



Liverpool Veterinary School

Implemented Activities

Summer School

- The summer school was open to vets and medics and included the following activities and events; research talks, INSIDER IMPRINT (UoL journal), statistics, wet lab skills workshop, epidemiology, health informatics, microbiology pathogenesis activity, genetics, experimental design, mentor workshop, public engagement, making a scientific poster, writing an abstract, ethics, critical review task.

Mentor Network

- We developed a mentoring network between academics, early career researchers and UoL vet undergraduates through events and training.

Research Careers Event

- Vet students organising this event wanted to invite high impact, inspirational veterinary researchers to speak at this event.
- We funded travel for two external internationally renowned veterinary researchers to present at this event.
- Additionally, a CV workshop was included with researchers assisting students with aspects of their CVs that they can improve with respect to a career in research.

INSPIRE Taster Studentships

- 4th year students had expressed an interest in being involved in a research project but felt it was too late to have access to research opportunities as they were time poor with respect to rotations and further EMS.
- Additionally, other students find it is difficult to time commit to a full studentship or are not sure if it is for them.
- We provided short 'taster studentships' for these students to participate in research projects for 1-3 weeks.

Travel Bursaries

- These bursaries enabled students to attend the Third National Veterinary Undergraduate Research Conference in Edinburgh and the BSAVA in Birmingham. The former was particularly important due to the cost to travel and attend.

Impacts

Engagement with activities

- The INSPIRE grant enabled us to engage with over 150 veterinary undergraduates with our portfolio of activities. Without the grant we would not have had funding to undertake these. The feedback overall from the students, and staff has been fantastic. It has enabled students to learn a number of additional skills which will help them should they undertake research in the future as a career, or as part of their clinical workload.

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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Collaborative research-related activities

- We were able to integrate veterinary and medical undergraduates for the first time through collaborative research related activities. Normally these two cohorts do not mix as they have different campuses and do not share lectures. Through our summer school, taster studentships, the medical conference and the INSPIRE Student Vet and medical committee's links have been initiated and a mutual understanding gained.

Final year research elective

- The momentum from the INSPIRE grant has grown interest in our undergraduates to the extent that in 2020 for the first time we will run a final year research elective and already have applicants signed up.

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