, in meetings of the Board of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics: May 2009 – Slovenia.
- Co-ordination of the European Speech-Language Therapy Day Seminar March 2009, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida.
- Visiting lecturer: April 2009, Katholieke University of Leuven, Belgium
April 2009, University of Oulu, Finland.
- Invited speaker at the Annual Congress on Speech & Language Disorders, April 2009, Katholieke Hogeschool Brugge-Oostende, Belgium.
- 2 Oral presentations: 7th European CPLOL Congress, Ljubljana, Slovenia – May 2009.
- Provision of keynote speech & research based paper at the Erasmus, Intensive Programme: August 200, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Presentation of pilot project data in Meeting of Cost Action A33 Project: October 2009, Athens, Greece.
- Participation in Meetings of Cost Action ISO804 Project, Brussels, Belgium & Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Member of the Scientific Committee & participant: 3rd International IALP. Symposium on Multilingual Communication Disorders, *Cyprus November 2009*.
- Poster presentation: Science & Technology Festival November 2009, University of Malta.

Dr Rita Micallef

- Provision of workshop at the Erasmus Intensive Programme: August 2009, Stockholm, Sweden.

Erasmus Staff/student exchange Programme - 2009

Bilateral agreement	Incoming/Outgoing	Institutions	Implementation (Date & Duration)
Staff exchange	Outgoing	1 University of Oulu, Finland	April 2009
Student exchange	Incoming	1 University of Oulu, Finland 2 Lessius Hogeschool, Belgium 1 KHBO, Brugge, Belgium 2 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium	1 Semester (2008-9)
	Outgoing	2 Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium	Semester 1 (2008-9)
Staff /Student mobility (intensive programme)	Outgoing	5 CT students 2 CT members of staff Karolinska Institute, Sweden	August 2009-15 days

Continuing Education

- Raymond De Giorgio was awarded M.Sc. in HRD and Performance Management, Leicester University.
- Kristina Agius completed successfully Masters degree in Autism, University of Birmingham, UK.
- Daniela Gatt and Rachael Agius continued with Ph.D. studies within the Communication Therapy Division, University of Malta.

Professional Development

- Practising speech-language pathologists, employed by the Health Division were invited by the Communication Therapy Division to participate in several courses provided by visiting lecturers.
- the European SLT Day Seminar organised jointly by the CT Division and the Association of SLPs.

Publications

Helen Grech

Peer reviewed:

- *In press:* Communication in the Migrant Community in Malta. *Folia Phoniatica et Logopaedica*.

Local:

- Is Bilingual Exposure a Cause for Concern? *First*, July 2009, pp. 45-46. Malta: Standard Pub. Ltd.
- Bilingwiliżmu vs Lingwa Waħda. *Illum*, 12.7.09, pp.18-19. Malta <http://www.illum.com.mt/2009/07/12.interview.html>

Conference Proceedings:

R. Xuereb H. Grech & B. Dodd

- Literacy, phonology and bilingualism in Maltese children: The development of a diagnostic tool for reading and writing difficulties. Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Communication Disorders Multilingual Populations, Cyprus 6-8 November 2009.

Research

PROJECT TITLE/PROGRAMME	STATUS	PERIOD
<p><i>European research network for first-language acquisition with emphasis on semantics/pragmatics and language impairment (SLI). Cost Action A33: an intergovernmental framework for European co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research.</i></p> <p>The broad goal of this project is to coordinate and harmonize European efforts to advance the understanding of the language acquisition process in children and to apply such results to the detection of language impairment. Our particular focus is to develop test methods that are less sensitive to the language(s) and dialect(s) a child is exposed to.</p>	<p><i>Partner</i></p> <p>Helen Grech & Daniela Gatt are the Malta Government representatives in the management committee</p> <p>Co-ordinator: Dr Kazuko Yatsushiro ZAS Jägerstr. 10/11 10117 Berlin Germany</p>	2005-8
<p><i>Language Impairment in a Multilingual Society: Linguistic Patterns and the Road to Assessment Cost Action ISO804 Project.</i></p>	<p><i>Partner</i></p>	2009-2012

<p>The main objective of this Action is to profile Bilingual individuals with specific language impairment (BISLI) by establishing a network to coordinate research on the linguistic and cognitive abilities of BISLI across different migrant communities. This field of research is new and significant networking is required to ensure synergy between current individual research efforts before formal multinational collaborations can be established.</p>	<p>Helen Grech & Daniela Gatt are the Malta Government representatives in the management committee Co-ordinator: Dr Sharon Armon Lotem Bar Ilan University, Israel.</p>	
<p><i>Multilingual glossary project</i> Terms related to speech language pathology are being translated in various European languages including Maltese. This data base will be compiled and edited in a book.</p>	<p><i>Partner</i> Co-ordinator: P. Corthals et al, University of Gent, Belgium.</p>	<p>2006-</p>
<p><i>European Network for speech language therapy</i> Annual Socrates Intensive programme (IP) hosted by one of the partner institutions. 100+ students and 35-40 academic members of staff participate. Hosted in Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden</p>	<p><i>Partner</i> Co-ordinator: H. Chantrain Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp, Belgium</p>	<p>August 2009</p>

FOOD STUDIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION



Coordinator: Dr Anna McElhatton, B.Pharm. (Hons), M.Phil.(Q.U.B.) Ph.D.(Q.U.B.),
F.R.S.P.H., M.I.F.S.T.

2008

In 2007-2008 The Environmental Health Division was running three intakes Diploma (Health Sciences, Environmental Health), a single intake of B.Sc. (Health Sciences, Environmental Health) and 2 intakes of Post Qualification Diploma Nutrition and Dietetics. In connection with and in addition to these courses the University appointed staff contributed to Division by participating in conferences, boards and other miscellaneous events.

Prof. Victor Ferrito

In 2007-2008 Prof Victor Ferrito was involved with and participated as a member in the in the following boards: Council of Health meetings and EIA registration and Review Board. He was also Chair of the IHC Ethics Committee and the Nursing and Midwifery M.Sc. Board

Dr Anna McElhatton

In 2007-2008 Dr McElhatton was involved with and participated in the in the following boards:

- IHC Board (member)
- IHC Ethics Committee (member)
- Sub-committee on Assessment within the IHC (member)
- Board of Studies Environmental Health (Vice-chairperson)

- Board of Studies (PQND)
- Examination Boards (Degree, PQND and Diploma)

As a consequence of interests in Microbiology and Food Science Research she has participated in and contributed to the following events:

Abroad

- 25-27 November 2007: Massy, France ISEKI_Food 2 - Extraordinary Overall Meeting
- 3-5 January 2008: Iseki Mundus Kick-off Meeting BOKU, Vienna
- 7-10 July 2008: SFAM Summer Conference , Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast, N Ireland *The microbiology of water in work, rest and play*
- 9-12 September 2008: ISEKI Food 2 / Mundus Conference UCP, Porto, Portugal; participation in this conference with a poster, "*A short history of Food related courses at the University of Malta*"
- 4-9 November 2008: Congress Ambassador for the first European Food Congress EFFoST held in Ljubljana, Slovenia; participation as a delegate with the presentation of a poster: - *Food Science and Environmental Health education in Malta, the last twenty five years.*

Local

- 24 April 2008: CMS Training Session, IT Services, University of Malta
- 5 May 2008: Purchasing Procedures, Information Session, Finance Office, University of Malta
- 30 May 2008: University Ethics Committee Workshop, University of Malta
- 16 June 2008: FP7 People and Ideas (Presentation delivered by Brian Warrington, MCST)

Other Invitations

September 2008

- Examiner for M.Sc. thesis at the Institute of Agriculture
- Chairperson for an M.Phil. examination Board in the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
- Member of a Ph.D. examination Board in the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery



Dr Anna McElhatton, Coordinator, Food Studies and Environmental Health Division, with core staff viewing micro organisms of significance to food safety.

Ms Claire Copperstone

In 2007-2008 Ms Copperstone was involved with and participated in the following boards:

- Board of Studies (Degree and Post Qualification Diploma)
- Examination Boards Degree and Post Qualification Diploma and B.Pharm. (Hons)

Has delivered the following invited lectures:

- Lecture on Nutrition and Health to James Madison University students May 2008
- Lecture on Fish and Health: invitation by Malta University Services October 2007
- Lecture on Mental Health and Nutrition: invitation by the Richmond Foundation October 2007

Post graduate studies: Ms Copperstone has started a Ph.D. Officially registered as a part time Ph.D. student with the University of Aberdeen in October 2008. The Title of project is Dietary assessment in Maltese children, Validation of Reality Malta website and Intervention.

7-10 October 2008: First visit to University of Aberdeen for registration and first training sessions on PDP (Personal Development Plans for Ph.D.) and Starting Ph.D. Research.

Ms Copperstone was also instrumental in:

Bringing

- Ms Elizabeth Belton: Lecturer in Dietetics IHC where she delivered lectures to Post Qual Dip Nutrition & Dietetics students April 2008. The visit also includes an open lecture, open to all IHC students and staff delivered on 29th May 2008.
- Dr Charles Clutterbuck: Lecturer in Food Policy at City University, London, to the IHC. During his visit he delivered Food Policy and Environmental Biology credits to Post Qualification Diploma Nutrition as well as B.Sc. Environmental Health students. May 2008.

Twinning

- A twinning project with University of Wales Institute Cardiff, Wales (UWIC) has been secured. UWIC have agreed to accept a maximum of six graduates from IHC Post Qualification Diploma course and to train them as fully fledged dietitians.
- The Department of Health has agreed to sponsor these prospective students. It is planned that these students start their training in September 2008 and complete by mid 2009.

Joining

- Erasmus network: Dietetics.
- British Nutrition Society (project currently taking place which is looking at nutrition education in different countries)

Ms Maria Ellul

- In 2007-2008 Ms Ellul was involved with and participated in the following Conferences where she was invited to deliver two presentations at a conference organized by the Malta Association of Public Health Medicine and the University of Malta Faculty of Medicine and Surgery *Cardiovascular disease - No 1 killer in Malta Are we doing enough?* (10-11 January, 2008.)
- *Obesity: an explosive phenomenon in public health;*
- *Physical inactivity: a poorly communicated risk factor for CVD.*

Additionally the following tasks are reported:-

- Participation in BOSEH on invitation
- Lecture on *Obesity in Malta* to James Madison University students (May 2008)

- Assistance to students on dissertation re the Post Qualification Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Lecture to INIA students on *Elderly Nutrition and Policy Implications* (April 08)

2009

In 2008-2009 The Environmental Health Division was running two intakes Diploma (Health Sciences, Environmental Health), and 2 intakes of Post Qualification/Diploma Nutrition and Dietetics. In connection with and in addition to these courses the University appointed staff contributed to Division by participating in conferences, boards and other miscellaneous events. In late 2009 the Division had a change of name and is now known as the Food Studies and Environmental Health Division.

Prof. Victor Ferrito

In 2008-2009 Prof. Victor Ferrito was involved with and chaired the IHC Ethics Committee and the Nursing and Midwifery M.Sc. Board. He was also a member of the examining Board for the M.Phil. of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery that examined the theses of Dr Bernard Coleiro, Ms Wendy Scicluna and Ms Fiona Borg.

He was a member of the inter disciplinary research team – Medicine and Surgery/Pharmacy- led jointly by the Dean of the faculty and the Head of department of Pharmacy

Dr Anna McElhatton

In 2008-2009 Dr McElhatton was involved with and participated in the in the following boards:

- IHC Board (member)
- IHC Ethics Committee (member)
- Board of Studies PQND/PGD and Environmental Health (chairperson)
- Board of Studies Agriculture, Diploma and Degree (IOA, member)
- Examination Board, Diploma and Degree (IOA, member)
- Examination Board (IHC, member representing FSEH)

As a consequence of interests in Microbiology and Food Science Research she has participated in and contributed to the following events:

Abroad

- 4-9 April 2009: London, UK, ISEKI_Food 3/ Mundus_2 – Core and Steering Committee Meeting.
- 30 June -3 July 2009 Goteborg, Sweden 1st overall ISEKI_Food 3/ Mundus_2

- 4-6 November 2009 Brussels, Belgium., ISEKI_Food 3/ Mundus_2 –Steering Committee Meeting
- November 2009 EU project evaluator and Rapporteur for a call in FP7- (call details must remain confidential for commission purposes).

Research undertaken (local)

- Initiation of a pilot project on feed characterization together with IOA funded by the University Research Fund.

Joining

- Eden Network on Distance learning.

Ms Claire Copperstone

In 2008-2009 Ms Copperstone was involved with and participated in the following boards:

In 2009 Ms Copperstone was involved with and participated in the following boards:

- Board of Studies (Degree and Post Grad Diploma)
- Examination Boards Degree and Post Grad Diploma and B.Pharm (Hons)

Post graduate studies: Ms Copperstone is currently working on a Ph.D. study in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen. Her trip in May 2009 marked the end of the first year of her studies with plans to start the validation work on the new RealityMalta website in October 2009.

Ms Copperstone was also instrumental in organising the visit of Ms E Belton from Robert Gordon University Aberdeen:

Visiting lecturers

- Ms Elizabeth Belton: Lecturer in Dietetics IHC where she delivered lectures to Post Qual Dip Nutrition & Dietetics students April 2009. Ms E Belton was also involved in talks about the possible opening of a new BSc Dietetics course at the University of Malta.

Joining

- Erasmus network: Dietetics.
- British Nutrition Society (project currently taking place which is looking at nutrition education in different countries)

Training attended

- SPSS course organized by IT Services, University of Malta: February 2009
- Library workshop on Systematic reviews and journal searches at the University of Aberdeen: May 2009
- Meetings with Ph.D. supervisors at the University of Aberdeen: May 2009

Research undertaken

Ph.D. Validation study on 24 hour MPR (Multiple Pass recalls) versus Reality Malta was commenced in October 2009. 50 primary schoolchildren were involved in the study and results are currently being analyzed.

Ethical approval for the study was obtained in June 2009.

