



### **Proposal of Activities**

- **Local Research conference:** As the first Inspire activity of the academic year, we hold an annual research conference for the students. This usually attracts between 40-50 students and we have run this event for the last 5 years under our Inspire programme. The aim of this conference is twofold. Firstly, the students get to hear, first hand, of the research experiences of their peers who have done research projects during the previous summer. This has proved by far the most effective encouragement to their fellow students to participate in taster days. A second part of this research conference are presentations by ACFs / NIHR lecturers together with more senior staff (e.g. at consultant level) about what research has meant to them during their career. After consultation with the student research society, this event is currently planned for November 2019 and in each following academic year.
- **Taster days:** Students have the opportunity to visit active research groups for a day. The aim of this Activity is to give students information about and the experience of medical research and has proved to be an ideal introduction into research. These taster days are a joint activity between Exeter, Plymouth, Bristol and Cardiff allowing a broader range of experience for the students from the five schools with 60 different taster days on offer last year. The taster days have been successfully run over the last 4 years and they are increasing in popularity. All four Universities produce a research brochure and a student from any one of the schools may apply for a taster day offered by one of the Universities. Students complete a brief on-line application form to apply for their preferred choices of taster days, together with a short personal statement. This tests motivation and provides experience of writing applications, as well as facilitating contact with potential supervisors and collaborators.
- **Summer Research Studentships:** The summer studentships are a chance for the students to become actively involved in a research project. They get to experience what it is like to be involved in research for a period of time. Students are encouraged to find a supervisor to work with over the summer, who can be based in Plymouth or elsewhere. This part of the INSPIRE programme will continue in 2020/21 and we will plan to fund 4 summer research projects in the summer of 2020 from INSPIRE funds and further projects we hope from Medical School Foundation funds.
- **National Intercalators conference 2020 and 2021:** The main objective of this event is to encourage medical, dental and veterinary students to consider intercalation and to also provide information about the course options that are

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available across a range of universities. This year, we plan to run the conference in Exeter in February 2020. The conference format consists of talks from inspirational high-profile clinical academics, talks and posters from students who have already intercalated (medical, dental and veterinary), and talks from early career researchers giving practical tips on how to get PhD funding and how to balance clinical training with developing a research career. In addition, there are representatives from a broad range of universities who attend to provide information about degree courses that offer opportunities for intercalation. We anticipate that this Activity will promote intercalation, offer an opportunity for students to present research findings and will encourage movement of students between the Schools for intercalation.

- The INSPIRE Health Sciences Research Journal: The student-led team, made up of students from all four Universities, has now published two editions of the journal and is currently preparing the third edition for publication in 2020. The journal has provided a brilliant experience for those students involved in writing, editing, reviewing and publishing such a professional-looking journal.
- Interdisciplinary Symposium (Plymouth): Another part of our programme for this application will be the organising of an annual one day symposium on Interdisciplinary research and its application in medical research and care.
- Visit to Pharmaceutical Company (GSK, Stevenage): Students will travel to GSK in Stevenage to experience how research and pharma interact. We intend to run this every 2-years with the opportunity for all of the medical / veterinary and dental schools in GW4 to participate. This will be a day visit to the headquarters in Stevenage where leading academics in GSK will explain their research career and the students will have the opportunity to learn about and see the multiple stages in drug discovery. This is facilitated by Dr Rab Prihinda FRSB FMedSci who is the VP and head of their Epigenetic drug discovery arm and Dr Daniel Marks who is an experimental medicine physician. His expertise is in the design and delivery of first-time in human and early phase drug trials.
- Stand and Deliver! - Vox Training for giving effective presentations: Run a training course in giving effective presentations. The course will be run by a really energetic and innovative company called Vox Coaching who will provide a half day course for up to 60 students.
- Dental Showcase: To follow up on the success of the research showcases and conferences held in each University, a yearly cross-South West Dental-specific evening showcase will be organised. These evenings will provide an opportunity for dental students to develop their poster and oral presenting skills and share

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research findings from intercalation, summer internships or elective projects. Importantly, it will also develop the network of research-active dental students across the three dental schools in the South West (Bristol, Cardiff and Plymouth) and provide an opportunity to provide dental specific academic career guidance.

- Development of a clinical trial participant information video: Informed consent is a key process in clinical trials. A critical part of this process is to ensure that participants have a clear understanding of what will be required of them, and the potential risks and benefits. Traditionally, this is done through a written “participant information sheet” (PIS). However, this can often be very lengthy and experience suggests many participants, especially young people do not read it in detail. The UK Type 1 Diabetes immunotherapy Consortium (lead by Prof Dayan – [type1diabetesresearch.org](http://type1diabetesresearch.org)) has experience in developing a video participant information sheet (vPIS) for clinical trials involving children and young people. The Consortium will be developing a new vPIS for a trial in young adults in early 2020. A second vPIS will be developed in 2021. This will be done in collaboration with an experienced health video information company, eHealth Digital Media ([pocketmedic.org](http://pocketmedic.org)). Here we propose to involve students in the process of development of each vPIS with the aim of understanding both the mechanics of medical video information development as well as the importance of effective information transfer as part of informed consent for trials.