



INSPIRE

Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Implemented Activities

The key objective of the BSMS INSPIRE programme is to enthuse and encourage medical students to engage with research, and realise its value in their day-to-day clinical practice. Our activities include:

- Introductory lecture 'Research in the life of a medical student' in year 1.
- Establishment of a Student Research Network (SRN) by students to facilitate collaborative research between students and the faculty.
- INSPIRE prizes for outstanding Individual Research Project (IRP) in Lab-based / Clinic-based / Community-based topic (4th Year medical students).
- Academic support and INSPIRE grants for students to submit and present papers at conferences / publish papers in scientific journals.
- Reciprocal conference presentation funding from the Medical School.
- Support for students participating in the Brighton Science Festival.
- Participation in NSAMR and other INSPIRE led conferences.
- Research clinics by the INSPIRE Academic Lead to discuss research ideas/questions and study design/methods. Signposting to faculty members.
- Greater visibility and showcasing of student research posters and published papers in BSMS bulletins, website and newsletters. Showcasing of students' research outputs to enthuse students and their peers.
- INSPIRE support for organising student-led local/regional research conferences.
- Curriculum changes to introduce teaching of research methods and essential medical statistics in Year 1 and 2.
- Support for Faculty to develop and deliver research orientated SSCs.
- Support and stipend for students to do summer research placements – Junior Research Associate (JRA) award scheme.
- Encouraging student participation, attendance and presentations at departmental clinical academic seminars.
- We joined the 'Medidem programme' consortium along with Universities of Cambridge and Warwick.
- We have also joined the consortium of medical schools in Southeast England to host a joint INSPIRE conference.

Impacts

Junior Research Associate award scheme

- The medical school has initiated a summer Junior Research Associate (JRA) award scheme, whereby students are paid a stipend and provided desk space in departments to conduct research under the supervision of a faculty member over the summer holiday period.
- As a result, there are increasing number of students applying for the JRA and liaising with faculty to help with their research over the summer holiday period.

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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Increase in research outputs

- The availability of INSPIRE/BSMS conference presentation grants have provided a great impetus and reward to students – this has led to a significant increase in research outputs in terms of conference abstract submissions, presentations and publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- For example, this year, 77 BSMS students had an abstract accepted for presentation at a conference (about 100% increase from the last year, n=38).

Conferences

- The Surgical Society at BSMS successfully hosted its inaugural student-led regional surgical conference in the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex area for medical students and foundation doctors.
- BSMS students participated in the interdisciplinary conference at the University of Plymouth for undergraduate Medical, Dental, Veterinary and Natural Sciences students. The conference was organised as part of the INSPIRE program run between Plymouth, Exeter, Bristol and Cardiff Universities.

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