Ms Maria Ellul

- Participation in BOSEH on invitation
- Lectures to exchange students from James Madison University JMU
- Attended to the presentations of projects by exchange students from JMU
- Contribution to a research paper as co-author with Director IHC and Prof. Judith Rocchioli from JMU. Title of paper submitted for publication to MMJ awaiting approval *Maternal awareness on health promotion and its influence on childhood obesity*
- Contributed to the MCPP continuing education for Pharmacists with two key lectures on general principles on healthy eating and another on weight reduction advice to overweight and obese patients in a community pharmacy setting March 2009.

HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT DIVISION



Coordinator: Dr Sandra Buttigieg, MD Ph.D.(Aston) FFPH(UK) M.Sc. MBA MMCDF

2008 and 2009

Members of Staff

Dr Sandra Buttigieg – Coordinator, Senior Lecturer
Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat - Lecturer
Dr Kenneth Grech - Assistant Lecturer
Mr. Michael Bezzina - Assistant Lecturer

Chair Board of Studies – Dr Sandra Buttigieg

Subject Areas Taught

Health Systems; Health Policy; Epidemiology; Health Economics; Human Resources; Organisations; Health Information; Strategic Management; Financial Management; Operations Management; Quality in Health Care; Communications; Ethics; Research Methods; Statistics.

Visiting Lecturers

The approved Visiting Lecturers for academic year 2008/9 were:

- Professor Andre Vyt
- Dr Prasanta Dey
- Professor John O'Brien

Students in 2008

M.Sc. HSM 2008 Intake (1st years): 12 students

M.Sc. HSM 2007 Intake (2nd years): 17 students

PQD HSM 2006 Intake (2nd years): 19 students

Students Graduated in 2008

M.Sc. HSM 2005 Intake – 4 students

PQD HSM 2006 Intake – 4 students

Students in 2009

M.Sc. HSM 2009 Intake (1st years): commenced course - 20 students; currently 14 students

M.Sc. HSM 2008 Intake (2nd years): 9 students

M.Sc. HSM 2007 Intake (extension): 2 students

Students Graduated in 2009

M.Sc. HSM 2007/8 Intake – 15 students

PQD HSM 2006/7 Intake – 8 students

Dr Sandra Buttigieg

Publications

- Buttigieg, S; Rocchiccioli, J; Ellul, M. Maternal awareness of health promotion campaigns and health education on diet, parental obesity and obesity among preschool children: A cross sectional study. (Under Review Maltese Medical Journal).
- Buttigieg S. Multilevel modelling and its relevance in public health, epidemiological and health services research. (Under Review Maltese Medical Journal).
- Grojean, M.W., Hanges, P.J., Buttigieg S. Transformational leadership: It's all about style. (Under Review_European Journal of Work and Organisational Psychology).

Work in Progress

- Buttigieg, S., Grogean, M.W., West, M.A., Dawson, J.F. Moderating the work stressor to strain relationships across team structure in hospital practice: A multigroup structural equation modelling and moderated regression analysis.
- Buttigieg, S., & West, M. A. Working in teams: Where does the doctor fit? A. Montgomery. The effective doctor: Finding and filling the competency gap. Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing.
- Buttigieg, S. Teamwork in health care: A case study of an interdisciplinary team working in an acute rehabilitative geriatric hospital.
- Buttigieg, S; Rocchiccioli, J; Ellul, M. Maternal awareness of health promotion campaigns and health education on diet, parental obesity and obesity among preschool children: A cross sectional study.
- Buttigieg, S., & West, M. A. Facing a major organizational change – How can employees be buffered from stress and uncertainty. A multilevel hierarchical linear modelling investigation.
- Buttigieg, S., & West, M. A. Team climate, transformational leadership and hospital unit performance.
- Buttigieg, S., & West, M. A. The interactions of interpersonal conflict at work, social support, and decision latitude/control in buffering hospital employees from developing strain – A multilevel hierarchical linear modelling investigation.
- Cassar, V., Briner, B., & Buttigieg, S. The association of psychological contract breach with personal and organizational outcomes across three hierarchical organizational groups – A multigroup structural equation modelling investigation.

Projects/Research

- *Areas of Research:* European health policy; Clinical Management; Health needs of vulnerable groups; Leadership and team work in health care Stressor-strain relationship Performance management; Structural equation modelling; Decision latitude and control; Social support; Health Services utilisation; Quality and patient safety.
- *Research Projects:* Patient Mobility in the European Union (*recently completed FP6 project*) collaboration with Aston University, Birmingham on a number of Research Projects in Work and Organisational Psychology in the Health Service).

- *International bodies:* European Health Management Association; Faculty of Public Health Medicine, UK; WHO Observatory on Health Systems & Policies; *Universities:* Aston University, Birmingham, UK; IESE Barcelona, Spain; London School of Economics & Political Science, UK; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK; Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; University College London, UK; Università Cattolica, Rome. Italy.

Refereed Presentations during Congresses/Conferences

- Buttigieg, S. (2009). Team Climate, Transformational Leadership and Hospital Unit Performance. The XIV European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
- Buttigieg, S. (2009). The interactions of interpersonal conflict at work, social support, and decision latitude/control in buffering hospital employees from developing strain – A multilevel hierarchical linear modelling investigation. The XIV European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
- Buttigieg, S. (2009) Facing a major organizational change – How can employees be buffered from stress and uncertainty/ A multilevel hierarchical linear modelling investigation. Seventh International Amsterdam Conference on multilevel analysis, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Buttigieg, S; Rocchiccioli, J; Ellul, M. Maternal awareness of health promotion campaigns and health education on diet, parental obesity and obesity among preschool children: A cross sectional study. Malta Medical Journal, 2009: 99; 68 p.110.

Visiting Lectureship and Research Fellowship

- Dr S. Buttigieg was invited by Aston Business School, Aston University, Birmingham as Visiting Lecturer and Research Fellow to develop further research collaboration in November 2009.

Presentations during Conferences

- Dr S. Buttigieg participated in the 7th Malta Medical School Conference in November 2009 by leading a poster session and also by presenting a poster held at the Malta Hilton.

Erasmus Exchanges

- Dr S. Buttigieg participated in a teaching staff exchange with Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society and attending

meetings on the European Masters in Physiotherapy in Roskilde University, Copenhagen in December 2009.

Courses attended

- Dr S. Buttigieg attended the workshop “Analysis of longitudinal data using multilevel models”, based on the book: Hedeker, D. & Gibbons, R.D. (2006). *Longitudinal Data Analysis*. New York: Wiley, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2009.
- Dr S. Buttigieg attended the workshop “An introduction to conducting and interpreting meta-analyses”, Sylvia Hysong & Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2009.
- Dr S. Buttigieg attended the workshop “Time and Temporal Research in W&O Psychology”, Robert Roe, Maastricht University, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2009.

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION



Coordinator: Ms Roberta Sammut B.Sc.(Hons)(Nurs.Stud.), M.Sc.(Lond.)

2008

1. PROGRAMMES OF STUDIES OFFERED BY THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION IN OCTOBER 2008.

The Nursing and Midwifery Division aims to prepare competent and caring nurses and midwives capable of equal partnership in the interdisciplinary health service.

During the Academic Year 2008/2009 the following pre registration courses were offered to the October 2008 Intake of students:

- Master of Science in Nursing/Midwifery
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Midwifery
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) Diploma to Degree in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) Diploma to Degree in Mental Health Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) Diploma to Degree in Midwifery
- Diploma Health Science (Nursing)

During 2008, the following Continuing Professional Development courses were offered to qualified nurses/midwives:

- NUR 2401 Anaesthesia and Recovery Room Nursing
- NUR2401 Anaesthesia and Recovery Room Nursing.
- NUR3238 Adult Cancer Nursing
- NUR3236 Back to Nursing/Midwifery.
- NUR3237 Back to Nursing/Midwifery Related to Practice.

- NUR3217 Basic Life Support Provider
- NUR3092 Basic Life Support Renewal
- NUR4232 Breast Feeding Management
- NUR3233 Caring for the Older Persons
- NUR3234 Infection Prevention Control
- NUR3235 Infection Prevention and Control in the Theatre Environment.
- NUR3227 Mentorship
- NUR3219 Neonatal Resuscitation Provider
- NUR3232 Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing
- MID4004 Substance Misuse in Child Bearing Women
- MID4005 Substance Misuse in Child Bearing Women Related to Practice
- NUR3228 Surgical Nursing.

2. NEW STAFF WITHIN THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION

- Dr Josianne Scerri, Ms Charmaine Attard, Mr Roderick Bugeja and Mr Josef Trapani joined the Nursing Division during 2008. Ms Rita Pace Parascandolo joined the Midwifery Division during this academic year.
- Ms Joanna Depares and Ms Norma Buttigieg who held a part-time appointment with the University of Malta and were seconded to the Institute of Health Care on a full-time basis were awarded a full-time post at the University.
- Ms Monica Formosa joined the Nursing and Midwifery Division in April 2008 as a Graduate Trainee.

3. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF ACADEMIC MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION.

The following is a summary of the continuing education activities followed by academic members of staff of the Nursing and Midwifery Division during the 2007/8 academic year:

Members of Staff	Date	Continuing Education Activity.
Ms Antoinette Attard	February–April 2008	Medical statistics and critical appraisal of the literature (Association of Surgeons of Malta).
	1-6 th March, 2008	2 nd Master class in Oncology (European School of Oncology and the European Nursing Society) held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
Ms Isabelle Avallone	February–April 2008	Medical statistics and critical appraisal of the literature (Association of Surgeons of Malta).
Mr Roderick Bugeja	8 th April 2008	The new HPV vaccine (AM Mangion Ltd.)
Ms Norma Buttigieg	February–April 2008	Medical statistics and critical

Members of Staff	Date	Continuing Education Activity.
		appraisal of the literature (Association of Surgeons of Malta).
Ms Joanna Depares	1-6 March, 2008	2 nd Masterclass in Oncology (European School of Oncology and the European Nursing Society) held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
Ms Claire Farrugia	February-May 2008	Mentorship course (IHC).
	2008-present	Course in knowledge management and transfer.
	27-28 October 2008	Training the Trainer – Malta Institute for Medical Education.
Mr Josef Trapani	16 th May 2008	Training session on ‘estimating blood loss’ (Anaesthesia Department- MDH)
Mr Noel Abela	27-28 th October 2008	Training the Trainer – Malta Institute for Medical Education.
Ms Therese Bugeja	November/December 2008	Workshops on Gestalt Techniques.

Ms Pauline Aquilina was enrolled in a M.Sc. in e-learning with the University of Hull, Ms Therese Bugeja was enrolled in a post-graduate diploma in Gestalt psychotherapy, Ms Dorianne Coleiro enrolled in an MA in Counselling and Ms Carmen Camilleri was enrolled in an MA in Theology at the University of Malta. Ms Michelle Galea, a part-timer with the Midwifery Division was registered for an MBA with the Leicester University, UK

The following members of staff were following Ph.D. studies at the universities indicated below:

Member of Staff	University	Title of dissertation
Ms Rita Borg Xuereb	University of Malta.	The needs of first-time Maltese parents during their transition to parenthood: initial steps in the development of an adult education programme.
Mr Roderick Bugeja	University of Southampton	Young peoples’ views in the assessment of health needs and education.
Ms Michelle Camilleri	University of Surrey.	Becoming a Nurse: a process of learning.
Ms Roberta Sammut	King’s College London	The psychosocial development of nursing students.
Ms Carmen Spiteri	University of Hull	Postnatal perineal trauma and general health in Maltese women
Ms Vicky Sultana	University	Body Rebuilding: on flesh and

	College London	prosthesis
Ms Josianne Scerri	University of Nottingham	Illness perceptions and related outcomes in patients with chronic diseases having genetic/environmental triggers and their carers.

During 2008, Ms Dorianne Coleiro graduated with a Masters degree in Nursing from the Royal College of Nursing, University of Manchester, UK and Ms Claire Farrugia graduated with a M.Sc. in Health Services Management from the Institute of Health Care, University of Malta with distinction.

Dr Rita Borg Xuereb graduated Ph.D. from the University of Malta.

4. VISITING EXAMINERS

The visiting examiner for the B.Sc (Hons) Nursing and Diploma in Nursing programme for the academic year 2007/2008 was Dr Julia Roberts, BA, CertED, MA, Ph.D.. Dr Roberts is Head of the Department of Specialist Care, Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, King's College London. This was the first time that Dr Roberts was nominated as external examiner.

It was the second visit for the B.Sc. in Mental Health external examiner, Professor Mary Chambers B.Ed. PGCE Ph.D.. Professor Mary Chambers is Professor of Mental Health Nursing and Executive Director of Nursing, Kingston University/St. George's Medical School, University of London/South West London Mental Health NHS Trust.

It was the third visit for the M.Sc in Nursing and Midwifery external examiner, Dr Peter Draper, Director of Research and Reach Out from the Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of Hull, England.

5. VISITING LECTURERS

Dr Bernard Gibbon Ph.D., RN, FHEA was visiting lecturer for 2008. Dr Bernard Gibbon is Head of Nursing at the University of Central Lancashire. Following a clinical career where he worked in mental health care settings and medical nursing settings he embarked on a nurse education career. He has a strong interest in clinical nursing practice and engages in nursing research focused on practice issues. He is particularly interested in the care and management of patients requiring post acute care and rehabilitation, especially stroke rehabilitation. This has also led him to develop interest in multi-professional team working. He hosts a multi-professional stroke research team in his department that is studying therapeutic interventions in acute and rehabilitative stroke care.

During his time in Malta between the 22 and 24 of April 2008, Dr Gibbon delivered the following lectures: 'Responding to the unscheduled care agenda – development of the role of the nurse and paramedic practitioner', 'Towards a UK strategy for nursing research' and

‘The culture of teams: investigating inter-professional working in stroke rehabilitation teams’.

Dr Linda Ross from the University of Glamorgan presented a paper on ‘Culture and Spirituality in Research’ on the 9 May 2008.

Ms Pauline Wooliscroft and Ms Jane Perry from the University of Worcester, UK visited the Nursing and Midwifery Division between the 17 and 24 June 2008 on an Erasmus exchange. They delivered a public lecture on the 19 June 2008 on ‘The role of nurse practitioner and nurse prescribing’.

6. CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION.

Several staff members attended seminars, workshops and conferences which were organized locally and abroad.

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference (Organizer)</i>
Ms Antoinette Attard	9 th April 2008	Improving and changing dementia care in Malta (Dementia Society).
Ms Maria Abela	February 2008	Interdisciplinary Seminar (IHC).
	June 2008	Diabetic Foot Ulcers.
	May 2008	Youth Studies (Faculty of Education UOM)
Ms Charmaine Attard	March 2008	Dementia Care in the Elderly.
Mr Anthony Bugeja	2008	XLV EDTA/ERA conference – Stockholm Sweden.
Ms Salvina Bonanno.		Continance Awareness Seminar
Ms Norma Buttigieg	20 th June 2008	Saving the Diabetic Foot (Tissue Viability Unit).
	15-17 th	The future of primary health care in Europe –
	September 2008	Promoting cooperation, collaboration and organization – European Forum for Primary Care, University of Southampton, UK
Ms Rebecca Cachia Fearné	April 2008	Immunisation in Practice (Advisory Committee on Immunisation Policy).
	29 th September	WHO meeting on the Family and
	-2 nd October 2008	Community Health.
Mr Martin Camilleri	June 2008	31 st Annual CONA National Conference “Grow with us in orthopaedic nursing” held in Canada.
	9-10 th October 2008	Maltese Emergency Nurses’ Association Conference.
Ms Dorianne Coleiro	2 nd May 2008	Healthy Youth: Healthy Nation
	2-6 th July 2008	Counselling: a means of bridging differences (IAC, MACP, UoM).
Ms Anna Cini	20 th June 2008	Saving the Diabetic Foot (Tissue Viability Unit).

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference (Organizer)</i>
Ms Joanna Depares	9 th April 2008	Improving and changing dementia care in Malta (Dementia Society).
Ms Claire Farrugia	April 2008	7 th European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth of Nurses' Federation.
	October 2008	Healthcare safety and quality: meeting the challenges. 25 th International conference of the International Society for Quality in Health Care, Denmark Copenhagen.
Ms Maria Navarro	20 th June 2008	Saving the Diabetic Foot (Tissue Viability Unit).
Ms Roberta Sammut	20 th June 2008	Saving the Diabetic Foot (Tissue Viability Unit).
Ms Vincent Saliba	Feb 2008	Rehabilitation Conference (MUMN).
	4-5 th April 2008	7 th European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth of Nurses' Federation.
Ms Victoria Sultana	26-30 th August 2008	European Association of Social Anthropologists' conference held in Slovenia.
Mr Josef Trapani	4-5 th April 2008	7 th European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth of Nurses' Federation.
	20 th June, 2008	Saving the Diabetic Foot (Tissue Viability Unit).
	15-17 th September 2008	Caring, competence and collaboration – Critical Care Nurses' 23 rd Annual Conference- York, UK
Ms Maria Navarro	2-4 th September 2008	Education in Health Care – Churchill College, University of Cambridge, UK

7. PUBLICATIONS.

The following papers were published by members of staff of the Nursing and Midwifery Division during 2008:

<i>Author/s</i>	<i>Publications</i>
Baldacchino D. (2008)	Teaching on the spiritual dimension in care: the perceived impact on undergraduate nursing students. <i>Nurse Education Today</i> 28(4) p. 501-512.
Baldacchino D. (2008)	Teaching on the spiritual dimension in care to pre-registration nursing students: the content and teaching methods. <i>Nurse Education Today</i> 28(5) p. 550-562.
Burnard, P., Edwards, D. Bennette, K, Thaibah, H., Tothova, V., Baldacchino, D., Bara P. and Mytevelli, J. (2008)	A comparative, longitudinal study of stress in student nurses in five countries: Albania, Brunei, the Czech Republic, Malta and Wales. <i>Nurse Education Today</i> 28(2) p. 134-145.

Gatt S. and Sammut R. (2008)	An exploratory study of predictors of self-care behaviour in persons with type 2 diabetes. <i>International Journal of Nursing Studies</i> 45(10) p. 1525-1533.
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8. PAPERS AND POSTERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

Academic staff of the Nursing and Midwifery Division was this year encouraged to present papers and posters at local and international conferences. There was a good response with 16 papers and posters presented at various conferences as listed below.

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference</i>
Ms Charmaine Attard and Dr Maria Cassar	June 2008	Paper presented at the Nurse Education Today Conference held in Dublin – ‘whose responsibility is it to supervise students in the clinical area?’
Ms Charmaine Attard and Dr Maria Cassar	30h June-3 rd July 2008	Poster presented at the International Nursing Research Conference- Israel titled ‘When the nurse becomes a patient – experiencing the silence’.
Ms Rita Borg Xuereb	March 2008	Paper presented at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland 10 th overseas meeting – ‘experiences of first time parents during the transition to parenthood: the antenatal perspective.’
Dr Donia Baldacchino	28-29 th March 2008	Paper presented at the 7 th European Regional Conference of Commonwealth Nurses’ Federation – ‘Benefits of finding causal meaning in myocardial infarction’.
Ms Rebecca Cachia Fearne	April 2008	Paper presented at the Commonwealth Nurses’ Federation Conference entitled ‘meeting the health care needs of the Maltese community: how is professional development setting the framework’.
	November 2008	Paper presented at the Paediatric nursing in the 21 st century innovations and challenges conference. Title of paper: ‘meeting the challenges of school health in Malta – a nursing perspective’.
Ms Michelle Camilleri	9-11 th June 2008	Paper presented at the 2 nd NEPNET International Research in Nurse Education Conference held in Dublin, Ireland. Title of paper: ‘content acquisition versus confidence building: where should the emphasis be in pre-registration nursing curricula?’.

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Conference</i>
Dr Maria Cassar	30 th June-3 rd July 2008	Paper presented at the International Nursing Research Conference – Israel. Title of paper: ‘the role of continuing education’.
Ms Joanna Depares	17 th March 2008	Paper presented at the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, 10 th Overseas meeting. Title of paper: ‘suffering: the emotional burden of caring for the dying’.
Mr Paul Pace	7 th March 2008	Paper presented at the Commonwealth Nurses’ Federation Conference. Title of paper ‘do we practice as we learn as nurses’.
	30 th June 2008	Paper presented at the international nurses’ conference held in Tel Aviv Israel. Title of paper ‘Needle Stick Injuries’.
Mr Noel Abela	12 th September 2008	Paper presented at the European Tissue Repair Society and Tissue Viability Unit Conference – Collaboration for better care.
	7-8 th November	Paper presented at the conference paediatric nursing in the 21 st century.
	28 th November	Paper presented at the ‘Beating Bugs’ conference organized by the infection control unit Mater Dei Hospital.
Dr Josianne Scerri	10-12 th September	Guest speaker at the Conference of the European Tissue Repair Society. Title of paper: beyond the skin lesion.
Ms Josanne Drago	5-9 th December 2008	Paper presented at the Horatio European Psychiatric Nursing Festival. Title of paper: undergraduate general nursing students’ feedback on the mental health nursing module.



NURSING STUDENTS PRACTICING IN THE SIMULATION LAB.

9. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ORGANISED BY THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION:

During the 2008 academic year, the Nursing and Midwifery Division was responsible for organizing monthly research seminars, an International week with a focus on midwifery and a Tuning dissemination conference as outlined below.

15 th 2008	April	Tuning Dissemination Conference: Integration of competencies in the curriculum: the Bologna process and Tuning EU project.
5-9 th 2008	May	International Midwifery Week.

The International Midwifery week formed part of the Erasmus exchange programme. Participants came from various countries including Finland, Wales UK, Belgium, Cyprus, Sweden, Slovakia, Lithuania, Portugal and also Malta. Topics included different aspects of midwifery education and practice in the various participating countries.

The International Day of the Midwife, on the 5th May 2008 was celebrated with a reception to which the foreign delegates, midwives and student midwives were invited.

The following research seminars were held within the Nursing and Midwifery division:

12 th 2008	March	Parents' experiences of family-centered care in the Special Care Baby Unit – a phenomenological study: Ms Rita Pace Parascandalo.
9 th 2008	April	The Meaning and Purpose of Nurses: Ms Maria Montebello.

The Nursing and Midwifery Division participated in the following virtual seminars through the use of videoconferencing in collaboration with members of the Worldwide University Network:

- 24th April 2008 Roger Watson Ph.D. RN FIBiol FAAN:
The natural history of the Edinburgh Feeding Evaluation in Dementia (EdFED) scale

- 15th May 2008 Lisa Dinhofer, MA, CT, CTBS :
Delivering Death Notifications and its Impact on Organ/Tissue Donation: Caring for Families in Crisis

The Nursing and Midwifery Division also participated in the organization of the Interdisciplinary Seminar held within the Institute of Health Care on the 23 February 2008.

10. VISITS ABROAD.

As part of the Tuning IV project in which the Nursing and Midwifery Division is participating, Dr Donia Baldacchino and Ms Maria Abela attended meetings held Brussels in June 2008 on Tuning Validation: Health Care and Tuning Educational Structures in Europe IV.

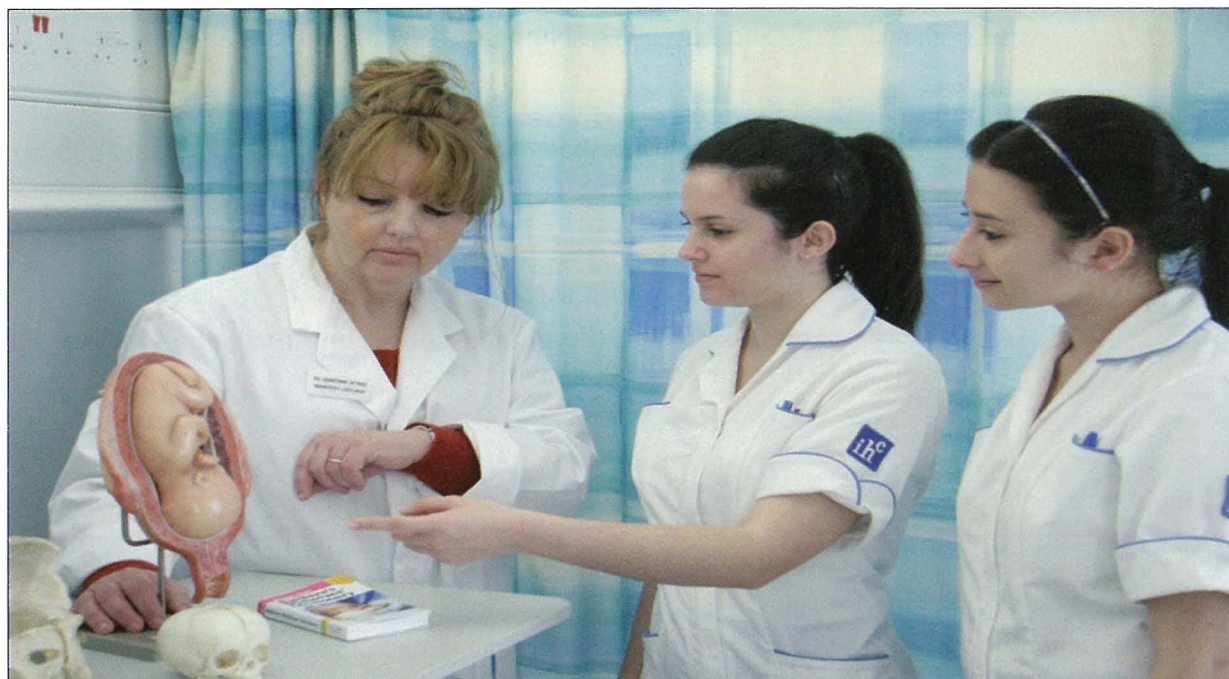
Ms Maria Navarro visited the University of Hull where she discussed the curriculum for the M.Sc. in Diversity in Ageing offered by the latter University and the possibility of collaboration with regards to post-graduate programmes.

11. INTERNATIONAL NURSING STUDENT EXCHANGE.

Similar to previous years, there were more outgoing students than incoming in Erasmus and Elective student placements in 2008. One lecturer utilised the Teacher Mobility programme. A total of eleven Erasmus bilateral agreements were renewed with current partner institutions. Two new bilateral agreements were signed.

11.1 Members of the International Team

The international team members for 2008 were: Ms Michelle Camilleri (Co-ordinator), Mrs Anna Cini, Mrs Lilian Bonello, Mrs Rita Sant, Mrs Rita Borg Xuereb, Mrs Josianne Drago and Mr Martin Camilleri.



Ms Josephine Attard, Midwifery Assistant Lecturer, teaching students' midwives.

11.1 Bilateral Agreement.

11.1.1 Current Bilateral Agreements

The bilateral agreements included four midwife and twenty nurse student placements in the listed institutions.

Country	Name of Institution	Agreement
Belgium	Hogeschool Kempen, Turnhout	2 nursing students
Finland	Pirkanmaa Polytechnic – Tampere	2 nursing students
Finland	Savonia Polytechnic	2 nursing students; 2 midwifery students
Sweden	Karolinska Institute	2 nursing students
Italy	Universita degli studi di Verona	2 nursing students
Italy	Universita degli studi di Firenze	2 nursing students, 2 midwifery students
Ireland	University College of Dublin	2 nursing students
Portugal	Escola Superior de Enfermagem – Porto	2 nursing students
Spain	Univeristat de Lleida, Catalonia	2 nursing students
Lithuania	Klapedia University	2 nursing students
England	University of Nottingham	2 nursing students
England	University of Central Lancashire	2 nursing students
Wales	Glamorgan University	2 postgraduate students

11.1.2 New bilateral agreements

Two new bilateral agreements at undergraduate level were signed: The University of Nottingham, England and Klaipeda University, Lithuania. These agreements cover the exchange of one member of staff and two students.

11.2 Erasmus Student Exchanges 2008

11.2.1 Incoming Erasmus Students

During Academic 2008 we received 12 nursing students and 1 midwifery student through the Erasmus exchange programmes.

