



Norwich Medical School

Proposal of Activities

- We aim to organize a one-day Symposium to promote the Academic Foundation Programme. This will be organised by the INSPIRE student committee with the support from current academic foundation trainees, academic clinical fellows, core trainees and higher specialty trainees who will be invited to talk about the academic pathway and careers. In addition, we aim to invite 1-2 Academic Foundation Training Directors from Cambridge/ London who can offer us their advice on what makes a successful academic foundation trainee and how this can further academic aspirations.
- Through a collaboration between the INSPIRE committee and the Norwich Medical Research Society, we will organise four evening Keynote lectures. The format of these events will involve a student initially presenting their own research and then an established academic (either from Norwich or elsewhere) giving a talk about their own work, research, teaching and academic experience with the aim to enthuse our students to consider and ultimately apply for an academic career. All students will be invited aiming to get the younger students, even from year 1, to start thinking about academic careers very early on. This activity builds on existing activities, and the events will be completely organised by the INSPIRE committee who will identify the Keynote lecturers, invite them and facilitate invites to the students.
- Student Selected Studies as a gateway to research In Norwich, we have developed an extremely successful Student Selected Study module (SSS) for research. This is an optional module, but is available to all students in years 2 or 3 once per year and can be undertaken a maximum of twice. As a testament to its success, many of our students choose to undertake this module twice, giving the opportunity to either build larger research projects extending across two years or experience two different areas of research. In practice, the students are allocated two hours per week for the whole year to complete the module and each student is supported by an academic supervisor. Through this, students get to have first-hand experience of clinical and non-clinical research, and are given specific tasks to carry out, for example: cell culture, undertaking a systematic review or meta-analysis.
- Building on our in-house VR expertise, which has already facilitated VR-enhanced sessions in the medical school curriculum and Problem Based Learning, we aim to create and disseminate to our students a taster of research using an innovative technology-enhanced learning methodology and incorporating interactive spherical stereoscopic video within the VR setting. The intervention will be

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delivered using sophisticated VR head-mounted displays which allow the user to have an immersive learning experience. We anticipate that this taster can be taken by any student independently of their research experience and enable them to understand more about the benefits of an academic career, hopefully enabling more of our students to choose an SSS module, medical intercalation and an academic career in the longer-term.

- The 8th and 9th National INSPIRE Student Research Conference - The flagship INSPIRE activity over the past six years has been a highly successful annual medical student research conference in partnership with Nottingham and Leicester that rotates between schools and attracts around 160 student delegates each time. Registration is open for the 7th conference in Leicester on 9th November 2019, with 164 registrations already from nine medical schools. In 2020 and 2021, the collaborative conference series will be organized and hosted by student INSPIRE teams from Nottingham and Norwich medical schools, respectively. The conferences will be open to all UK medical students, with or without research experience, on a first come first served basis.
- We will host a new Research Symposium for the East of England, aiming to bring together students from the three medical schools in our region (Cambridge University, Anglia Ruskin and Norwich Medical School). The aim is for the students to present their work, but also, we plan to organise lectures and workshops for academic careers, academic writing, how to succeed in publishing and have enthusiastic, motivational academics giving 2 keynote lectures for the day. We anticipate that the more interaction students have with successful academic events, the more likely they will be in wishing to pursue an academic career. The students whose research scores the highest marks will be given a Dean's Prize
- We aim to continue with the successful Intercalation Evenings we have hosted last year. Last year, instead of one Intercalation Evening in October 2018 we hosted an additional second one in March 2019 which was extremely well received. We mainly use this session to showcase the excellent research and opportunities that our intercalating students have had in the previous year (both for those that stayed in Norwich and those who have moved elsewhere for their intercalation course, currently a 50:50 split) and how this can support their future careers. Academic trainees and senior academics are also present. Following the talks, we have a networking opportunity for the students to meet other students who are keen to follow an academic career and junior and senior academics.
- With more students undertaking research, the opportunities to present this research at important international conference increase. As such, we propose to

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offer Research Conference Bursaries of up to £250 for each student on a first come first served basis. This will build on current activity offering up to £150 per student.

- Participation at the Nottingham Art of Research Exhibition. This will be a new collaborative activity and support will be provided to students to attend the Nottingham School Art of Research Exhibition and AFP Mixer events. As many clinical academics also work with or in industry (biotech, pharma, and medical devices), Leicester, Nottingham and Norwich Medical Schools have agreed to co-arrange two visits per year to research institutes and commercial research laboratories to achieve critical mass of the visiting groups. These collaborative visit days will expose students to a broader range of clinical academic careers and working environments and enable cross-pollination of research ideas between venues, students and supervisors from the three medical schools. Travel will be arranged independently by each school.
- “How to do...” Workshops including industry visits Student feedback suggested that a workshop giving practical advice on “How to do series”, including workshops on how to appraise a paper, how to write a case report, how to write a paper and how to interview for an academic foundation job will be much appreciated. Building on our recent experience, we therefore, feel that student-led workshops utilising the expertise from more senior students (particularly those who have intercalated or already hold a PhD) as well as academic clinicians of all levels (from foundation to consultants) will be useful, and have already identified clinical academics who are keen to help. We also aim to invite one Editor-in-Chief of a medical journal for a workshop on how to publish a case report/ paper. We aim to run 2 workshops in the first year and attract about 30-40 students per workshop, with the costs covering stationary, soft drinks, coffee and travel expenses. As a pilot, these workshops will be live-streamed to students at the University of Cambridge and in return Cambridge will live-stream their own workshops to Norwich, allowing therefore students from both institutions to benefit further. Alongside these workshops, we aim to undertake a new related activity, to pay a formal visit to a big pharmaceutical industry in Cambridge. We hope that through this visit, the students will appreciate the co-operation that can exist between “Big Pharma” and universities in promoting academic research and also how this can be beneficial to patients.

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