



University of Leicester Medical School

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***Implemented Activities:***

INSPIRE National Medical Research Conferences:

- The headline events in 2018 and 2019 were the annual INSPIRE National Medical Research Conferences in Norwich and Leicester, respectively.
- Both conferences attracted distinguished clinical scientist speakers, as well as providing opportunity for medical students to present their own research outcomes in plenary and breakout sessions.
- Workshops to develop research skills awareness were also incorporated.
- The latter attracted 265 student registrations, predominantly from the three collaborating Schools, Leicester, Nottingham and Norwich, but with student representatives from 13 other Medical Schools.
- A further 28 medical students participated in running escape room workshops during the conference.

SPARKS Events and Bulletin:

- Two evening SPARKS events were held per term for principle investigators and students to present research.
- The SPARKS theme was also developed via a termly on-line SPARKS Bulletin to publicise topic research themes.

The LINK Scheme:

- Aimed to partner students seeking extracurricular research opportunities with researchers
- Culminated in a half-day weekend conference of student presentations from which the best was awarded registration at an international conference.

Academic Foundation Programme Awareness Events:

- Events were held with a mock interview day each year to prepare students for interviews in the scheme.
- Some sponsorship was provided to students to facilitate attendance at relevant national conferences of professional societies.

***Impacts:***

Developing Research Presentation Skills:

- Providing 'safe' fora for medical students to develop research presentation skills, including scientific abstract, poster and paper writing, oral presentation skills and networking, both in local SPARKS presentation evening events but also the Annual INSPIRE East Midlands Medical Research Conference, which has grown into a National event this year.

Research Opportunities:

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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- The placement of medical students in extracurricular research opportunities of various duration through the student-led LINK scheme to develop research skills, including audit, literature searching, data collection and analysis and presentation for students that do not formally intercalate a Masters in Medical Research.

Academic Foundation Programme Success Rate:

- A high success rate for applicants to the Academic Foundation Programme places (In 2019 there were 60 application (26% of cohort, 32 Offers (53%) and 26 accepted posts (43%) ranking Leicester 7<sup>th</sup> amongst all medical schools)

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