Name	Country	Course	Programme	Dates
Mari Koppanen	Finland	Nursing	Erasmus	March – June
Laura Laaksone	Finland	Nursing	Erasmus	March – June
Eve Louise Sutcliffe	Ireland	Nursing	Erasmus	February – April
Stephanie Gavin	Ireland	Nursing	Erasmus	February – April

Christa Oostendorp	Belgium	Nursing	Erasmus	March – June
Mari Vinki	Finland	Midwifery	Erasmus	February – April
Alberto Zangini	Italy	Nursing	Erasmus	February – April
Alice Zulian	Italy	Nursing	Erasmus	February – April
Matilda Nylund	Sweden	Nursing	Erasmus	February – April
Fredrik Wilen	Sweden	Nursing	Erasmus	February – April
Iza Oliviera	Portugal	Nursing	Erasmus	March – June
Sara da Silva di Correira	Portugal	Nursing	Erasmus	March – June
Fiona Durkin	England	Nursing	Erasmus	March – June

11.2.3 Outgoing Erasmus students

In 2008 there was a good response to the Erasmus applications. Sixteen nursing students and two midwifery students participated in the Erasmus exchange programme, with seventeen students successfully completing the exchange.

Name	Country	Cohort	Programme	Dates
Katrina Farrugia	Finland	Midwifery	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Nicole Borg Cunen	Finland	Midwifery	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Cyrita Cappello	Ireland	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Odette Giordamina	Ireland	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Christianne Spiteri	Sweden	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Jennifer Muscat	Sweden	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Stacey Zammit	Finland	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Maria Bajada	Finland	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Danielle Busuttil	Italy	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Ingrid Cutajar	Italy	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Chantelle Testa	England	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Janice Caruana	England	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Maria Vella	Spain	Degree	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Rebecca Galea	Spain	Diploma	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Daniela Micallef	Portugal	Diploma	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Iona Vella	Portugal	Diploma	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Kristine Saliba	Belgium	Diploma	Erasmus	March – June 2008
Marvic Zammit	Belgium	Diploma	Erasmus	March – June 2008

11.3 Staff Mobility

11.3.1 Teacher Mobility – Incoming

The following academic staff visited our institution through Erasmus & Leonardo programmes:

Mrs Kirsty Palonen – University of Applied Sciences, Kuopio – May 2008

Mrs Raija Kokko – University of Applied Sciences, Tampere – May 2008

11.3.2 Teacher Mobility – Outgoing

The following educators went on teacher mobility this academic year:

Dr Donia Baldacchino, Glamorgan University, Wales, between the 19th and the 27th January 2008.

11.4 Elective students

11.4.1 Incoming Elective Students

The following elective students were offered nursing elective placements in 2008.

Name	University	Country	Dates of placement
Rebecca Bettison	UCLAN	England	February – April 2008
Sarah Geffen	University of Nottingham	England	March – April 2008
Kirsty Richards	University of Nottingham	England	March – April 2008
Stephanie Hannabus	University of Nottingham	England	March – April 2008
Alex Whismayer	Charite Medical University of Berlin	Germany	July – August 2008
Monika Sieber	Klinkun Rosenheim	Germany	August 2008
Alehna Kuhn	Johann-Wolfgang Goethe Universitat	Germany	August 2008
Anne Brodhun	Martin-Luther Universitat	Germany	September–October 2008
Victoria Green	Leggat University of the West of England	England	September-October 2008
Stephen Smith	University of the West of England	England	September-October 2008
Ashley Johnston	Cumbernauld College	England	May 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Dates of placement</u>
Latie Maclennan	Cumbernauld College	England	May 2008
David Gardiner	Cumbernauld College	England	May 2008
Francesa McCullough	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Cartherine Greer	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Sarah Sharpe	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Craig McLiiterick	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Wendy McAlistair	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Belinda Murdock	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Hayley Warnock	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Rachel Teague	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Sarah Hill	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008
Aileen Hamill	Southern College	Regional N. Ireland	June 2008

11.5 Mental Health International Programme (IP) - MENTHE

One lecturer and four students participated in the MENTHE Intensive Programme. This was held between the 12th and 24th May 2008 at the University of Applied Sciences, Tampere, Finland.

The lecturer was Mrs Josanne Drago and the students were Ms Cettina Cassar, Ms Doris Fenech, Ms Marion Saliba and Mr Joe Galea.

12. Other Miscellaneous Activities - Midwifery

Dr Rita Borg Xuereb

During Academic year 2008-09 Borg Xuereb was an active member of the following Boards and Councils:

- Nursing and Midwifery Council of Malta
- Centre for Family Studies, University of Malta
- Midwives Association of Malta
- Diocesan Commission for the Family – *Chairperson*

- Diocesan Council for Pastoral work
- Commission for the Family (Qormi, San Gorg)
- Progettimpenn (Diocesan Commission for the family, Caritas, Cana) - *Chairperson*
- Committee of Natural Family Planning Teachers – Cana Movement

Publications and conferences

- October 2008: As the chairperson of Diocesan commission for the family, (CDF) Dr Borg Xuereb presented the opening address during the Seminar entitled “*The charter of the rights of the family – 25 years later*”, Catholic Institute, Malta, 22nd October.
- November 2008: Ph.D., University of Malta. Title of Thesis “The needs of Maltese first-time parents during their transition to parenthood – implications for the development of an educational programme”

Ms Rita Pace Parascandalo (Ph.D. student 2nd year)

- November 2008: Attended a local two day course ‘Enhancing skills for normal labour and birth’ given by a foreign lecturer, Dr Denis Walsh 4-5th November.
- November 2008: Attended the Neonatal Resuscitation Provider course at IHC
- December 2008: Publication of a co-authored article in the Malta Medical Journal (Vol 20 Issue 4), ‘SIDS and infant sleeping position: audit on the advisory campaign in Malta’

2009

1. PROGRAMMES OF STUDIES OFFERED BY THE NURSING DIVISION IN OCTOBER 2009.

The Nursing Division aims to prepare competent and caring nurses and midwives capable of equal partnership in the interdisciplinary health service.

The following pre registration courses were offered to the October 2009 Intake of students:

- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nursing,
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mental Health Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) Diploma to Degree in Mental Health Nursing,
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) Diploma to Degree in Community Nursing.
- Bachelor of Health Science.
- Diploma Health Science (Nursing).

October 2009 saw the launch of a new 3 year diploma in health science and a 3 year B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing. These programmes were launched following an evaluation and review of

the pre-existing four year programmes to take into account feedback provided over the years by practitioners, students and academic members of staff. This review was undertaken by Dr Maria Cassar and Ms Dorianne Coleiro. The main feature of these three year programmes is an emphasis on the personal and professional development of students in addition to the previous emphasis on practical competence and knowledge and an integrative approach to teaching and learning to allow students to appreciate the holistic nature of care in terms of meeting the physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of the person.

A total of 162 students were admitted to these two programmes of studies following an advertisement campaign carried out by the Institute of Health Care and the Health Division.

October 2009 also saw the first intake of students to a full-time B.Sc. in Mental Health Nursing.

October 2009, saw the launch of the B.Sc. in Health Science programme which was initiated by members of staff of the Nursing Division, particularly Dr Michelle Camilleri who initiated development of this course programme which was further developed with the collaboration of other divisions within the IHC. This programme of studies was designed to take into consideration the difficulties experienced by members of staff in continuing their studies due to problems with release from their duties to attend day courses as well as the impact this was having on the service area. This programme of studies is innovative in taking a multidisciplinary approach, with the use of a blended approach of direct student contact and e-learning. Fifty-four students enrolled in the first intake to the programme of studies which replaced the B.Sc. in nursing diploma to degree course.

The following continuing professional development courses were offered to qualified nurses in October 2009:

- Basic life support provider.
- Neonatal Resuscitation instructor.
- Mentorship
- Infection Control and Precautions.

2. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF ACADEMIC MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION.

The following is a summary of the continuing education activities followed by academic members of staff of the Nursing Division during the 2008/9 academic year:

Member of Staff	Programme of Studies being followed	Date of commencement	Date of completion	Award
Mr. Noel Abela	M.Sc. Public Health and Infection Control – University of Essex	January 2007	December 2009	M.Sc.

Member of Staff	Programme of Studies being followed	Date of commencement	Date of completion	Award
Ms Pauline Aquilina	M.Ed. in E-Learning. University of Hull	– 2006	2010/11	M.Ed.
Jeanette Cilia	B.Sc. (Hons) Health Science University of Malta	– 2009	2012	B.Sc. (Hons)
Angela Caruana	Postgraduate Diploma in Gerontology & Geriatrics University of Malta	– 2009	2010	Diploma
Carmen Camilleri	M.A. Theology – University of Malta	2006	2009	M.A.

The following members of staff were following Ph.D. studies at the universities indicated below:

Member of Staff	University	Title of dissertation
Mr. Roderick Bugeja	University of Southampton	Young peoples' views in the assessment of health needs and education.
Ms Roberta Sammut	King's College London	The psychosocial development of nursing students.
Ms Vicky Sultana	University College London	Body Rebuilding: on flesh and prosthesis
Ms Josanne Drago Bason	Joint Faculty of Health and Social Care of Kingston University and St. George's University of London.	The experience of OCD patients in a general hospital.

This academic year, two members of staff completed their Ph.D. studies. Dr Josianne Scerri graduated Ph.D. from the University of Nottingham on the 23rd July 2009. The title of Dr Scerri's dissertation was 'Illness perceptions and related outcomes in patients with chronic diseases having genetic/environmental triggers and their carers'. Dr Michelle Camilleri graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Surrey with a dissertation entitled 'Becoming a Nurse: a process of learning' on the 16th March 2009.

3. VISITING EXAMINERS

The visiting examiner for the B.Sc (Hons) Nursing and Diploma in Nursing programme for the academic year 2007/2008 was Dr Julia Roberts, BA, CertED, MA, Ph.D., who is Senior Head of Department of Specialist Care at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, King's College London. This was the second time that Dr Roberts was nominated as external examiner.

It was the third visit for the B.Sc. in Mental Health external examiner, Professor Mary Chambers B.Ed. PGCE Ph.D.. Professor Mary Chambers is Professor of Mental Health Nursing and Executive Director of Nursing, Kingston University/St. George's Medical School, University of London/South West London Mental Health NHS Trust.

It was the 1st visit for the M.Sc in Nursing and Midwifery external examiner, Dr Linda Ross. Dr Ross researched spirituality and spiritual care in illness and education. Dr Ross is Senior Lecturer at the University of Glamorgan, Wales.

4. CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF STAFF OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY DIVISION.

Several staff members attended seminars, workshops and conferences which were organized locally and abroad.

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>of Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Mr Noel Abela	History of Infectious Disease Containment	23 rd April 2009	Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta
	Infection Control in Intensive Therapy Unit	1 st June 2009	The Hilton Hotel, Malta
Ms Anna Cini	Malta Meeting of the Royal Society of Medicine (Paediatric Section)	May 2009	Malta Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital.
	Paediatric Oncology symposium	May 2009	Malta Medical School, Mater Dei Hospital.
	A Celebration of Care.	May 2009	Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard.
Ms Josanne Drago Bason	Female drug users and sexual abuse	21 st April 2009	Capua Palace Hotel.
	Elderly Mental Health	26-27 th October 2009	Corinthia Palace Hotel.
Ms Rebecca Cachia Fearnhe	Emotional Intelligence	16-23 rd April 2009	B'Kara Health Centre

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Title of Conference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
	Teamwork management of clients with arthritis and rheumatism	16 th July 2009	Mater Dei Hospital.
	Asthma Management	19 th September 2009	Mount St. Joseph Retreat House, Targa Gap, Mosta.
Ms Therese Bugeja	Personality Disorders	5-9 th March 2009	Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard.
	A Celebration of Care.	May 2009	Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard.
	Strengthening the role of women in society.	10-12 th November 2009	Marrakesh, Morocco.
	Council of Europe meeting – steering committee for equality between women and men.	25-27 th November 2009	Strasbourg.
Ms Maria Abela	5 th Biennial Primary Health Conference: Broadening Horizons community and primary health	23 rd October 2009	Dolmen Hotel, Bugibba.
	A Celebration of Care.	May 2009	Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard.
Mr Vincent Saliba	International Council for Nurses, 24 th Quadrennial Congress: leading change, building healthier nations.	27 th June – 4 th July 2009	Durban, South Africa.

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
	Conference Association of Orthopaedic Nurses, International Conference	of	15-16 th October 2009	St. Julians, Malta.
Ms Joanna Depares	A Celebration of Care.		May 2009	Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard.
	Death, Dying and disposal End of life care.		9-12 th September 2009	Durham, UK
Mr Paul Pace	Elderly Mental Health and		23-24 th October 2009	Malta
	26th and 27th October Corinthia Palace Attard		15-16th 2009	October Le Meridien St. Julians
	Commonwealth Nursing Achieving a sustainable nursing and midwifery workforce for the future.		24-26 th June 2009	Gaborone Botswana
Ms Maria Navarro	Nursing & Midwifery Care Conference		27 – 29 th May 2009	Malta
	11 th National Dementia Conference		2 – 28 th February 2009	London
Dr Josianne Scerri	Dermfest conference (guest speaker) *		28 th November	Hilton St Julian's
	International CD medics training conference**		10 th September	Intercontinental Hotel, St Julians

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Title of Conference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
	Celebration of care conference	27-29 th May	Corinthia Hotel Attard
DrDonia Baldacchino	3 day-Summer School: Spirituality and Health Care	6 – 8 July 2009	The George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health, Washington DC, USA
	4 th International Spirituality Conference.	21 – 23 April 2009	Bergen University, Norway.
Ms Roberta Sammut	Celebration of Care conference	27-29 May	Corinthia Hotel Attard

6. PUBLICATIONS

The following papers were published by members of staff of the Nursing Division during 2009:

<i>Author/s</i>	<i>Publication</i>
Mr Martin Ward	<p>Ward, MF (2009) “The use of nursing documentation to improve the quality of care provision” Chapter 53 in Barker (Ed) Mental Health Nursing in the 21st Century (2nd Edition) Edward Arnold. January</p> <p>Ward, MF (2009) “Discharge planning” Chapter 54 in Barker (Ed) Mental Health Nursing in the 21st Century (2nd Edition) Edward Arnold. January</p> <p>Ward, MF (2009) “So you think you are a leader” Discourse on the nature of leadership from a psychiatric nursing perspective. English and German translations. Official European Psychiatric Nurses website. http://www.horatio-web.eu/position-papers.html</p> <p>Ward, MF (2009) “Collaboration and the process of professional development” Guest Editorial. Journal of Psychosocial Nursing and Health Services. (USA) 1-2:17:12</p>

7. PAPERS AND POSTERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES

Academic staff of the Nursing Division presented the following papers at the conferences listed below.

