

Northern Alliance



Our experience with the Curriculum

Najmun Nahar

Training Network Director

Northern Alliance

Northern NSW



Background

- State wide/Nation wide move towards Networks for various specialties
- Driven by AMC accreditation Guidelines



ADVANTAGE

- To ensure equity of training through a standardized education program
- Enhance learning through exposure to different decision making processes
- Co-operation between departments and improve networking amongst radiation oncologists and registrars in training

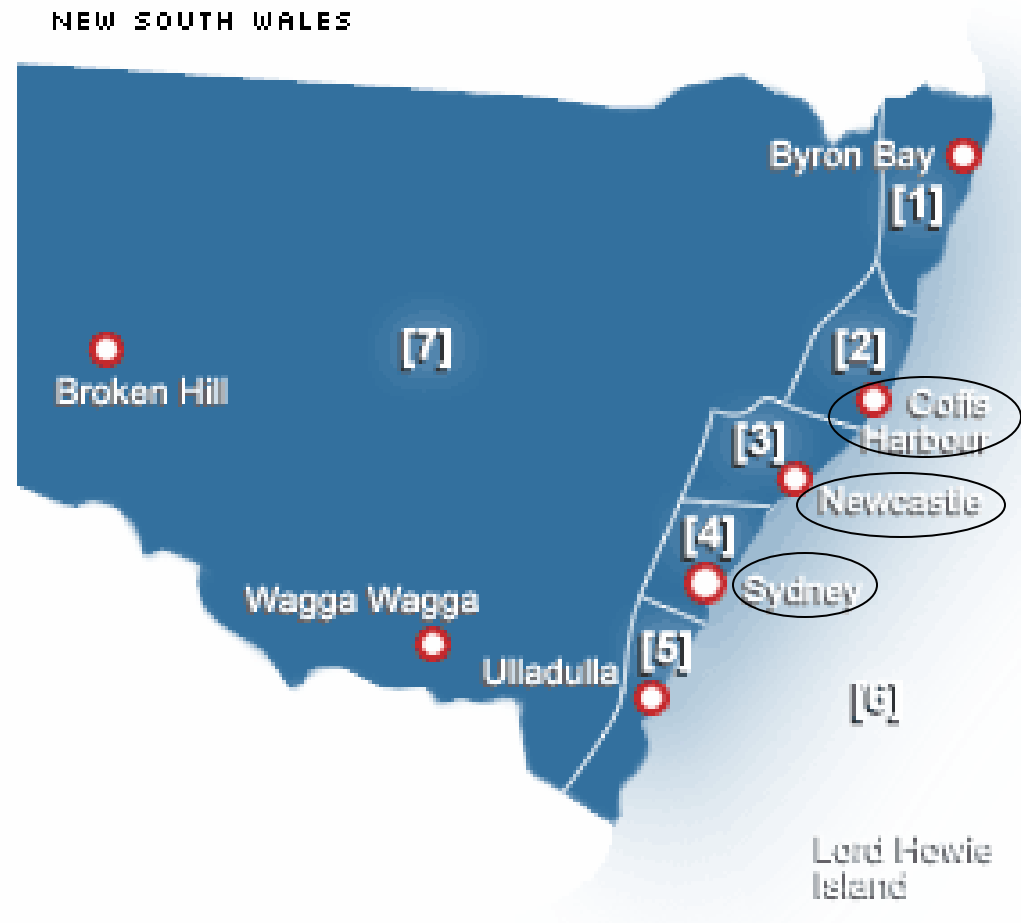


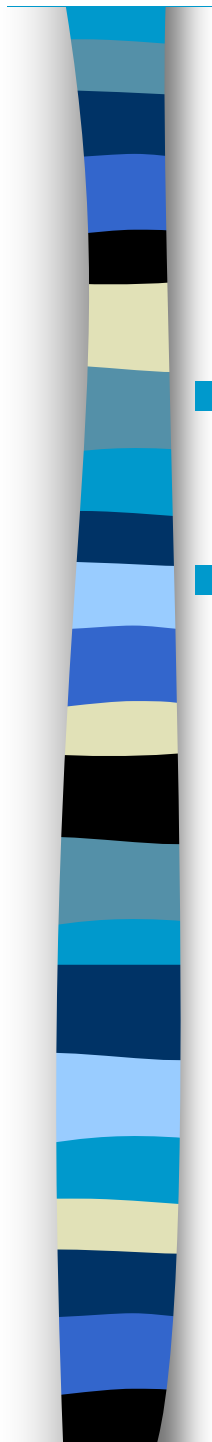
Setting up

- Fundamental Principles and Guidelines
 - Using IMET and AMC guidelines
 - Still in process of drafting guidelines

Members of the Alliance

- WMH
 - NCCC
- RNSH
- RPAH
- Newcastle
- NCCI
 - Port Macquarie
 - Coffs Harbour





■ For better functionality

■ N1

- WMH
 - NCCC
- RNSH
- RPAH

■ N2

- Newcastle
- NCCI
 - Port Macquarie
 - Coffs Harbour



CURRENT STATUS

- Progressing slowly but surely
- Network Governance committee formed
- Successfully commenced tutorials by video conferencing
- First assignment completed and being marked



Issues

Support from the departments

Administrative support

Funding-

- Funding approved for 0.6 FTE administrative support for 2009-2010
- No funding yet for the Network Director (0.2 FTE)



■ Networks and accreditation

- Accreditation should be separate to networks
- A department should be accredited based on meeting the minimal standard requirement



Implementation of Curriculum

■ Role of Networks

- Act in a advisory capacity
- Provide leadership, authority
- Support DoTs and maintain clear communication between each department



