



University of Southampton

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### Proposal of Activities

- National Undergraduate Medical Research Conference. The event focuses heavily on giving students the opportunity to present their own research, with most of the day dedicated to oral and poster presentations of student work. However, the conference is also intended to be exciting and educational for students not presenting, and features keynote speeches from leading academics as well as workshops aimed at building research skills.
- Collaborative Conference. Smaller conference during the first half of the academic year. For the last few years, this is an opportunity we have used to collaborate with another society within Southampton Medsoc, thus bringing a research focus to a specific area of medicine that is usually considered only from a clinical perspective.
- "How to approach research and clinical academia" series. Aims to support students to develop their research skills, especially those required for the BMedSc research project conducted as part of the Bachelor of Medicine third year. The series consists of evening lectures on subjects including 'how to write a literature review', 'How to write a project report' and 'How to write an abstract and prepare an oral presentation'. The evenings typically involve a presentation from one or a number of senior academics, followed by a work-through and facilitated appraisal of high quality examples.
- Journal Clubs. These are guided discussions about recently published research papers that take place regularly throughout the year at lunchtimes or evenings. Typically, a clinical academic is invited to facilitate the discussion, taking the attendees step by step through the paper using a critical appraisal framework.
- Research Tasters. Usually held at lunchtimes, research taster sessions aim to inspire students to think about clinical academia as a career. Clinical academics are invited to talk fairly informally about how they got into research, what inspired them, the research that they are currently undertaking and the influence of their research on clinical practice. We wish to continue these research tasters, but also intend to enhance the programme by offering laboratory research taster sessions. These would involve a longer, more structured afternoon visit to a number of the clinical laboratories in Southampton, including the Southampton Cancer Research UK Centre, the Institute of Developmental Science and the recently-opened state of the art Centre for Cancer Immunology.

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- **AFP Preparation.** The course involves a morning of lectures from senior academics and recent AFP trainees, intended to demystify the AFP application process and highlight the pros and cons of the AFP. As a new addition in 2018 we also held an intensive interview preparation day, requiring final years to sign up to, involving mock interviews with academics and current AFPs, and extensive feedback about students' interview performance and CV strengths and weaknesses.
- **Intercalation Support.** Featuring talks from returning intercalators on their experiences, as well as general information about the practicalities of intercalation and what opportunities are available. SIAS also maintains a database of previous intercalating students, which many prospective intercalators have used to approach older students and enquire about their experiences on particular courses.
- **Careers Evening/Speed Dating.** A selection of academics including recent academic foundation doctors, academic clinical fellows, PhD students etc. who students could spend some time talking to individually or in small groups before rotating on throughout the evening. Another part of this event that we would like to include would be a CV-building station, where students could learn tips about putting together their academic CV's, and younger students might begin to understand how to build a competitive portfolio.
- **Research Opportunities - Medsoc Connect.** An online platform for academics to advertise projects, internships, paid work/volunteering or any other opportunities available for students.
- **Research Distinction Award.** This will be a monetary prize awarded by a panel of academics within the faculty to students that demonstrate an outstanding contribution to research throughout their entire time at medical school.
- **Magazine publication.** Aiming to publish a society magazine. The magazine would feature a roundup of all SIAS events and activities held throughout the year; articles and advice related to careers in academic medicine; important national and local research stories from the year; and space to highlight some of the research done by Southampton medical students.
- **Skills in modern research' workshop series.** We plan to develop a short workshop series this year to introduce the basics of bioinformatics, impart key knowledge about the application and interpretation of computational analysis methods, and hopefully teach students some basic coding.

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- Audit platforming and support. Approached academics on behalf of the society and with their support generated a number of audits that willing students can take on. These cover a diverse array of specialities, and provide a low-commitment mini-project that novice student researchers can complete to improve their portfolio and gain research skills, while at the same time gaining academic contacts who may subsequently assist them in undertaking larger projects in future.
- Peer Teaching. Hosting of frequent peer-teaching revision sessions aimed at BM years 1-3. These revision sessions typically occur during the evenings in the run-up to exams, with one or two evenings covering 4-6 key topics.

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