



Proposal of Activities

- National INSPIRE Research Conference. Major conferences are an established and successful way of showcasing the skills needed and rewards available, to those who would like to explore taking the pathway to an academic career. Annual/Bi-annual programmes can be refreshed to include the changing developments in academic careers and there is always a new and enthusiastic audience of medical and dental students keen to attend. Focus on different aspects of current translational research including the use of big data, omics approaches and collaboration with industry.
- A key barrier to students identifying research projects and being able to undertake them successfully lies in the students' academic skillset and how competent they are in their application. The academic skills series will consist of lectures and workshops, focussing on core academic skills where students will learn the principles of each topic covered. These activities will be led by Senior Academics and topic experts who will provide practical advice.
- Plan to continue already successful networking dinners. Students wishing to develop an academic career and who have been identified by their programme leads as demonstrating an enthusiastic approach and interest in research, will be invited to attend.
- One of the key skills that is important to foster is academic writing skills. In order to build on previous and future academic writing skills workshops held by Birmingham Academic Medicine Society, we propose to hold an essay writing competition that is open to all undergraduate MDS students in the United Kingdom. The title or theme of the essay will be related to academia and will be finalised by the INSPIRE lead in consultation with BAMSoc.
- Acknowledging students' successes and accomplishments in academia is essential in order to recognise talent and encourage increasing engagement with academia. We have produced the 1st issue of the 'Chronicles of Research Success' as part of our Round 4 INSPIRE activities, and wish to produce a second issue to continue this initiative and to embed the production of this publication as part of welcoming the new cohort of Medical and Students to the Birmingham Medical School each year.



- Students who undertake research projects over summer holidays such as summer studentships will be invited to an oral presentation competition to highlight what they have gained by being involved in their respective projects. The best presentation will receive a prize and a certificate of appreciation. We believe that this initiative will encourage more students to allocate time outside their normal coursework to get involved in research and to develop their research and reflective skills. It will also build on previous workshops such as 'how to give academic presentations' and encourage exploration of the development of these important transferable skills.
- Understanding the ABC Triad (Academia-Business-Clinical). We have agreed to collaborate with our colleagues at the University of Keele who have included in their INSPIRE application two activities aimed at enhancing medical students understanding of industry, in the form of an Industry Taster Day and Industrial Internships.
- Journal Club. An important skill of a competent academic and a clinician is critical appraisal. We propose to hold journal clubs periodically throughout the 2 years of the grant where we set a theme for each session, conduct a literature search for recent publications made and appraise a few key papers in each session. We will nominate a lead for the session and ask students to read the paper prior to attending.

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