<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>Title of Paper</i>	<i>Title of Conference</i>		<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Mr Noel Abela		Infection Prevention and Maintenance of Central Venous Lines	Clinical Conference	Nutrition	6 th February 2009	Riu Seabank Hotel, Malta
		Identifying Perceptions and beliefs: the first challenge in every hand hygiene compliance initiative	Tenth Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control		8-11 th October 2009	Vilnius, Lithuania
Ms Rebecca Cachia Fearne		A training needs analysis of primary health staff – boon or a bane?	5 th Biennial Health Broadening community and health	Primary Conference: Horizons and primary	23 rd October 2009.	Dolmen Resort, Qawra.
Mr Vincent Saliba		Maintaining IV cannula dressings.	Infection control: a multi-disciplinary perspective		2 nd December 2009	St. Vincent de Paule Residence. Durban
Mr Paul Pace		The development of the Nursing Profession on the Maltese Island	International Congress	Nursing	1st July - 4th July	South Africa
		The Contribution of Orthopaedic Nurses in such a vital speciality	Temples of Inspiration		15-16th October 2009	Le Meridien St. Julians
		Occupational Health Nurse – What it means when you dont have one.	The Occupational & Health Safety Meeting	Nurse	13th & 15th October	Radisson St. Julians

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<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>Title of Paper</i>	<i>Title of Conference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Mr Ward	Martin	“Mental health in youth and education”	Stakeholder participant Commission. SANCO workshop - EU DG thematic conference – Mental Health Pact for Europe.	29-30 th September	Stockholm, Sweden
		“The need for leadership in psychiatric nursing”	World Mental Health Day celebratory symposium – Cypriot Nursing and Midwifery Association	9 October	Nicosia, Cyprus
		“Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm: The challenge of leadership”	Association of Maltese Orthopaedic Nurses 2nd International Conference & Exhibition	16 th October	Le Meridien Hotel, Malta
		“So, you think you are a leader”	Dreilanderkongress Pflege in der Psychiatrie (German Tri country congress of psychiatry)	20 th November	Vienna, Austria
		“The role of Nursing in the prevention of depression and suicide”	” Invited speaker. EU Commission. DG SANCO thematic conference – Mental Health Pact for Europe.	11-12 th December	Budapest, Hungary
Ms Sammut	Roberta	Nursing Students’ Psychosocial Development	Health Schools Graduate Research Showcase Event.	23-24 th July 2009	King’s College London, UK
Ms Navarro	Maria	Diploma Nursing Programmes; Wasteful or Resourceful? Authors: Dr Maria Cassar & Ms Maria Navarro	Nurse Education Tomorrow Conference	8 th September 2009	Cambridge, UK

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<i>Member of Staff</i>	<i>Title of Paper</i>	<i>Title of Conference</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
	<i>Communication and the elderly</i>	<i>MAPN Elderly and Mental Health Conference</i>	<i>27 October 2009</i>	<i>Malta</i>
Dr Josianne Scerri	Illness perceptions and degree of adherence for a chronic disease sample	Malta Medical school conference	5-7 th November	Hilton St Julians
Dr Donia Baldacchino	Workshop: The role of the nurse in maintaining harmony in institutionalized older persons	4 th International Spirituality Conference, Bergen, Norway	22 nd April 2009	Bergen University, Norway.
	Stress and spiritual coping of institutionalized Maltese older persons in Australia and Malta.	Celebrating Nursing & Midwifery Care	29 th May 2009	Corinthia Hotel, Attard, Malta
	Personality, stress and spiritual coping of nursing students	Medical School Conference	5 th November 2009	Malta Hilton Hotel, St Julians, Malta

8. AWARDS RECEIVED

MEMBER OF STAFF	AWARD
Mr Noel Abela	IFIC 2009 Scholarship Award to attend the tenth congress of the international federation of infection control held in Vilnius Lithuania between the 8 th and 11 th of October, 2009.
Dr Michelle Camilleri	Dr Michelle Camilleri was nominated and subsequently awarded the Asako Okukubo Prize in March 2009. This is a prize awarded to the most outstanding Ph.D. thesis within the

	School of Education, at the University of Surrey, England. The award was established by The Okukubo International Society for the Promotion of Education and Culture was established in Japan by the Okukubo family on the 1st of January 2000. The aim of the society is to promote education and culture in a number of countries including Japan, England and Asia. The University of Surrey was chosen as the British recipient of this philanthropy. The first prize at the University of Surrey was awarded in 2001, and has been awarded every year except in 2007, when it was judged that there was no candidate of sufficient merit.
Dr Donia Balacchino	Dr Donia Baldacchino was appointed Visiting Fellow by the University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, Wales on the 16 June, 2009.

8. CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ORGANIZED BY THE NURSING DIVISION:

During the 2008/9 academic year, the Nursing Division hosted a conference to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the introduction of Nursing and Midwifery programmes within the University of Malta. This conference was entitled 'Nursing and Midwifery: A Celebration of Care' and was held between 27 and 29 of May 2009 at the Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard. This conference was attended by over 120 delegates from several different countries including the U.S.A., Norway, the United Kingdom, Finland, Australia and Malta and included the following keynote lectures:

HE Prof. Alfred Caruana Galizia	'The Knights: a history of caring'.
Prof. Kathryn Vigen	"Learning to Care."
Prof. Alice Kiger	"Reflections of Caring in a Global Society"

Papers presented at this conference by local and international speakers centred on humanistic and holistic care. The three workshops were run by Prof. Christopher Johns of the University of Bedfordshire, Mr. Patrick Dean, Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota and Prof. Dagfinn Naden, Head of Research and Development at Oslo University College, Norway. The themes tackled included nurturing loving-kindness, the interpretation of care need signals and enhancement of patients' dignity.

The following research seminars were held within the nursing division:

21 th January 2009	An exploratory study of Maltese patients' perceptions of their preparation for total joint replacement at the pre-admission clinic: Mr. Reggie Aquilina.
11 th February 2009	Experiences of first-time Maltese parents of their transition to parenthood: Dr Rita Borg Xuereb.
11 th March 2009	Nurses' knowledge and attitudes about pain management: Ms Sarah Fleri.

4 th November 2009	Nurses' experiences of caring for dying patients in acute medical wards: Ms Joanna Depares
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10 INTERNATIONAL LINKS.

10.1. Introduction

Academic year 2008 – 2009 was another busy one in terms of international relationships. It was characterised by a number of student and teacher exchanges, particularly through the Erasmus programme. Similar to previous years, there were more outgoing than incoming students through the Erasmus study exchange programme. Two academic members staff in our division utilised the Teacher Mobility programme. During this academic year, the division held bilateral agreements, catering for student and teacher exchanges, with sixteen universities.

10.2. Members of the International Team

The international team members were:

Dr Michelle Camilleri (Outgoing international co-ordinator)
 Mr Josef Trapani (International co-ordinator, outgoing nursing students)
 Ms Therese Bugeja (International co-ordinator, incoming nursing students)
 Ms Josephine Attard (Incoming and outgoing midwifery students)
 Ms Miriam Tonna
 Mr Carmel Bezzina
 Mr Martin Camilleri
 Ms Rita Pace-Parascandolo
 Ms Carmen Camilleri

10.3 Bilateral Agreements

10.3.1 Current Bilateral Agreements

The bilateral agreements held by the Nursing and Midwifery Division during this academic year cater for four midwifery student and 22 nursing student exchanges in the listed institutions:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Name of Institution</u>	<u>Agreement</u>
Belgium	Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen, Turnhout	2 nursing students
England	University of Nottingham	2 nursing students
England	University of Central Lancashire	2 nursing students
England	University of Middlesex	2 nursing students 2 postgraduate students

Finland	Pirkanmaa University of Applied Science, Tampere	2 nursing students
Finland	Savonia University of Applied Science, Kuopio	2 nursing students; 2 midwifery students
Finland	Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, Pori	2 nursing students
Ireland	University College of Dublin	2 nursing students
Italy	Universita degli Studi di Verona	2 nursing students
Italy	Universita degli Studi di Firenze	2 nursing students, 2 midwifery students
Lithuania	Klapedia University	2 nursing students
Portugal	Escola Superior de Enfermagem – Porto	2 nursing students
Spain	Univeristat de Lleida, Catalonia	2 nursing students
Sweden	Karolinska Institute, Huddinge	2 nursing students
Wales	Glamorgan University	2 postgraduate students

10.4. Erasmus Student Exchanges 2008 - 2009

10.4.1 Incoming Erasmus Students

During Academic year 2008 – 2009 we received 13 nursing students through the Erasmus exchange programme:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Anne Giit Koiru	Finland	Nursing	March - May 2009
Henna Karkunen	Finland	Nursing	February-April 2009
Johanna Kallioneimi	Finland	Nursing	March-May 2009
Marrku Makinen	Finland	Nursing	February-April 2009
Caroline Flannigan	UCLan	Nursing	January-March 2009
Elke Wilryex	Belgium	Nursing	February-April 2009
Sarah Hrybrechts	Belgium	Nursing	February-April 2009
Giulia Rostello	Italy	Nursing	February-April 2009
Tina Marie Ikaheimo	Finland	Nursing	February-April 2009
Sophie Paz Berrios	Ireland	Nursing	February-May 2009
Laura Ahearne	Ireland	Nursing	February-May 2009
Justyne Neringa	Lithuania	Nursing	February-May 2009
Renata Pekyle	Lithuania	Nursing	February-May 2009

10.4.2 Incoming Students on Internship

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Anna Thurau	Germany	September-October 2009
Lena Bocher	Germany	August-September 2009
Philipp Lother	Germany	July-August 2009
Inka Alender	Germany	September-October 2009
Kyle Flores Martin	Slovakia	July-August 2009
Jan Leppert	Germany	August-September 2009

10.4.3 Outgoing Erasmus students

This year we had a good response to the Erasmus applications. Eighteen nursing students and three midwifery students participated in the Erasmus exchange programme, with eighteen students successfully completing the exchange. Three nursing students, Maria Bugeja, Maria Christina Galea and Marie Noelle Gatt, returned to Malta before completing the Erasmus exchange, due to personal reasons.

Name	Country	Cohort	Dates
Aimee Portelli	Finland (Savonia)	Midwifery	March – June 2009
Marisa Cardona	Finland (Savonia)	Midwifery	March – June 2009
Daniela Attard	Belgium	Midwifery	March – June 2009
Rebecca Cassar	Ireland	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Nicola Dimech	Ireland	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Maria Bugeja	Finland (Pirkanmaa)	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Sean Mifsud	Finland (Pirkanmaa)	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Alexander Camilleri	Finland (Savonia)	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Sandy Attard	Sweden	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Valentina Attard	Sweden	Nursing (degree)	March – June 2009
Maria Christina Galea	Belgium	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Marie Noelle Galea	Belgium	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Sarah Jane Vella	England (UCLan)	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Paula Alexandra Briffa	Italy (Verona)	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Justine Bugeja	Italy (Verona)	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Pauline Agius	Lithuania	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Kenneth Scerri	Lithuania	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Daniela Cumbo	Portugal	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Jesmar Galea	Portugal	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Maria Curmi	Spain	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009
Maria Micallef	Spain	Nursing (diploma)	March – June 2009

10.5. Staff Mobility

10.5.1 Teacher Mobility – Incoming

The following educators visited our institution through the Erasmus programme:

Ms Gitte Somers – Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen, Belgium – April 2009

Ms Violet Vervloet – Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen, Belgium – April 2009

10.5.2 Teacher Mobility – Outgoing

The following educators went on teacher mobility this academic year:

- Ms Norma Buttigieg – University of Worcester, England – June 2009
- Ms Maria Abela – University of Worcester, England – June 2009. Ms Abela delivered a lecture on ‘harm reduction’ and attended clinics in the community in Worcestershire with nurse practitioners and with nurse specialists in nurse-led clinics.

10.6. Elective students

10.6.1 Incoming Elective Students

<u>Name</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Dates of placement</u>
Andrew Mugabe	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Katherine Hine	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Marie Hadley	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Naomi Clatworthy	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Rosalyn Jane Clark	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Susan Harrington	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Tracy Griffin	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Kate Torton	University of Worcester	England	July-August 2009
Georgina Hamilton	University of Worcester	England	March-May 2009
Sarah Craig	University of Worcester	England	March-May 2009
Charlotte Tierney	University of Worcester	England	March-May 2009

10.6.2 Outgoing Elective Students

<u>Name</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Cohort</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Rose Griscti	University of Worcester	Community Nursing	Summer 2009

10.7. Other Activities

MENTORSHIP IN NURSING IN EUROPE INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (IP) - O CRAMI

Towards the end of the 2008/9 academic year, our university in conjunction with the University of Middlesex (UK), Satakunta University of Applied Science (Finland) and Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy) won a joint bid to organise an Intensive Programme (IP) in Mentorship in Nursing in Europe (MINE). The programme will involve

the participation of one educator, two mentors and five undergraduate nursing students from each of the four universities. The first session is scheduled to take place at the University of Middlesex, London, in February 2010.

