



Proposal of Activities

- INSPIRE research forum and research prizes. We currently provide a number of existing local approaches to build interest in research. These include vacation Scholarships, Intercalated degrees and head of College Scholars List Scheme; top 10% of BVMS students undertake a number of events aimed at exposing them to cutting-edge biomedical research undertaken within the College. Whilst each of these three activities have proven very successful and led to several undergraduate students developing research interests, they serve only a small fraction of the total student population. It is important that the BVMS students undertaking research activities are able to share their experiences with the other BVMS students and at the same time promote an interest in research to others. Our annual INSPIRE Research Forum is our flagship INSPIRE activity, organised in the first semester by the VetGEMS Committee, with assistance from the INSPIRE implementation team. The Research Forum enables those students who completed research projects to present their results to their peers, either by delivering an oral presentation or by presenting a poster.
- Blue Sky Lecture Programme. Research elements now embedded in the current BVMS curriculum include:
 - BVMS I: Critical Assessment Task (CAT)-literature review and research presentation. Blue skies lectures: a 1-2 hour interactive lecture from a researcher at the cutting edge of current scientific endeavour.
 - BVMS II: CAT- mock vacation scholarship application. Blue skies lectures: a 1-2 hour interactive lecture from a researcher at the cutting edge of current scientific endeavour.
 - BVMS III: Statistics CAT, weekly journal clubs and guidance on evaluating scientific papers. VILA (Veterinary Independent Learning Task) task: a group task with a focus on evidence based veterinary medicine and researching clinical questions.
 - BVMS IV: Evidence-based lectures, student-led public engagement events and CAT task in which students select a paper to critically review, following discussion of "Bad Science". Last session, 113 papers were reviewed and marked by staff, and 14 students with outstanding scores received a copy of the Ben Goldacre's 'Bad Science'.
 - BVMS V: Research selective; an opportunity to undertake a 4-12 week research project in a research laboratory/group.
- Student Mobility. BVMS5 (Professional Phase) students have flexibility in their degree programme to track towards disciplines in which they have a particular interest or which they envisage themselves embarking on once professionally

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qualified (research selectives). As mentioned above, the SVM recently introduced a new research selective in final year. We hope to improve the uptake of students into this selective by providing an opportunity for student mobility to learn within other research institutions/learned societies in/outside the UK.

- **INSPIRE Research Ambassador Network.** We recognise the importance of exposing our students to role models who will inspire them to consider research careers and demonstrate how research might be combined with clinical work. Our INSPIRE Research Ambassador Network includes researchers from the School and Research Institutes (e.g. CVR, iii and BAHCM, see Figure) whom we identified as excellent role models. As the students might more easily identify with early career researchers, we plan now to expand the network to include new, early career Research Ambassadors. We will update our INSPIRE website, so that students can readily identify research group leaders, postgraduate students and other researchers working in particular areas, finding descriptions of their projects and the opportunities offered to BVMS students.
- **Breakfast & Research University Networking Connection Hub (BRUNCH).** PhD students and early career researchers within the SVM, the CVR, iii and BAHCM will be invited to display posters that they have presented at recent national/international conferences. The posters will be on display while breakfast is served within an informal setting. It is anticipated that this event will expose the undergraduates to the breadth of research taking place within the School and associated Institutes and provide a less intimidating, more informal, networking opportunity.
- **VetGEMS-led INSPIRE activities.** The students have established the Veterinary Glasgow Evidence-Based Medicine Society (VetGEMS) Committee, which is led by a group of research-focused students and will promote exposure of all (>600) veterinary students to research through a series of student-led INSPIRE activities, including:
 - During the Fresher's Fayre, VetGEMS reaches out to first year students, using a display containing photographs of Glasgow veterinary students who received funds from previous INSPIRE programmes to attend conferences. These displays and meeting the VetGEMS students provides an opportunity for first year students to learn more about research before their formal teaching begins. INSPIRE Student leads will also present to BVMS 1 students during induction week lectures.
 - At the beginning of term, VetGEMS committee members who are INSPIRE student leads will speak to the BVMS1-4 students. They will inform them about INSPIRE activities and invite students to volunteer to be enthusiastic year representatives who will promote getting involved in integrated

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- VetGEMS and INSPIRE activities to their peers during the course. New bi-weekly or monthly journal club opportunities will be offered in collaboration with student clubs and the School's divisions of farm and small animal medicine. Each of the clubs will have the opportunity to select an article and host a discussion, ideally with a clinician present.
- VetGEMS will invite students who have some research experience to submit articles for the INSPIRE Student Health Sciences Research Journal, which has been set up by the Universities of Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter and Plymouth (see www.inspirestudentjournal.co.uk). This provides interested students with the opportunity to write for, review, edit and publish a journal. Although we envisage that a small number of students will become involved, for those who do the experience will be very rewarding.
- External visits to research facilities.
 - Moredun Research Institute (MRI) An open call will go out to students in year 3, highlighting an opportunity to visit the MRI, with whom we have many collaborations. There are opportunities for third year students to carry out summer projects at the Moredun, so this is a chance to look around the facilities and learn about some of the ongoing research being undertaken there.
 - Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment An open call will go out to students in year 2, highlighting an opportunity to visit the Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE) – the first scientific field research and teaching station in Britain on beautiful Loch Lomond in the southern Scottish Highlands.