Facilitator

Update from the Associate Dean

Medicine delivers the University Strategy by leading innovative learning and discovery for better health across the lifecourse. We do this through education, equipping the next generation of doctors and scientists to flourish in a rapidly-changing environment; through internationally leading research focused on basic discovery and early clinical translation, and collaborations between the biomedical and physical sciences including chemistry, computing and engineering; through strong links with industry, engendering a culture of enterprise to maximise the impact of our education and research; and by working with major partners, including the local NHS. November saw completion of the Faculty’s submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF), the major national assessment of research in higher education. We will hear the results later in 2014.

Medical students have been gaining a unique insight into hospital life through a new initiative. Students on the BM5, BM6 and BM(EU) programmes will be undertaking shifts as health care assistants as part of their Medicine in Practice module in Year 2. This has been made possible by collaborative working with the UHS NHS Trust, supported by Health Education Wessex. Our students will work several shifts in a variety of clinical settings, experiencing interprofessional working, and learning to interact with patients and carers in the wards as a preparation for later clinical learning. We ran a small scale pilot of this placement successfully early last year; a larger scale pilot is currently underway, ahead of October 2014, when all students will take part in the scheme.

Another key change in the new curriculum is the move of the research project from Year 4 to Year 3. This means that in 2015-16 we will need double the number of projects as we accommodate an old Year 4 alongside a new Year 3. If you have not previously supervised students we would be delighted if you would consider doing so. The work can be research or audit, and full training will be available to you as a new supervisor. If you are interested please contact Dr Susan Wilson on S.J.Wilson@soton.ac.uk

The selection process for new medical students has changed from October 2013. All applicants will have to take the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT). Applicants to BM4 and BM5 programmes will need to score a mark of at least 2,500 (from the first four subtests, excluding Situational Judgement) to be considered. We will then rank potential students by their UKCAT score and a certain percentage will be invited to a selection day, which will include an interview and group task. Applicants to BM6 must also take the UKCAT but there is no cut-off score for this programme. So far we have had very positive feedback from applicants and selectors on the process. Thanks to all of you who have been trained and taken part as a selector. Keep up the good work - we will need you again next year!

Chris Stephens

Students present at international conferences

Seven Southampton medical students will be presenting findings from their BMedSc and MMedSc research projects at the forthcoming Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME) Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Brighton on 16-18 July 2014. They will be covering a range of important and topical educational themes including:

- Medical students’ experiences & perceptions of feedback;
- Factors influencing BM6 graduates’ career choices;
- An exploration of the role and structure of clinical placements in Germany;
- Experiences of medical students with anxiety and/or depression;
- Structuring thinking in medicine: evaluation of an online visual learning tool;
- Lecture attendance and learning styles of first and second year BM5 medical students at the University of Southampton.

Three students will additionally be presenting their work at the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) Annual Conference in Milan, Italy, on 30 August – 3 September 2014.

A number of students undertaking projects within the Academic Unit of Medical Education have also submitted abstracts to other conferences but the submission deadline for these has not yet been reached.

Kathy Kendall
BM4 is 10 years old!

28 November 2014 is the date of an exciting event in the history of the BM4. Organised by current students, a day celebrating 10 years of graduate entry medical education in Southampton is to be held. The event comprises an afternoon of exciting and engaging talks by key speakers both local and national, including Jenny Field, the co-founder and original Programme Leader of the current BM4 programme, and BM4 alumni. Following this will be an evening of dinner and dancing for the 10 years of BM4 to come together in a more informal environment.

Students come to the BM4 with a wide range of first degrees - this year we have graduates of Neuroscience, Anatomy, Veterinary Medicine, French and Latin, History, English and War Studies! The BM4 programme was developed to draw on the existing strengths of graduates, which include effective study and time management skills, the ability to think critically, and written and oral communication skills. The curriculum has been designed to encourage students to link their knowledge and understanding across disciplines and to integrate the theory and practice of medicine. The additional skills and life experience brought by graduates to the course have enabled the development of an innovative curriculum which enables achievement of the BM degree in four years.

This promises to be an event not to be missed! If you have any queries about the event or would like to get involved, then please contact Mhairi Dupré (BM4 Year 2 Student: md1g12@soton.ac.uk ) or Shelley Parr (BM4 Programme Leader: S.J.Parr@soton.ac.uk )

FE2HE: a taste of Medicine

In April, the Faculty of Medicine took part in FE2HE, a 4-day, 3-night Easter residential event designed to ease the transition between further and higher education. The event gave forty-one Year 12 students from non-traditional backgrounds the chance to learn more about the range of health related subjects the University has to offer.

