



Imperial College London Medical School

Implemented Activities

The creation of the ProjectPal web forum:

- ProjectPal is a web based tool designed to facilitate student engagement in medical research through matching students with academic supervisors offering tailored opportunities.

A Wikki Hackathon:

- Imperial students and staff collaborated with academics, librarians and technologists to edit and produce up to date content to add to Wikipedia's online health resources, increasingly relied on worldwide by both healthcare professionals and the general public.

Establishment of the Society of Research & Academics (SORA). Events run by SORA:

- The SORA Guide to Surviving your BSc – 100 students
- Critical Appraisal – 50 students
- Data Interpretation and Statistics – 50 students
- AFP Interview Prep Day – 100 students
- Additional Interviews – 20 students
- National Conference – 100 students
- Young Researchers Conference - 75 students
- Lord Winston talk on IVF – 25 students
- Committee Team Building session with Lord Oxburgh – 11 committee members
- Fourth Year Bsc Talks including 'The SORA Guide to Surviving your BSc' talk which gave students an overview of the BSc and advice from older years about succeeding and specific tutorials entitled 'Critical Appraisal' and 'Data Interpretation and Statistics' helping fourth years gain valuable research skills.
- An Academic Foundation Programme in which SORA provided two over-subscribed Academic Foundation Programme (AFP) interview events which included lectures on clinical emergencies, small group workshops on critical appraisal and individualised deanery specific panel interviews for applicants.

Impacts

Establishment of the Society of Research & Academia:

- The INSPIRE funding has allowed the School to build solid foundations and financial stability and independence of this student led society. We have worked hard on a model for running the committee that encompasses representation from all years enabling longer term management stability. A number of events have been grown by the society and it continues to evolve.

Wikki Hackathon Event:

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- This was a novel new approach to engaging students with science information, critical analysis and public engagement. Past events lost momentum but the “hackathon” approach led to greater impact and encouraged team working as well. This is now a successful model to grow through both SORA plus we are exploring opportunities to incorporate it into our curriculum.

ProjectPal:

- This was a web based platform for engaging students in “real” research projects linking them with supervisors and research opportunities. It has taken time to evolve but uptake is growing.

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