



Queen's University Belfast School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences

# **Implemented Activities**

Student Research Symposium (October 2015):

- Aimed to promote, encourage and highlight research opportunities.
- Involved a Keynote speech and workshops on intercalated degrees and summer studentship opportunities.
- Also provided a platform for students to present their research from summer studentships and intercalated degrees through posters.
- 90 students across Years 1-5 registered for the event.

## The INSPIRE Mentoring Scheme:

 Mentees on the scheme are matched with past mentees of a School Mentoring programme. The mentors are either Clinical Academic Trainees, Clinical Research Fellows or post-doctoral researchers. The mentors received training. 16 mentee/mentor pairings were made from 2015-16 and 6 in 2016-17.

#### **INSPIRE Intercalated Fair:**

 This event provided an opportunity for undergraduate medical students to find out more about undertaking an intercalated degree at Queen's in 2017-18 in one place. Around 90 students attended

### Student Research Symposium (March 2017):

- Student led event that aimed to promote, encourage and highlight research opportunities.
- Included poster presentations and prizes and a talk about research careers.
- 20 students attended.

## The Discovering Clinical Academia student selected component:

 The module contains a variety of teaching methods including seminars incorporating relevant group work, visits to university and clinical research facilities, university teaching settings and visits to an industry laboratory setting.

# INSPIRE Summer Studentships:

• The scheme was open to 8 students in both 2015-16 and 2016-17.

# RESURGE:

• This was set up by the Academic Medicine SCRUBS to connect interested medical students with clinicians and researchers who need help on a research database.

# **Impacts**

Student Engagement:

INSPIRE is coordinated by the Academy of Medical Sciences and supported by the Wellcome Trust. INSPIRE activities are designed and delivered locally by individual medical schools.







Students within the School continue to be actively engaged in developing a
culture of research. The Queen's Academic Medical Society (QUAMS) was
originally involved in delivering the objectives of our INSPIRE activities. In
January 2017, it was agreed that an Academic sub-committee within medical
student society (SCRUBS) would be established which, with the wider support of
SCRUBS, will facilitate activities to promote Clinical Academic medicine.

### Intercalated Degrees:

- Interest in Intercalated degrees remains extremely high and there was a significant increase from the total of 49 students who intercalated in 2014-15 to next academic year 2017-18 (breakdown below).
  - o 2015/16 85 (included 25 undergraduate [UG]; 36 masters; 24 external)
  - o 2016/17 84 (included 20 UG; 41 masters; 23 external)
  - 2017/18 100 (included 15 UG; 44 masters; 41 external) these figures are provisional as offers and acceptances were still being considered.
- Dental student interest in intercalating also increased with 7 applications in 2017-2018.

#### **INSPIRE Mentoring Programme:**

 In 2015-2016, the School piloted a successful mentoring scheme for undergraduate medical students who were interested in a career in clinical academia. Those who were currently undertaking an intercalated BSc or MSc, or current members of the QUAMS committee were eligible. This continues with the "buddy scheme" that links more senior medical students with students in the earlier years of the course. This peer-to-peer mentoring has proved effective in stimulating greater interest in clinical academic careers and intercalated degrees.

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