Medicine offered three very different taster sessions, which were planned and delivered by current medical students and staff from the Academic Unit of Medical Education. Scott Border and 4th Year MMedSc students, Teu Gesteira Andrade and Nick Taylor, reconstructed a traumatic incident and took the students through the emergency care and the underlying anatomy and physiology of the situation; Linda Turner and Year 2 student Beth Leggett ran an advice workshop on applying to medical school; and Sally Curtis, along with Ben Debbage from Year 2 and Hannah Sked from Year 3, looked at the importance of understanding microbes in medicine.

Sally Curtis

GMC “impressed”

With the first year of the BM(EU) programme underway and students settling into life and study in Southampton, we are working hard to prepare everything in Kassel to receive the students in 2015. The programme is being quality assured and regulated by the GMC who will visit twice a year until the first cohort has graduated. If at any point they thought Kassel was not well enough prepared to deliver the curriculum in line with “Tomorrow’s Doctors” the students would have to remain in Southampton. This academic year they visited Southampton in November 2013 and Kassel in April 2014, and their verbal summing up on each occasion said they were “impressed”. The team compromises some very well respected and experienced medical educationalists and their input has been immensely helpful.

In Kassell, we accompanied the GMC on a visit to one of the district hospitals which will deliver Medicine and Surgery in Year 3 and came away confident that the students will get an amazing hands-on experience, with clinicians who are committed and enthusiastic about both teaching and the work they are doing. The staff were keen for them to follow a patient’s journey from admission to discharge and really become part of the team.

Staff development is a key part of our preparation for Year 3. The research project lead from Southampton, Dr Susan Wilson, and a member of the steering group, Dr Dieter Riethmacher, went to Germany in March to deliver training, which was well received. Staff development weeks in Southampton for theme and module leaders from Kassel continue, with the next one scheduled for July, so participants can observe the Year 3 OSCEs.

The facilities in Kassel are also progressing well with a simulation suite now up and running and a new teleconferencing facility underway. These developments give us confidence that we will be able to give the students a consistently positive experience throughout their training.

Clare Polack
Vice Chancellor’s Teaching Awards

Each year the University recognises individual staff or teams whose teaching is inspirational, innovative or of a particularly high standard with the Vice-Chancellor’s Teaching Awards, which celebrate the dedication of those nominated and encourage the sharing of excellent practice. “Teaching” refers not simply to classroom/lecture theatre/lab teaching, but any activity that has a positive impact upon the student learning experience, including postgraduate supervision.

There was an outstanding field for the single award in the Faculty of Medicine which was won by Dr Scott Border. Nominations were received for

1. Dr Guy Roberts and the Winchester Psychiatry teaching team for a range of innovative activities, including the Winchester Undergraduate Teaching Assessment Clinic (WU-TAC) where students observe a consultation between psychiatrist and patient through a one-way mirror.
2. Dr Sally Curtis for exemplary multidisciplinary pain symposia highly rated by students, and a pain education tool, developed with a local Chronic Pain Support Group.
3. Dr Raj Patel for his mixed approach to Sexual Health and HIV teaching, combining lectures, small group simulation workshops and clinic based teaching as well as self study materials, enabling students to develop skills and confidence safely before undertaking clinic sessions in this sensitive speciality.
4. Dr Christopher Torrens for imaginative and popular initiatives in Physiology, including a Physiology Help Desk, a Physiology rhyming twitter feed (@chris_torrens) and quizzes entitled “Quizology” during lecture sessions.
5. Dr Scott Border for “near peer teaching” in Anatomy, which has benefited both student learners and teachers, and a high profile national Neuroanatomy competition.

The Faculty panel were enormously impressed with the high quality of nominations and the range of innovative, student-centred initiatives that are occurring across all years of the BM programmes.

We would encourage any teachers to consider nominations for next year’s award - it’s an opportunity for us to celebrate the great work you’re all doing.

Louise Dubras

National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition 2014

Following the success of last year’s event, which was shortlisted for a National Enterprise Educator award, the second annual National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition (NUNC) took place at Southampton General Hospital on 12 April 2014. Fifty-nine medical students from around the country battled in a rigorous competition consisting of a spotter held in CLAS and a written MCQ paper split into two categories (pre-clinical and clinical). The category winners were Long Nam Nyguyen from St George’s and Milo Hollingworth from UCL, with Milo retaining his title from last year.

Southampton 2nd Year Christina Musat was the runner-up in the pre-clinical category.

We were privileged to be joined by Professor Sir Graham Teasdale, inventor of the Glasgow Coma Scale, and Mr Diederik Bulters, Consultant Academic Neurosurgeon at the Wessex Neurological Centre, who gave fantastic lectures on the development of the GCS and Neurosurgical Anatomy, respectively.

The standard of neuroanatomical knowledge was once again very high and it was encouraging to see so many enthusiastic students giving up their time to take part. NUNC continues to gather momentum and has proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for both the competitors and organisers. We are looking forward to next year’s event, which promises to be the biggest and best yet.