11. Other Miscellaneous Activities - Midwifery

Dr Rita Borg Xuereb

- February 2009: Presented the opening address during the National Conference entitled “*Zwieg – quo vadis?*” 7th February at Conference Hall, Missionary of St Paul, Rabat.
- April 2009 : Invited to present a paper ‘*First-time parents’ experiences of their transition to parenthood*’ during the Annual General meeting of the Family Therapists at The Radisson Hotel, St Julians, Malta
- May 2009: Presented the opening address during the National Conference “*Il-Futur fil-familja*”. Robert Samut Hall, Floriana, 15th May.
- May 2009: Presented peer reviewed paper ‘*Supporting parents during the Transition to parenthood*’ during the International conference A Celebration of Care, Corinthia Palace, Attard, Malta, 27-29th May . I was also invited to chair the proceedings of the day for 29th May.
- June 2009: Presented main address ‘*Promoting Healthy marriages and families in Malta*’ as part of the celebration the end of the Pauline year in honour of his Eminence Cardinal Ennio Spinelli, the president of the pontifical Council for the family 29th June.
- October 2009: Participated in the DOHA Colloquim ‘*Strengthening Marriage and Family*’ The Palace, Valletta, Malta 6-7th October.
- October 2009: Chaired National Conference “*Do marriage and the family still have a future?*” 17th October Robert Samut Hall, Floriana.
- October 2009: Presented Plenary Paper ‘*Midwifery education in Malta and Normal childbearing*’ 21st Oct, during the conference ‘*Childbirth – working towards women-centred care*’ 19th – 22nd October held at St George’s Corinthia, Malta.
- November 2009: Presented a peer reviewed paper on ‘*Parents’ experiences of pregnancy and the first six months postnatal period*’ during the 7th Malta Medical School Conference, 5-7th November 2001, Malta Hilton, Malta. Abstract published in Proceedings.

- November 2009: Participated in the Fourth Annual European Summit of Civil Society Leaders “*A Deep Look at the European and other Institutions*”, Hotel Phoenicia, Valletta, Malta, 20-21st November.

Ms Josephine Attard – Ph.D. student (2nd year)

- January 2009: University of Glamorgan Wales. Registration for M.Phil./Ph.D. research project entitled ‘Framework of competencies in spiritual care for nurses and midwives’.
- April 2009: Attended 4th International Spirituality Conference in Bergen Norway. Poster Presentation entitled: ‘Competencies in spiritual care for nurses and midwives’.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DIVISION



Coordinator: Mr René Mifsud, M.Sc. (Exon.), Dip.Occ.Ther., S.R.O.T

2008

- **12,13,14 March 2008** - Ms Nathalie Buhagiar organized a course at the Institute of Health Care, entitled *Assessment and Treatment of Children with Sensory modulation dysfunction*. The course was led by Dr Sidney Chu, Ph.D., OTR from the UK and was attended by clinicians and students.
- **15 March 2008** - Ms Nathalie Buhagiar, in collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Department at Child Development and Assessment Unit and the Institute of Health Care, organized a half day seminar led by Dr Sidney Chu Ph.D., OTR, at The Coastline Hotel, entitled *Sensory Modulation Disorders in children with different developmental disorders*.
- **14 April 2008 – 18 April 2008** - The Occupational Therapy Division hosted Ms Jennifer Creek, freelance visiting lecturer from the UK, who taught a course in *Advanced Occupational Therapy Psychosocial Clinical Skills* to the undergraduate occupational therapy programme intake 2005.
- **24 April, 6 May and 15 May 2008** - Ms Joanna Chetcuti held three *Vision Plan Meetings* involving all Occupational Therapy staff in Malta and Gozo. These meetings also included IHC staff and 3rd Year students. The meetings took the form of workshops intended to create a working plan for the next five years for the occupational therapy profession. A report and a working document was drawn up and various sub-committees and working groups were set up as a result of the vision plan.
- **June 2008** - Ms Joanna Chetcuti set up a *Public Relations Committee* which aims to create more awareness of the occupational therapy profession in three main spheres: the general public, other professionals and prospective students. The first area tackled was

the promotion of the profession within schools with the intention of attracting suitable potential candidates. This is in order to sustain the profession and ensure that adequate numbers enter Occupational Therapy courses. The members of this subcommittee met to devise promotional materials such as brochures, PowerPoint presentations and DVDs for use in Fifth and Sixth Forms and the Junior College. It is the aim of this subcommittee to promote the profession in the most comprehensive and accessible fashion possible.



Lecturer demonstrating assessment of postural control in children, as part of clinical observations of sensory integration and praxis.

1 – 3 September 2008 Ms Marjorie Bonello and Ms Cynthia Scerri attended the *International Conference: celebrating Innovation and Excellence: making change happen* at the Dementia Services Development Centre, University of Stirling, Scotland. This conference was of particular interest to all those who support people with dementia, including rehabilitation professionals, educators and policy makers. The programme addressed a range of issues and explored the latest thinking and developments in service improvement. Broad themes included the social and cultural contexts of dementia, policy and practice in dementia care, ensuring better knowledge, developing dementia research and non-pharmacological interventions. The experience of attending such a conference was very fruitful in getting informed about the latest trends and research in dementia as well as for laying the foundations for future collaborations with the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) at the University of Stirling. This is a renowned centre of excellence in the UK both for service development as well as for training and education within this field.

- **September 2008** - Ms Nathalie Buhagiar undertook a study visit to the Cardiff University, Wales. Here she liaised with the Occupational Therapy Division represented by Ms Sue Delport and International Affairs Officer Mr Gareth Morgan mainly to pave the way for an Erasmus bilateral agreement which could cater for student and staff movement, as well as the exchange of clinical knowledge related to the field of pediatric practice.

2009

Introduction

- The year **2009** was characterised by the continued comprehensive promotional drive of the occupational therapy profession and the undergraduate course coordinated with the clinical sector through the occupational therapy manager Ms Joanna Chetcuti which had been initiated in 2008. These marketing activities included: regular PR meetings; talks to career guidance teachers; visits to the Occupational Therapy Department at Mater Dei Hospital by prospective students; increasing the awareness of occupational therapy with the general public and with other professionals; launching of an occupational therapy promotional DVD; participation at Career Fairs (St Aloysius College, Giovanni Curmi, Naxxar; Mediterranean Conference Centre, Mater Dei Foyer) and the production of an occupational therapy information leaflet.

Overview of Salient Events

- **10-13 March 2009** - The Division hosted Dr Anne E. K. Roberts in the capacity of visiting lecturer. Dr Roberts is Principal Lecturer and course leader of the M.Sc. Occupational Therapy programme offered at the University of Plymouth. Dr Roberts taught the course Quality Assurance: The Role of Outcome Measurement and Evidence Based Practice as part of the *Professional Issues in Occupational Therapy (OCT4103)* study unit to the undergraduate course intake 2005.
- **13-17 July 2009** – The Division hosted Professor Pamela Richardson Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, as an external examiner. Dr Richardson is a professor and director of the post-professional Master's degree program in the Department of Occupational Therapy at San Jose State University in California. She is a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association (FAOTA). She has served on the editorial board of the American Journal of Occupational Therapy and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy. Her research interests include social participation of individuals with disabilities, occupational justice, community program development, and educational methodologies that link academia and practice. She is the author of a number of scholarly articles and book chapters.

- During her visit Dr Richardson, over and above her duties as an external examiner, also undertook a number of ancillary activities. She held an informal round table half-day session discussion with Divisional staff on the issue of undergraduate project work, specifically on how to work most effectively with students on small-scale research projects. She also taught a clinical workshop to the paediatric occupational therapy staff on the use of integrated playgroup interventions for children with autism spectrum disorders.
- The highlight of her visit was the public lecture she gave entitled *Occupational justice: A framework for occupational therapy practice in the 21st century?*

The following is the abstract submitted for promotion of this public lecture:

“Occupational justice has been defined as “the ethical, moral, and civil principles in providing for occupational needs” (Townsend & Whiteford, 2005). Occupational justice expands the core occupational therapy concepts of client-centred, contextually focused intervention to consider how the larger social and political environments influence the ability of individuals and communities to engage in meaningful occupations. The worldwide occupational justice movement has engaged scholars in occupational therapy and occupational science in dialogue about how occupational justice concepts should influence the scope, focus, and theoretical foundations of occupational therapy, but thus far has had less influence on practicing therapists. This workshop will introduce the concept of occupational justice and address how it can be integrated into daily occupational therapy practice. The conceptual foundations of occupational justice and the global health and wellness initiatives that support an occupational justice perspective will be presented. Case studies of the application of occupational justice principles will be presented and discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to identify and analyze occupational justice issues in their practice settings and discuss how occupational therapists might address these issues in the scope of their practice within Maltese society.” The public lecture was held on 16 July 2009.

- **14-16 September 2009** – Ms Marjorie Bonello attended the **International Conference: Facing the Future** given by the **Dementia Service Development Centre** at York (UK) **University of Stirling**. The main theme of the conference responded to the National Dementia Strategy (UK) and the emerging strategies all across the world. The programme addressed a broad range of clinical, educational, social and quality-of-life issues for people with dementia.
- **23 October 2009** - Ms Joanna Chetcuti gave the opening speech at the **Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)** council meeting held in Malta at the Plaza Hotel in Sliema. This council meeting of COTEC was a sterling opportunity which helped to promote the occupational therapy services in Malta in the wider European context. It was also an opportunity for occupational therapists from different countries to share ideas on common interests and challenges being met in the service and educational sector.

- The Division of occupational therapy was represented by Mr. René Mifsud who was invited to participate in this event as an observer and spokesperson for the occupational therapy educational sector. Mr Mifsud gave an overview of the undergraduate occupational therapy programme and discussed issues concerning fieldwork practices, course content and pre-registration requirements.
- Through a traditional Maltese evening organised as part of hospitality activities and held at Palazzo Castellana, Dr Kenneth Grech, Permanent Secretary Health, the Elderly and Community Care was invited to meet COTEC delegates. This paved the way for meetings to be held between the local occupational therapy association and Dr Grech to discuss matters concerning the professional milieu.
- **November 2009** – Ms Marjorie Bonello attended a Workshop for Doctoral students at the UK Occupational Therapy Research Foundation (UKOTRF) in London. This workshop offered the opportunity to meet with eminent research leaders, to learn about thinking at a doctoral level, to consider how a post-doctoral career can be developed, to network with other health care doctoral students and to hear about the support that is available from College of Occupational Therapists and UKOTRF.

PHYSIOTHERAPY DIVISION



Coordinator: Dr Mark Sacco Ph.D.(Sheff.), M.A.(Loughborough), Dip.Physio., Dip.T.P.,
Cert.Ed., S.R.P.(Lond.)

2008

The following is an overview of the year 2008:

- The student intake was of sixteen students.
- One member of staff has completed his doctoral research and graduated as Doctors of Philosophy. Another three members of staff (two full-time and the other part-time) have commenced the research process that is projected to last for the next six years.
- The Division is currently carrying out research into the Physiotherapy Curriculum and the Treatment of Stroke in the Home Environment together with the development of the clinical reasoning process in physiotherapy students on a local and possibly European basis.
- The Physiotherapy Division provided consultation to past students who are reading for masters' degrees with emphasis placed on methodology in qualitative and quantitative research. These students are all attending courses at universities in the United Kingdom.
- The Final Comprehensive Examination was moderated by Dr Ingrid Lindquist from the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm. Her report with regards to examination procedures and certain management policies helped the Division in the process of the continuous development of the Physiotherapy Course and have fostered changes in the format of examinations in the future.



Physiotherapy students practising electrotherapy – a component of the physiotherapy course.

- The Physiotherapy Division staff complement is of three full time members, five part time lecturers and two occasional lecturers.
- Students from overseas are making use of the facilities offered by the Physiotherapy division to attend clinical placements in Malta. The Physiotherapy Division has received various students from European countries who spent time in Malta mostly in the clinical field. Countries of origin were Finland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and The United Kingdom. These clinical placements were spread throughout the year.
- The course coordinator Dr Mark Sacco attended various meetings in the process of preparation for a 'joint European Master of Science' degree in association with various European institutions.
- Continuous fine tuning and revision of course objectives for the B.Sc. (Honours) (Physiotherapy) in alignment with proposed curricular changes facilitated the adoption of a new teaching framework on the Physiotherapy studies course that now is in conformity with ECTS. The course objectives are constantly undergoing change to reflect demands and trends in society and the academic sphere.

The following is an overview of the year 2009

- The student intake was of fifteen students.
- One member of staff (Dr S. Lungaro-Mifsud) has completed his doctoral research and graduated Doctor of Philosophy. Another two members of staff (one full time (Mr T. Agius) and the other part time (Mr J. Xerri de Caro)) have commenced the research process.
- The Division is currently carrying out research and development of the Physiotherapy Curriculum and the Treatment of Stroke in the Home Environment together with the development of the clinical reasoning process in physiotherapy students on a local (and across universities) with the link being centered in the United Kingdom. Another study addresses the provision of services to patients suffering from Parkinson's disease.
- The Physiotherapy Division provided consultation to past students who are reading for Masters' degrees with emphasis placed on methodology in qualitative and quantitative research. These students are all attending courses at the University of Malta and various universities in the United Kingdom.
- The Final Comprehensive Examination was moderated by Dr Ingrid Lindquist from the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm. As in previous years her report with regards to examination procedures and certain management policies have helped the Division in the process of the continuous development of the Physiotherapy Course and have facilitated the fine tuning process that is vital for the format of examinations in the future.
- The Physiotherapy Division staff complement is composed of three full time members, five part time lecturers and two occasional lecturers.
- Students from overseas are making use of the facilities offered by the Physiotherapy division to attend clinical placements in Malta. The Physiotherapy Division has received various students from European countries. Countries of origin were Finland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and The United Kingdom. These clinical placements were spread throughout the year.
- The course coordinator – Dr Mark Sacco attended further meetings in the process of preparation for a 'joint International Master of Science' degree in association with Naestved UCSJ, Denmark and Universidad Cardenal Herrera, Spain.
- Members of staff attended the annual conference organised by the European Network of Physiotherapists in Higher Education (ENPHE) in Sweden and contributed actively to this organisation in advisory and administrative roles.