Implementation of Curriculum

■ Role of Networks

- Maintain communication with the college, other networks
- Ensure standardization, transparency of processes
- Ensure trainees have access to full spectrum of training /learning activities



Assignments

- Divide and mark
- Marking criteria-
 - Questions require to be more specific
 - Has the bar been set too high?
- Pool of assessors



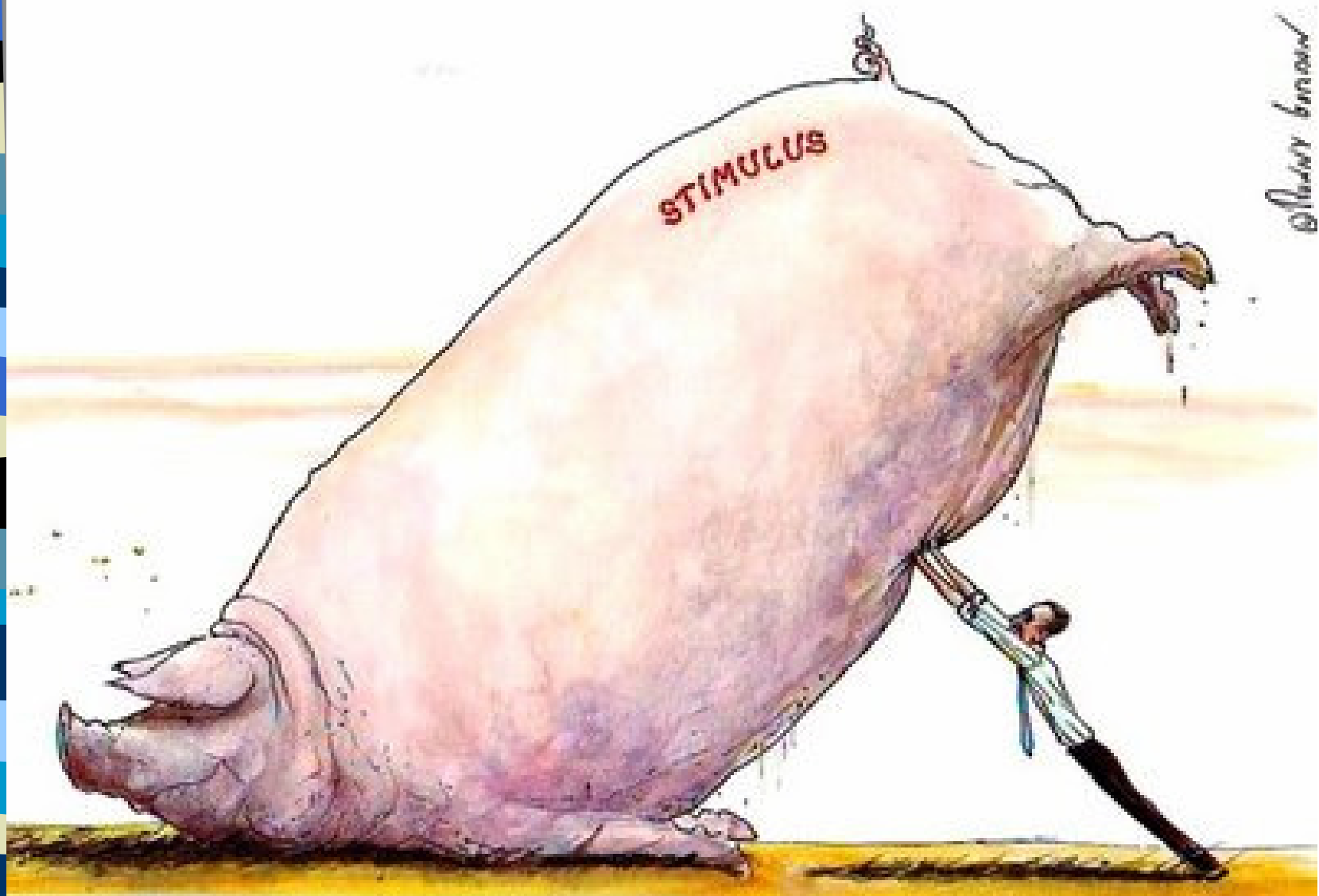
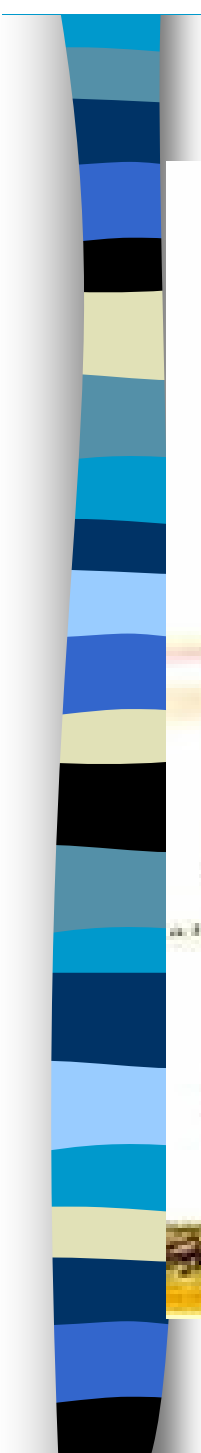
Assessments

- Trainee
 - Aim to track progress
 - Define problems early- red flag
 - Redirection /remediation as appropriate
- Training center
 - Proper supervision
 - May prompt accreditation visit



Impact on workload

- Radiation Oncologists as clinical supervisor
 - Extra time for formal assessment, feedback and documentation
 - Time to mark assignments
 - Sustainability





Impact on workload

Trainees

- Clinical load- IP, OP
- On job training- management plan, planning and Tx
- Fulfill requirements of curriculum



Future

- Feedback through the networks has already initiated modifications and refining of the curriculum