Gemma Scrimgeour, Sam Hall and Scott Border

The Art of Compassion

Southampton looks forward to hosting The Association of Medical Humanities annual conference for the first time at Highfield Campus with the theme, ‘The Art of Compassion’. This international, interdisciplinary conference focuses on the role of the arts and humanities in medical education and patient care using historical, philosophical, psychological and sociological perspectives.

An exciting line-up of confirmed plenary speakers includes Matilda Tristram, author of the graphic memoir, ‘Probably Nothing’, which tells the story of Matilda’s diagnosis of cancer while pregnant, and Dr. Anna Smajdor, from the University of East Anglia, who argues that a scientistic healthcare system will struggle to accommodate incommensurable virtues such as compassion. Forty contributors from different countries will also present varied papers on the theme.

An art exhibition specially curated for the conference will feature paintings from the Saving Faces charity and the Michele Angelo Petrone foundation, as well as undergraduate student pieces created in the Medical Humanities Student Selected Units at Southampton and Bristol.

The conference aims to explore the extent to which medical humanities can generate understanding, transform medical practice and contribute to the current debate around the development of compassionate practice in healthcare.

For more details go to http://go.soton.ac.uk/5vs

Linda Turner and Kathy Kendall
Mind the Gap conference concludes national project

On 21 March 2014, a group of forty-eight clinical teachers from different healthcare professions and across the region gathered at Chilworth Manor in Southampton for a one-day conference entitled: “Mind the Gap: Rethinking perspectives on clinical placements”.

The engaging keynote was presented by Professor Judith Ellis, MBE, from London South Bank University, who considered how and why clinical placements in nursing and medicine were changing. This was followed by presentations showcasing the findings from the Beyond Competence project, discussion groups and a plenary for sharing perspectives. In the afternoon, a choice of workshops were provided on topics ranging from “Belonging on placement” (led by Judith Lathlean) to “Resilience” (facilitated by David Owen and Paula Hunt) and a discussion of how external changes impacted on clinical placements themselves (led by Anja Timm).

Many participants remarked on the rare and welcome opportunity for discussion of placement issues across the professions.

The event was organised by Faith Hill and Anja Timm. It was free to participants as it formed part of the Higher Education Academy-funded Beyond Competence project, which ran from 2010 to 2012. Further details about the project as well as literature reviews, reports and educational resources – for staff and students – are available from the project pages on the MEDU website (www.southampton.ac.uk/medu).

Anja Timm

Southampton hosts BeSST

Sociology lecturers from medical schools across the south met in Southampton on 10 December 2013 for the Behavioural and Social Sciences Teaching in Medicine (BeSST) regional meeting. The guest speaker was Anya de Iongh, who shared her experiences of being both a medical student and patient.

Anya started studying Medicine at Cambridge, but she had to withdraw from medical school after 3½ years due to illness, and has since been diagnosed with a number of rare and complex neurological long-term health conditions.

As a medical student, she had initially been sceptical about the relevance of psychology and sociology to medicine, but her experience as a patient has changed her view; Anya is now a strong advocate of the biopsychosocial model and works with faculty and health professionals to help them incorporate it into their teaching and practice.

The day started with a session observing Anya speaking to Year 1 medical students about her experiences, and, during the afternoon, Anya led BeSST members in a discussion on patient involvement in developing and assessing curricula.

Kathy Kendall

Welcome

Andy Pulman replaces Sunhea Choi as eLearning Manager for a 2 year period.

Andy previously worked for the School of Health & Social Care at Bournemouth University where he developed a wide range of innovative interactive web resources and initiatives. As well as being nominated for several awards, Andy is the author of a number of articles on technology, health and eLearning, is a member of the reviewer panel of the British Journal of Educational Technology and an editorial review board member for the International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations. He is nearing completion of his PhD research on the development and role of web and mobile technology to support young people with Type 1 diabetes.

Pritti Aggarwal joins the Primary Medical Care team as Year 3 and 4 PMC Modules Lead.

Pritti trained in Cardiff, qualifying as a Doctor in 2000. She then trained in Wales and London, before settling in Southampton. Although she started out as a surgeon, Pritti sidestepped into General Practice in 2005. She has been a keen teacher of medical students and, during her partnership of six years, also trained GP registrars. She has recently returned to being a locum to enjoy her work life balance, and has taken a clinical lead position with Southampton City CCG.

Teaching Tomorrow’s Doctors Course

This is a 4 day course open to anyone who teaches Southampton medical students. The aims of the course are to offer staff opportunities to:

- Develop their teaching roles
- Explore the BM Curriculum and how it is developing
- Consider a range of learning and teaching theory
- Share teaching experience

Dates for the next course: 1/2 October 2014 & 5/6 November 2014

Further information at: www.southampton.ac.uk/medu

Contact us

For more details about the Medical Education Development Unit and our staff development courses, please go to: www.southampton.ac.uk/medu

If you wish to contribute to future newsletters, please email medu@southampton.ac.uk