- This was followed up by a two day workshop attended by 42 participants in Malta that addressed three topics dealing with Curriculum Development, a joint European Masters' programme and Continuing Education.
- Members of staff form part of a working group that is Mapping the Future of the Physiotherapy Profession in Malta.
- One member of staff has been appointed to the board of studies for the first online degree course in Health Science that commenced in October 2009. He will also contribute a module to this course during 2010.

PODIATRY DIVISION



Coordinator: Dr Cynthia Formosa, M.Sc. (Pod.), Ph.D. (Brighton)

2008

- During 2008, members of staff and students of Podiatry Division were involved in different activities. This reflects the aim of the Division in continuing to establish and maintain high professional training standards, in its expansion of services and links within the local and also the European sphere.
- Ms Cynthia Formosa, Divisional Coordinator, together with members of staff from the Podiatry Division attended various seminars and conferences both locally and also abroad.
- This year was a very important one for the Podiatry division since it signed a bilateral agreement with the University of Staffordshire for further collaboration between both Universities in both teaching and research projects.
- At present three members of staff are in different stages of completion of their Ph.D. studies.
- In April 2008 Ms Cynthia Formosa published a paper in the Journal Diabetes and Primary Care entitled 'Influence of national culture on diabetes education in Malta: A case example.'
- The academic year was a busy one with three courses running. In July eleven students visited the University of Staffordshire for ten days. Students had the opportunity to visit NHS Podiatry clinics and also experienced podiatric surgery in the United Kingdom. They were also invited to visit a shoe and orthotic factory during their stay.



Biomechanical clinical session inside the Podiatry Biomechanics Lab

- In October 2008 another course was offered by the IHC and twelve students were eligible to undergo this degree programme.

2009

- April - Mr Alfred Gatt, Assistant Lecturer Podiatry Division, attended a 3-day biomechanics conference organized by Staffordshire University UK
- June - 8 BSc Podiatry Students and 2 Diploma to Degree students successfully completed the 1st BSc course in Podiatry offered by the University of Malta.
- July - External examiner for the Podiatry Division, Prof. Kate Springett from Canterbury Christ Church University, was invited by the Association of Podiatrists, Malta to deliver a lecture on diagnostic ultrasound.
- October - Dr Cynthia Formosa achieved Ph.D. from the University of Brighton, being the first Podiatrist to have achieved this degree in Malta.
- November - Mr Bob Longworth, Visiting Lecturer, University of Staffordshire, delivered a CPD lecture to both Podiatrists and student podiatrists at the IHC during his visit to the university.
- December - The Podiatry Division together with various partners including the University of Staffordshire have submitted a proposal under the FP7-ITN Marie Curie Action.
- Podiatry members of staff inside the IHC attended various other local conferences or CPD's organized by the Association of Podiatrists, Malta.

RADIOGRAPHY DIVISION



Coordinator: Dr Paul Bezzina, B.Sc.(Radiography)(Lond.), M.Sc.(Lond) Ph.D. (U.E.A.), C.T.Cert.

2008

- October 2008: The degree course in Health Science Radiography was offered and seventeen students registered for the course. This was the first time that entry into the Radiography course was limited by the number clause.
- Between January and April 2008, the Division, for the 12th consecutive year hosted 22 ERASMUS students from the Erasmus Radiography Group. These students came from Finland, Ireland, UK, and Portugal. Three other students from Sweden, Estonia and Denmark also took part in an ERASMUS exchange between March and July 2008. As in the previous year the course programme offered was integrated with the B Sc (Hons) Radiography course and all the credits were weighted in ECTS. As part of the exchange the students undertook clinical placements at various institutions such as Mater Dei and Boffa Hospitals. The students also undertook clinical experience in theatre imaging at St Philip's Hospital. A social and cultural programme was also organised in order to provide the students with an insight of Maltese history and culture.

At the end of the exchange the transcripts were presented to the students by the Director at a reception, which marked the end of the exchange. During the evaluation programme the students remarked very positively about their experience in Malta.

- In May a group of 13 Italian Students lead by Dott. Gioele Santucci Coordinatore del Corso di Laurea in Tecniche di Radiologia, Universita' degli Studi di Bologna visited the IHC for a clinical attachment of 2 weeks.
- The Radiography Division hosted other elective students as follows:

- 9 – Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, and
- 1 – Queen Margaret University

- Twelve from a total 14 students in the third year of their radiography course programme participated in an exchange programme as follows:
 - INHolland University, Haarlem, The Netherlands – 5 students
 - University College Dublin, Ireland – 2 students, and
 - University of Ulster, Belfast, United Kingdom - 5 students

- July/September 2008: A total of 16 students were successful and completed the degree course.

- The external examiner was Dr Alan Castle, from the University of Portsmouth. Dr Castle had previously visited the IHC before as a visiting lecturer. In his report Dr Castle commented about the high standards achieved by the Division.

- With the move to the new premises the Division took possession of the skills laboratories. These are equipped amongst others with a direct digital mobile X-ray and an ultrasound unit. These units will be used for student practice under the direct supervision of the academic radiography staff. The units will also be used for clinical assessments purposes.

- In September 2008 Dr P Bezzina, Mr F Zarb and Mr J Portelli attended the ERASMUS Group meeting which was hosted by University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich, UK in September. Further information about the group may be found on the website www.erasmus-rad-group.org

- Dr Paul Bezzina attended meetings for the HENRE II, Higher Education Network for Radiography Education. This project looks at Radiography education in Europe with the aim of producing a document that provides guidelines for the uniformity in training across the EU. Dr Bezzina is also appointed as member on the management team of the network.

- In May 2008 the Division hosted a meeting for the EMPIMI project. The EMPIMI project is an EU funded project which is co-ordinated by INHOLLAND University, The Netherlands. The aim of the project is the setting up of a joint Master's course. Besides the co-ordinating University and the Division the other members of the project are London South Bank University and University of Cumbria, UK; University College Dublin, Ireland and Kaunas University, Lithuania

- Mr Francis Zarb registered as a Ph D student with University College Dublin. His field of study is 'Optimization of CT scanning parameters and their effect on image quality and patient dose'.

- Ms Connie Falzon and Mr Jonathan L Portelli were appointed as part-time Assistant Lecturers with the Division.
- Dr Carmel J. Caruana has been appointed chair of the Special Interest Group of the European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (www.efomp.org) called 'Biomedical physics education for the healthcare professions'. Biomedical physics educators teach in most faculties of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and health sciences in Europe. The aim of the group is to ensure that biomedical physics curricula for the healthcare professions are in agreement with the learning needs of the healthcare professions.
- Dr Paul Bezzina was appointed as external examiner to the Radiography undergraduate course programme offered by University College Dublin, Ireland. He was also appointed as one of the external examiners for M Sc dissertations.



Student Clinical Practice in the Medical Imaging Skills Laboratory.

- Between September – December 2008, the Division hosted two students from the University of Verona, Italy. The students undertook clinical placements and attended to lectures as part of their exchange.
- December 2008 Dr Paul Bezzina was invited as a guest lecturer by the University of Trieste, Italy. During his visit to Italy he delivered a series of lectures/presentations

to students and staff. The lecture sessions that he delivered to radiographers were accredited by the Italian society as eligible for CPD points.

- In December 2008 Mr Derek Adrain-Harris and Mr Harold Lewis Clarke from the University of Portsmouth were appointed as visiting lecturers to the University for this academic year

Articles published in journals and conference proceedings:

- Caruana C.J., Wasilewska-Radwanska M., Aurengo A., Dendy P.P., Karenauskaite V., Malisan M.R., Meijer J.H., Mornstein V., Rokita E., Vano E., Wucherer M. (2008). The role of the biomedical physicist in the education of the healthcare professions: an EFOMP project. *Physica Medica - European J of Medical Physics*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2008.11.001>
- Vachutkal J., Grec P., Mornstein V., Caruana C. J. (2008). Visualizing and measuring the temperature field produced by medical diagnostic ultrasound using thermography. *European J of Physics*, 29, 1287-94.
- Caruana, C. J., Tabakov S., Wasilewska-Radwanska M., Christofides S. Curriculum innovation in biomedical physics education in Europe. *Proceedings GIREP 2008 Physics Curriculum Design, Development and Validation, Nicosia, Cyprus*.
- Caruana, C. J., Padovani R., Christofides S. Physics and society: the medical physics profession and its contribution to healthcare. *Proceedings GIREP 2008 Physics Curriculum Design, Development and Validation, Nicosia, Cyprus*.
- Vlk D., Mornstein V., Caruana C. J. (2008). A medical biophysics laboratory practical curriculum for biomedical technology and bioinformatics students. *Proceedings ESBME 2008 6th European symposium on biomedical engineering, Chania, Crete*.
- Mornstein V., Provazník I., Vlk D., Caruana C. J. (2008). The contribution of the medical faculty, Masaryk Univ, Brno, to the education of biomedical technologists. *Proceedings ESBME 2008 6th European symposium on biomedical engineering, Chania, Crete*.
- Mornstein V., Caruana C. J., Vlk, D., Skorpikova, J., Fortykova L. and Grec P. (2008). Medical Biophysics education for the healthcare professions of the future: what should we teach? *Lekar a Technika (Medicine and Technology) 2008 vol 1*.
- Caruana C.J., Wasilewska-Radwanska M., Aurengo A., Dendy P.P., Karenauskaite V., Malisan M.R., Meijer J.H., Mornstein V., Rokita E., Vano E., Wucherer M. (2008). Biomedical physics education for the healthcare professions: A project of the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics. *Proceedings of the*

Days of Medical Biophysics 2008, Mala Moravka, Czech Republic. ISBN 978-80-244-1985-5, p31-5.

- Mornstein V., Skorpikova J., Vlk D., Caruana C.J. (2008) Biophysics for healthcare studies at the Bachelor level. *Proceedings of the Days of Medical Biophysics 2008, Mala Moravka, Czech Republic.* ISBN 978-80-244-1985-5, p105-110.

2009

- October 2009 - The degree course in Health Science Radiography was not offered during this academic year in view of the changes being made to the course content and structure. It is the intension of the University that in the future a new course is set up and delivered which would encompass the two main branches of Radiography- Diagnostic and Therapeutic.
- Between January - April 2009, the Division, for the 13th consecutive year hosted 15 ERASMUS students from the Erasmus Radiography Group. These students came from the UK, and The Netherlands. Three other students from Sweden and Estonia also took part in an ERASMUS exchange between March - June 2009. Clinical placements were organized at Mater Dei and Boffa Hospitals. A social and cultural programme was also organised in order to provide the students with an insight of Maltese history and culture.

At the end of the exchange the transcripts were presented to the students by Dr S Buttigieg the Director.

Furthermore, the Division hosted other elective students as follows:

- 7 – Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, and
- 2 – Bangor University, Wales

and for the first time a student from the Massachusetts College, United States of America.

Eleven from a total 12 students in the third year of their radiography course programme participated in an exchange programme as follows:

- INHolland University, Haarlem, The Netherlands – 6 students
- University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich, United Kingdom – 1 students, and
- University of Ulster, Belfast, United Kingdom - 4 students

- A total of 22 students were successful and completed the degree course out of which nine students had followed the Diploma to Degree course programme. This was the last cohort to diplomats to graduate as the course has now been discontinued.
- The external examiner was Dr Alan Castle, from the University of Portsmouth. Dr Castle had previously visited the IHC before as a visiting lecturer. In his report Dr Castle commented about the high standards achieved by the Division.
- The Division became one of the founding members of the Educational Wing of the European Federation of Radiographer Societies.
- Dr P Bezzina, Mr F Zarb and Mr J Portelli attended the ERASMUS Group meeting which was hosted by Europese Hogeschool Brussels, Belgium. Further information about the group may be found on the website www.erasmus-rad-group.org
- In November 2009 Dr Mark Mc Entee and Mr Jonathan Mc Nulty from University Collage, Dublin, Ireland were appointed as visiting lecturers to the University for this academic year.
- During this academic year members of staff of the Division attended meeting related to the EMPIMI project. The EMPIMI project is an EU funded project which is co-ordinated by INHolland University, The Netherlands. The aim of the project is the setting up of a joint Master's course. Besides the co-ordinating University and the Division the other members of the project are London South Bank University and University of Cumbria, UK; University College Dublin, Ireland and Kaunas University, Lithuania
- Mr Jonathan Portelli completed his studies and was awarded a Master's of Science in Health and Social Care Research by the University of Sheffield in November 2009.
- Dr Paul Bezzina was again appointed as external examiner to the Radiography undergraduate course programme offered by University College Dublin, Ireland.
- Dr Carmel J Caruana has continued to review articles in the journal *Radiography* and has also been appointed reviewer for the *European Journal of Medical Physics* and the *European Journal of Radiography*.

Articles in Journals and Conference Proceedings:

- Caruana C.J., Wasilewska-Radwanska M., Aurengo A., Dendy P.P., Karenauskaite V., Malisan M.R., Meijer J.H., Mihov D., Mornstein V., Rokita E., Vano E., Wucherer M., Weckstrom M. (2009). A comprehensive SWOT audit of the role of

the biomedical physicist in the education of healthcare professionals in Europe. *Physica Medica - European J of Medical Physics*.

