

## **University of Manchester INSPIRE-funded activities**

The majority of the INSPIRE grant for Manchester Medical Research Students' Society (MMRSSoc) is allocated towards the organisation and hosting of our annual conference. The most recent conference (February 2020) was based on 'Research in Surgery' as this area had not been explored in previous conferences held by our society. The funding allows us to not only accommodate for medical students at Manchester, but also those from other courses and universities. In our recent conference, we were able to host 4 keynote lectures, 5 workshops (with 2 surgical skills workshops), 2 Outreach workshops and a medical debate. As we were able to scale up to host a national conference, it gave the opportunity for medical students around the country to present posters. Furthermore, our conference provided an Outreach programme which invited students from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as schools who do not typically send students to medical school, to attend as part of our 'Widening Participation' scheme which included tailored workshops to support them with applying to medical school.

The INSPIRE grant has also enabled MMRSSoc to improve and scale up the Academic Foundation Programme (AFP) series which consists of lectures, a mentor scheme and a mock interview session with current AFP doctors. The lecture series is split into two sections: lectures to let students know more about the AFP and lectures to support students applying for the AFP (such as the statistics lecture). The mentor scheme is led by the events team who pair up prospective AFP applicants with AFP doctor 'mentors'. We have had applicants to our AFP programme from non-Manchester medical students and so we are looking at ways of expanding our current programme further to support more students applying for the North West.

MMRSSoc also allocates some of the INSPIRE grant each year for collaborations with other societies which host events that promote medical research. We find that this is useful as it lets us support societies which we judge to align with our goals as well as to reach a bigger audience through these different platforms. Society collaborations include: Manchester's surgical society (Scalpel); Manchester Medical Journal; Manchester Undergraduate Dental Research Society; UoM Nursing Society; and Manchester University Medics Paediatric Society.