

Introduction – this newsletter covers student achievements gives updates on events and publications.

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The medical school blog

In 2016, the central medical school team took a tiny step into the 21st century by responding to pressure and publishing a blog. Joe McAllister tells me over 50 blog posts have been viewed 1,200 times, the Facebook page has 230 followers and has reached over 4,000 people via the news feed – so lots to look at! This is an important source of “true” information for students.

The address is

<http://bristolmedicalschool.cfme.org.uk/>

and content can be uploaded by sending it to joe.mcallister@bristol.ac.uk or to David Cahill. There is also a Facebook page – at

<https://www.facebook.com/bristolmedicalschoolnews>

Career Choices

If you are in years 3-5, you are likely to be thinking about the future and about what sort of area you want to work in when you graduate, and do Foundation Years. Excelling in Foundation Years is a good start and several ex-Bristol students presented work at (and won prizes at the recent National Foundation Doctors Presentation Day 2017 (see <http://bristolmedicalschool.cfme.org.uk/2017/01/16/national-foundation-doctors-presentation-day-2017/>)).

After FYs, what then? Perhaps, see where there are staff shortages and think carefully about these areas. For example, in this week’s BMJ (Jan 28th) there is an article about primary care services in Dumfries and Galloway, where there is a particular shortage of GPs. They are offering a £20,000 incentive to move there, and would welcome trainees. This situation is not unique and there are great opportunities throughout the country.

Student and Staff Achievements

Several students have published papers either on their own or with members of staff. Looking at the content, these are not just papers for lines on a CV but useful additions to medical knowledge.

Would you like to know the answer to this: *How long do patients with chronic disease expect to live?* A systematic review of the literature. [Joseph Salem](#) and [Barnaby Hole](#) (Bristol graduate and CTF at Southmead) published this and showed “We know a healthy person expects to live a long time but people with a chronic disease don’t live as long as those who have good health The literature shows that if a patient with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder is hospitalised, there is a 40% chance they will not live to the end of the year and similar statistics are available for heart failure and end-stage renal failure. Prognostication has been a hot topic in oncology for a long time with the classic question from patients being “how long have I got left doc?” but this level of doctor-patient communication is yet to break through into chronic disease consultations”.



Our Associate Dean, [Sarah Purdy](#) and a year 5 student, Anna Taylor, published a paper on [How to get involved in research as a medical student?](#) In the Student BMJ (*Student BMJ* 2016;24:i6593). One of the main focuses of the paper was to encourage students to see that useful research and work can be undertaken outside the “accepted” research model of working in a laboratory (though one of the authors told me it was somewhat ironic that the journal had chosen to include a picture of a lab environment when the paper was making quite the opposite point).



“You said... We did”

Make sure you have a look at this document and learn how we acted on your feedback to make the course even better. This 4th edition is 7 pages long and full of great innovations in teaching and organisation.

[What-You-Said-and-What-We-Did-2016-final..pdf](#)

Final MB 2016-17

Do you avidly read books entitled *10 key steps to passing Finals*? And if there was one that said *Key gaps in your knowledge to repair and thus avoid failing Finals in Bristol Medical School*, you would probably want that too, I imagine.

Well, the thing is ... it has been published, about two weeks ago on the blog and called [Commentary on Finals Results for all Candidates](#) and can be seen at <http://bristolmedicalschool.cfme.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Comments-on-Finals-Results-abbreviated-January-2017AB.pdf>.

Andrew [Blythe](#) and [Andrew Stanton](#) have put together a key list of identified gaps in knowledge in students who sat the Finals Written and BCDE exams in December 2016. These are clearly of relevance to those papers, but the areas covered tend to be common to all assessments at this level, and close to what we would call ‘core knowledge’.

So a third or fourth year student would not go far wrong by honing up on their knowledge in these areas now and in the future.

Dates for the future to put in your diary.

The 2017 Clinical Revue, *Fantastic Skills and Where to Sign Them* will be held at the **Bierkeller Theatre** (All Saints Street) on the evening of **Sunday 19th March** (the day after Grad Ball), starting at about **7.30pm**. Reputably, the organising committee have already captured Profs Levy and Cahill *in flagrante delicto* (look it up!) so with that high tone set, we can look forward to the best Review ever (so they say!)

The **National Student Association of Medical Research (NSAMR) conference** will be held in Manchester on **11th February 2017**.

This is a great networking opportunity for students from different medical schools. Certificates of attendance will be provided.

Here’s the link to the conference where students can register and get their tickets. <http://conference.nsamr.org/>

The event is completely free with a £10 deposit returned on the day. Students will also be able to download the itinerary as well as find out more about the speakers and workshops from the website. Here’s the link to the event on Facebook too: <https://www.facebook.com/event>

Bristol Patient Safety Conference 2017

Enter our National Poster Competition

Have you implemented a quality improvement project? Do you have an innovative measurable solution to a patient safety issue?

Enter our competition by 16th March 2017.

Shortlisted entrants will be invited to display a poster at the conference and qualify for a reduced delegate rate of £149 [Click here for more info](#)

See [here](#) for 2016 poster PDFs

Contact: info@bristolpatientsafety.com

And local art work:

Art Exhibition 2017 “What Lies Beneath”

The Bristol Art in Medicine Society invites all faculty of health science students to attend the forthcoming exhibition on the theme “What Lies Beneath”. Running between the 9th and 12th February in the Link Space, 2nd Floor, Student Union Building.

For more information please see the poster here: [Art in medicine poster](#)

Are you looking for funding to present something at a conference?

Travel grants for conferences

Did you know you can apply for grants from the Alumni Foundation to cover travel costs for conferences?

Follow this link for all the information and to apply: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/alumni/students/apply-for-funding/>

Clinical Student Staff Liaison Committee - next meeting Feb 7th at 4pm, in the Hawthorns.

Aungshuk Ghosh Student Prize for Innovative use of e-Learning within Medical Education: £300

Details at <http://bristolmedicalschoo.cfme.org.uk/2017/01/11/aungshuk-ghosh-student-prize-for-innovative-use-of-e-learning-within-medical-education/>

Key dates:

Deadline for submission forms by email to dominic.alder@bristol.ac.uk: 12noon, Wednesday 8th February 2017.

Presentations by shortlisted students: Great Hall, Friday 24th February 2017 as part of the Student Excellence in Medicine event.

Finally

Several students submitted materials for the blog and the newsletter that we were unaware of. Thanks so much for doing that. I love reading these pieces.

Do you have something to share? Send it to susan.pettinger-moores@bristol.ac.uk