- Caruana C. J. (2009). Biomedical Physics Education for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiographers in Europe - a Review. *Proceedings of the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 'For the benefit of the patient', Munich*.
- Caruana C.J., Wasilewska-Radwanska M., Aurengo A., Dendy P.P., Karenauskaite V., Malisan M.R., Meijer J.H., Mihov D., Mornstein V., Rokita E., Vano E., Wucherer M., Weckstrom M. (2009) EFOMP project: 'Biomedical physics education for the healthcare professions' – an update for WC2009. *Proceedings of the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 'For the benefit of the patient', Munich*.
- Christofides S., Wasilewska-Radwanska M., EFOMP Council and Caruana C. J. (2009) An initial EFOMP Position on the Tuning Process for Masters Programs in Medical Physics in Europe. *Proceedings of the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 'For the benefit of the patient', Munich*.
- Vlk D., Mornstein V. and Caruana C. J. (2009) A Medical Biophysics Conceptual Base for Medical / Healthcare / Technology Students at the department of Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk Uni., Brno. *Proceedings of the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 'For the benefit of the patient', Munich*.
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- Tatsuhiro Akimoto, Carmel J. Caruana, Masayuki Shimosegawa (2009) A qualitative comparative survey of First Cycle radiography programmes in Europe and Japan. *Radiography* 15, 333-340.
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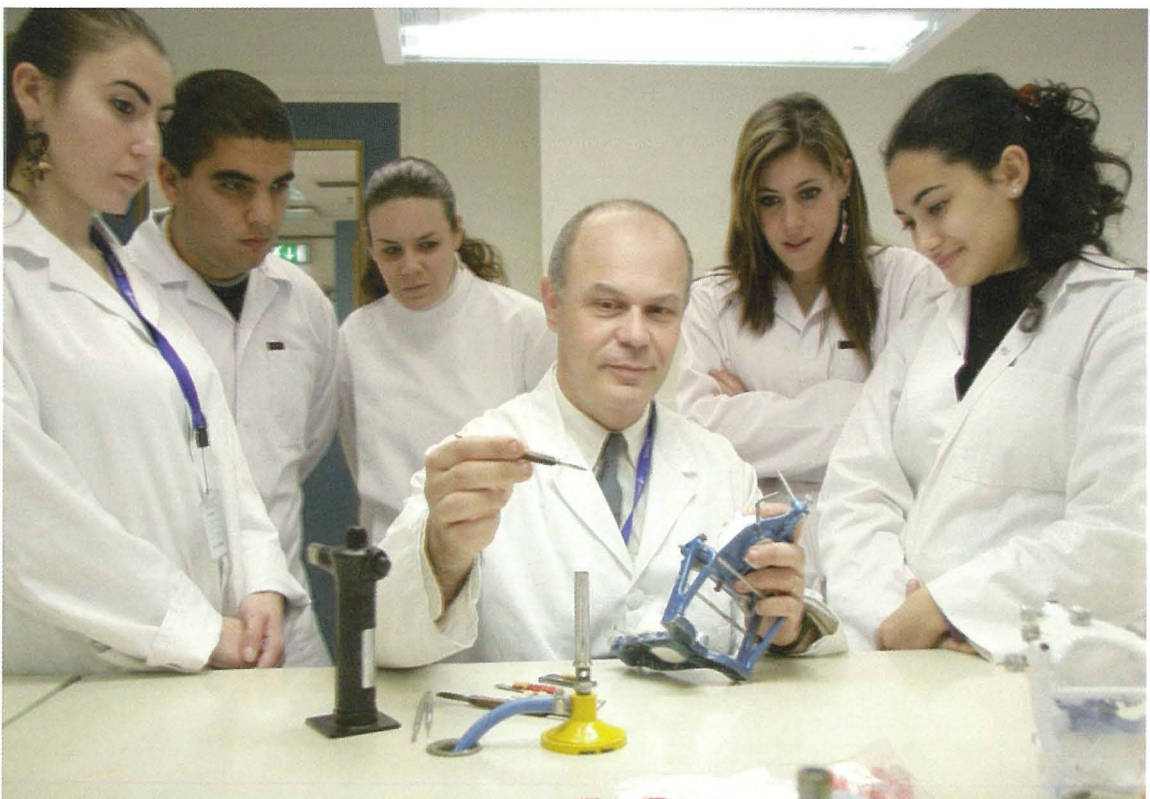
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DENTAL TECHNOLOGY UNIT



Coordinator: Mr Mario Zarb, Dip.DentalTech., G.C.G.I., M.C.G.A., F.B.I.D.S.T., F.I.P.M.A., F.R.S.H.



Mr Mario Zarb, Subject Coordinator of the Diploma Dental Technology course doing a demonstration of dental prosthetics to second year students.

2008

- Publication/Research: Research study conducted on the " Comparison of two specialized techniques used in laboratory prosthodontics", by Mr M Zarb.
- Conference: Organized a three day International Conference of the "Society of University Dental Instructors" in Malta at the Corinthia Hotel, Attard in March 2008.
- Presentation of Paper entitled "Laboratory construction of the anthro-podial pouch technique lower denture" presented at the Society of University Dental Instructors conference by Mr M Zarb.

2009

- March: Mr Mario Zarb attended annual conference of the International Society of University Dental Instructors, which was held in Leeds .
- June: Mr Mario Zarb submitted paper which was accepted for publication in the Malta Medical Journal on "Cross contamination between the clinic and dental laboratory"
- October: Mr Mario Zarb attended the Annual Dental Conference.

APPENDICIS

- *Visiting Lecturers and External Examiner 2008 and 2009*
- *Admissions/Intake: October 2008 and October 2009*
- *Graduation 2008 and 2009*
- *IHC Graduates 1992 – 2009*
- *IHC Initiatives 2009*

VISITING LECTURERS & EXTERNAL EXAMINERS 2008

DATE	VISITING LECTURER	DIVISION
April 08	Ms Jenifer Creek	Occupational Therapy
April 08	Dr Bernard Gibbon	Nursing
April 08	Prof. John O'Brien	Health Services Management
April 08	Ms Elizabeth Belton	Nutrition & Dietetics
May 08	Dr Richard Clutterbuck	Nutrition & Dietetics
October 08	Prof. Nasser Kotby	Communication Therapy
October 08	Mr Robert Longworth	Podiatry
October 08	Mr Mark Price	Podiatry
November 08	Ms Helen Branthwaite	Podiatry
November 08	Mr Derek Adrian Harris	Radiography
November 08	Mr Harold Lewis Clarke	Radiography
December 08	Dr Magda Rosenmoeller	Health Services Management
DATE	EXTERNAL EXAMINERS	DIVISION
May 08	Mr Peter Draper	Nursing
June 08	Prof. Susan Franklin	Communication Therapy
July 08	Dr Anne Marie Seymour	Medical Lab Science
June 08	Dr Julia Roberts	Nursing
July 08	Ms Mary Chambers	Nursing
July 08	Ms Ingrid Indquist	Physiotherapy
July 08	Dr Alan Castle	Radiography
September 08	Dr Sushma Acquila	Health Services Management

VISITING LECTURERS & EXTERNAL EXAMINERS 2009

DATE	VISITING LECTURER	DIVISION
February 09	Prof. Andre Vyt	Health Services Management Mgt
March 09	Dr Ilias Papakiansius	Communication Therapy
March 09	Dr Anne Roberts	Occupational Therapy
March 09	Mr Dave Dunning	Podiatry
April 09	Ms Elizabeth Belton	Nutrition & Dietetics
May 09	Prof. John O'Brein	Health Services Mgt
July 09	Dr Pamela Richardson	Occupational Therapy
October 09	Dr Janet May Webster	Communication Therapy
November 09	Prof. Li Rong Lilly Cheng	Communication Therapy
November 09	Mr Jonathan McNulty	Radiography
November 09	Dr Mark McEntee	Radiography
DATE	EXTERNAL EXAMINERS	DIVISION
May 09	Prof. Matti Lehtihalmes	Communication Therapy
June 09	Dr Ingrid Lindquist	Physiotherapy
June 09	Dr Linda Ross	Nursing
June 09	Prof. Mary Chambers	Nursing
June 09	Prof. Kate Springett	Podiatry
July 09	Dr AM Seymour	Medical Lab Science
July 09	Dr Julia Roberts	Nursing
July 09	Dr Alan Castle	Radiography
July 09	Dr Nancy Thomas	Nursing
July 09	Dr Pamela Richardson	Occupational Therapy
September 09	Prof. Christine Edwards	Health Services Management

ADMISSIONS - OCTOBER 2008 INTAKE

Course	Applied	Commenced Course
Master of Science:		
• Health Services Management	21	12
• Nursing/Midwifery	24	20
Post Graduate Diploma:		
• Nutrition and Dietetics	13	6
Bachelor of Science (Honours):		
• Communication Therapy	31	10
• Community Nursing/Midwifery	10	*
• Medical Laboratory Science	25	11
• Mental Health Nursing	7	*
• Mental Health Nursing (Diploma to Degree)	20	15
• Midwifery	35	10
• Midwifery (Diploma to Degree)	15	15
• Nursing Studies	97	45
• Nursing Studies (Diploma to Degree)	68	37
• Physiotherapy	42	15
• Podiatry	24	12
• Radiography	33	17
Preparatory Course for Diploma in Health Science:		
• Environmental Health	15	*
• Nursing	69	49
	—	—
Total:	<u>549</u>	<u>274</u>

* Course did not commence

ADMISSIONS - OCTOBER 2009 INTAKE

Course	Applied	Commenced Course
Master of Science:		
• Health Services Management	33	20
Post Graduate Diploma:		
• Nutrition and Dietetics	20	12
Bachelor of Science (Honours):		
• Applied Biomedical Science	58	20
• Community Nursing/Midwifery	33	17
• Health Science	125	53
• Mental Health Nursing	31	15
• Mental Health Nursing (Diploma to Degree)	35	16
• Midwifery	46	15
• Nursing Studies	160	52
• Occupational Therapy	39	22
• Physiotherapy	51	15
Preparatory Course for Diploma in Health Science:		
• Environmental Health	35	13
• Nursing	231	107
	—	—
Total:	897	377

Graduation - November 2008

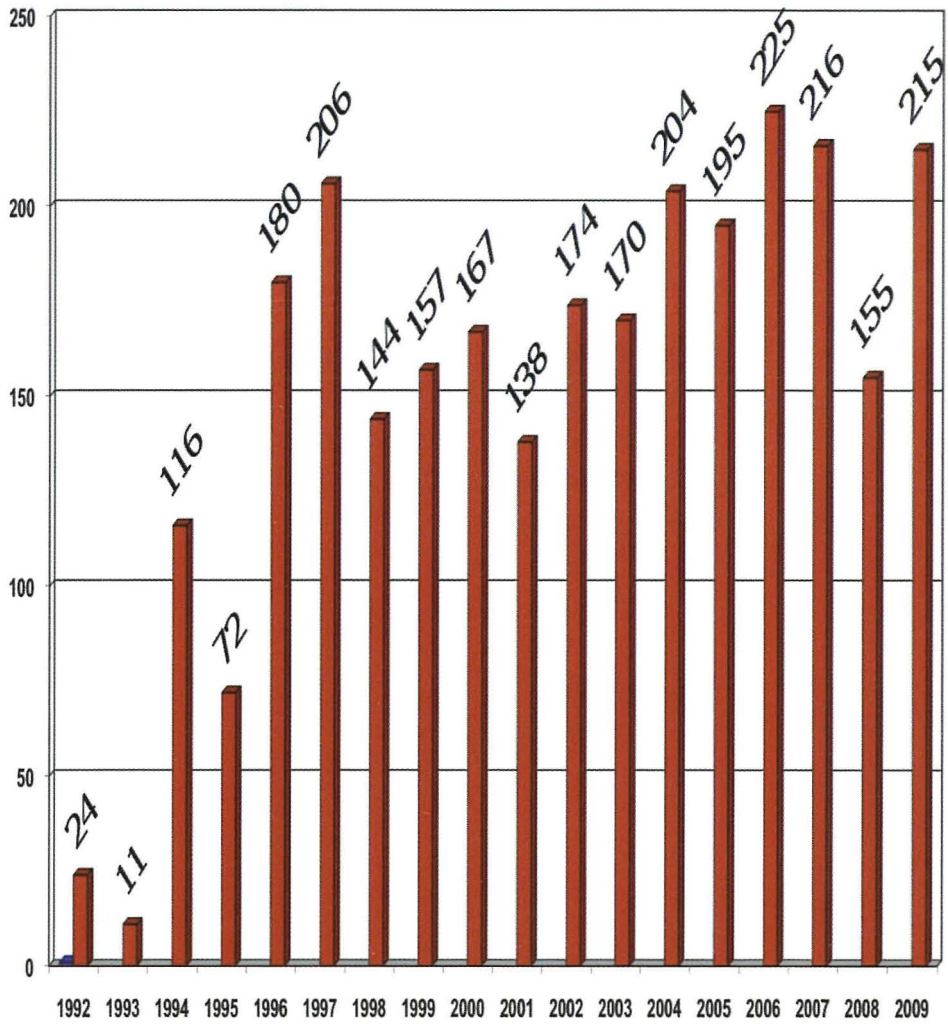
Course	Males	Females	Total
Master of Health Science in:			
• Health Service Management	1	3	4
• Nursing	-	4	4
Post Qualification Diploma in Health Science			
• Health Service Management	2	2	4
• Nutrition and Dietetics	-	4	4
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in:			
• Communication Therapy	2	14	16
• Medical Laboratory Science	5	6	11
• Nursing Studies	9	20	29
• Physiotherapy	4	8	12
• Radiography	5	11	16
• Mental Health Nursing	2	8	10
Diploma in:			
• Nursing	14	31	45
Total	<u>44</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>155</u>

Graduation - November 2009

Course	Males	Females	Total
Master of Health Science in:			
• Health Services Management	8	7	15
• Nursing	3	3	6
Post Qualification Diploma in Health Science			
• Health Services Management	4	4	8
• Nutrition and Dietetics	1	3	4
Bachelor of Science (Honours) in:			
• Communication Therapy	-	1	1
• Environmental Health	1	-	1
• Medical Laboratory Science	2	8	10
• Mental Health Nursing	8	6	14
• Midwifery	-	9	9
• Nursing Studies	9	42	51
• Occupational Therapy	2	13	15
• Physiotherapy	7	6	13
• Podiatry	3	7	10
• Radiography	6	16	22
Diploma in:			
• Environmental Health	3	5	8
• Nursing	8	20	28
Total	65	150	215

Graduates from IHC

2,769 Graduates in 18 years (1992-2009)



IHC INITIATIVES 2009

IHC Marketing Campaign – Foyer of Mater Dei Hospital July 2009



Nursing Division International Conference – May 2009



Careers Convention at the Mediterranean Conference Centre - April 2009



Launch of e-learning BSc (Hons) Health Science – October 2009

