



University of Edinburgh

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### ***Implemented Activities***

The INSPIRE Ed conference was jointly organised by the INSPIRE lead and student representatives with in-kind help from the university admin staff. The aims were 3-fold:

1. To offer the students an opportunity to present their research findings.
2. To educate the students about clinical academic career pathways.
3. To inspire the students to consider a career in clinical academia through hearing from junior and senior clinical academics.

The first session included inspirational talks from early career researchers including those on the academic foundation programme (AFP), and those on or who had completed the Edinburgh Clinical Academic Track scheme (ECAT).

- This was a really excellent session which received great feedback from the students.

There was also an informative talk on the clinical academic pathways delivered by Professor Mandy Drake, AFP and ECAT lead and the programme concluded with an inspirational lecture from Professor Lorna Marson, who discussed the breadth of research that she had undertaken in her career in academic surgery.

Throughout the programme, there were oral and poster presentations, which gave the students to present their research, often for the first time. Feedback was very positive that they valued this opportunity.

### ***Impacts***

The key focus of the grant application was to institute a novel INSPIRE Ed student research conference specifically aimed at those students completing the new intercalated year. Key outcomes from this were:

1. Students had an opportunity to present their work in front of their peers and judges.
2. Students learnt about potential academic career pathways in South East Scotland with the percentage of students stating that they were aware or very aware of pathways increasing from 6% before to 62% after the conference.
3. Interest in pursuing an academic career increased from 35% of students before to 51% after the conference.

INSPIRE is coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences and supported by the Wellcome Trust. INSPIRE activities are designed and delivered locally by individual medical schools.

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