

School of Life and Environmental Sciences
Faculty of Science and Technology

Geelong campus
Geelong Victoria 3217 Australia



11 May 2009

Dear Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning),

Advancing Science by Enhancing Learning in the Laboratory (ASELL)

The ASELL team will be holding a Chemistry Workshop at the University of Sydney during Monday-Wednesday 6-8 July 2008.

As discussed at the recent ACDS meeting, this ASELL Workshop will focus on 1st year chemistry laboratory experiments. The aims of the Workshop are to:

- Introduce academic staff to the concept of student-centred learning, especially in the laboratory-learning environment;
- Introduce academics to educational research about laboratory learning, allowing them to experience laboratories from a student-centred perspective;
- Showcase laboratory experiments from each university, in order that each university can benefit from good experiments from other universities; and
- Build a network of academics, who are interested in fostering student-centred learning, especially in the laboratory-learning environment.

What needs to happen now?

Would you please nominate a 2-person team (a chemistry academic and one student), who can attend the July Workshop and present a 1st year chemistry laboratory experiment from your university at the Workshop? The “student” team member will be interpreted loosely: this person could be a senior undergraduate student, or even a research student.

The nominated academic should choose a 1st year chemistry laboratory experiment that runs successfully at your institution and submit the following documents:

- Student Notes for the experiment;
- Technical Notes for support staff to set up the experiment;
- A Hazard / Risk Assessment for the experiment;
- Anything else (such as results pro formas) that those carrying out the experiment will require; and
- Sections 1 and 2 of the ASELL Educational Template.

Demonstrator Notes will be required later in the ASELL process: at this stage, they are desirable, but not mandatory.

One of the reasons for running the Workshop in Sydney, is that we should be able to supply virtually all the equipment and consumables from the University of Sydney and the other local universities, so your team does not need to transport equipment or consumables.

The cost of registration, accommodation and food for the 2-person team will be \$1100. This does not include the cost of travel to/from Sydney. As discussed at the ACDS meeting, depending on the number of teams, which register and attend, it is intended that any "profit" will be refunded to the participating universities, especially to make the travel costs from the farther states and territories more equitable.

The following documents are attached:

- The ASELL Educational Template;
- A guide to completing the template (only sections 1 and 2 are required for the Workshop); and
- Information about submitting experiments to ASELL and the ASELL review process.

For now, would you please nominate your institution's 2-person team, to attend the July Workshop? Invoices for the teams and detailed information about the workshop will follow in due course. Further information can be obtained from

Associate Professor Kieran Lim,
E-mail: kieran.lim@deakin.edu.au (preferred)
Telephone 03 5227 2146

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kieran Lim". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Associate Professor Kieran Lim
Chair, Chemistry Panel and ASELL Director
Advancing Science by Enhancing Learning in the Laboratory Project