APPENDIX A

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEETS
Information Sheet for Students and Tutors in PBL classes

Name of Project: Learning and Using the Language of Collective Clinical Reasoning

You are invited to participate in a study of collective clinical reasoning in health care teams. The purpose of the study is to explore the clinical reasoning process from an interpretive point of view and come to a deeper understanding of what is involved in this phenomenon.

The study is being conducted by Dr Stephen Loftus and is supervised by Professor Joy Higgs and Dr Rod Rothwell. The research is being conducted as part of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies through the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney.

If you agree to participate you will be asked to allow collective clinical reasoning sessions to be recorded (video and audiotape). You may also be asked to take part in two to three interviews of up to one hour. These recordings will be transcribed and then analysed by the investigator. Names will be replaced by pseudonyms at transcription. There will be no payment of money or other remuneration upon consenting to participate in the research project in this way.

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study will remain confidential. No individual will be identified by name in any publication of the results. Only the investigators will have access to the data.

Participation is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue at any time without having to give a reason and without consequence. If you choose not to participate the meeting will not be recorded.

If you agree to participate in the study you will be agreeing to:

- Allowing clinical meetings/Problem-Based Learning tutorials in which you participate to be recorded.
- Being interviewed (two or three times for up to an hour) to discuss how you communicate, reason and learn to reason in teams.
The research will involve the following:

Meetings will be audio and videotaped. There will be a multi-directional microphone in the middle of the table and a tape recorder underneath. There will be a video camera on a tripod, to one side of the room. The video camera will also have a microphone. No additional lights will be needed. The researcher will be sitting in the room to one side and will make field notes, but otherwise will not intrude upon the proceedings at all. The videotape will be used to support the audiotapes. For example, if it is not clear from the audiotape who is talking, then this can be checked from the videotape.

Some participants will be invited to participate in interviews at a later stage when they will be asked about the experience of participating in these groups, and how their clinical reasoning has changed as a result of this experience. These interviews will be conducted in a private setting, mutually acceptable to participant and researcher, and audiotaped.

All tapes will be transcribed verbatim as soon as possible. This will be done partly by the first co-investigator and partly by typists contracted to do so. The Faculty of Health Sciences has a number of typists who regularly transcribe research tapes of this nature. At transcription all identifying details of participants and patients will be removed. Participants will be identified only by pseudonyms in all subsequent stages of research.

Any relevant documentation that is not confidential, such as Study Guides and the patient details for the Problem-Based Learning cases, will also be collected and included in the analysis.

Tapes and transcripts will be stored in a locked cabinet in the first co-investigator's office, to which only he has access. Subsequent analysis will take place in private offices in which only the investigators will be present.

You may withdraw from the research at any time without penalty. Should you ever wish to make a comment or complaint about the conduct of the research then you may contact the Manager, Ethics and Biosafety Administration, University of Sydney on (ph 9351 4811).
Information Sheet for Staff from RNSH Pain Management Centre

Name of Project: Learning and Using the Language of Collective Clinical Reasoning

You are invited to participate in a study of collective clinical reasoning in health care teams. The purpose of the study is to explore the clinical reasoning process from an interpretive point of view and come to a deeper understanding of what is involved in this phenomenon.

The study is being conducted by Dr Stephen Loftus and is supervised by Professor Joy Higgs and Dr Rod Rothwell. The research is being conducted as part of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies through the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney.

If you agree to participate you will be asked to allow collective clinical reasoning sessions to be recorded (video and audiotape). You may also be asked to take part in two to three interviews of up to one hour. These recordings will be transcribed and then analysed by the investigator. Names will be replaced by pseudonyms at transcription. There will be no payment of money or other remuneration upon consenting to participate in the research project in this way.

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study will remain confidential. No individual will be identified by name in any publication of the results. Only the investigators will have access to the data.

Participation is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue at any time without having to give a reason and without consequence. If you choose not to participate the meeting will not be recorded.

If you agree to participate in the study you will be agreeing to:

- Allowing clinical meetings in which you participate to be recorded.
- Being interviewed (two or three times for up to an hour) to discuss how you communicate, reason and learn to reason in teams.
The research will involve the following:

Meetings will be audio and videotaped. There will be a multi-directional microphone in the middle of the table and a tape recorder underneath. There will be a video camera on a tripod, to one side of the room. The video camera will also have a microphone. No additional lights will be needed. The researcher will be sitting in the room to one side and will make fieldnotes, but otherwise will not intrude upon the proceedings at all. The videotape will be used to support the audiotapes. For example, if it is not clear from the audiotape who is talking, then this can be checked from the videotape.

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