



The University of Leicester Medical School

Implemented Activities

Two regional, one day INSPIRE East Midlands Medical Student Research Conferences:

- Held in partnership with Nottingham, Norwich (UEA) and Sheffield Medical Schools with one held at UEA in 2015 and one held in Leicester in 2016. The events focussed on student-conducted medical research with the showcasing of research and 20 academics/clinicians who attended as Keynote speakers, workshop leads and judges. 46 and 149 attendees were recorded at the 2015 and 2016 events, respectively.

The Leicester University Medical Research Society (LUMRS) LINK Scheme:

- Matched medical students seeking research experience to researchers, both clinical and non-clinical, within the University of Leicester and local NHS Trusts. 91 projects, ranging from clinical audits and literature reviews to basic science experiments and qualitative interviews, have been advertised through 8 cycles (since 2012) attracting a total of 247 applications.

Evening SPARKS Talks:

- Usually comprised of one or two short medical student or postgraduate presentations with an informal research/career talk by an inspirational speaker. Five events are held each year with between 20 and 50 medical students normally attending each event.

The SPARKS Bulletin:

- A research e-magazine written by medical students for medical students. Two editions were published each year.

The LUMRS Journal Club:

- This activity ran in 2015 but was suspended in 2016 due to waning interest.

The LUMRS Research Café:

- One event held in 2015 but low enthusiasm for an event requiring spontaneous input led to its suspension.

A practice interview day for final year students applying for the Academic Foundation Programme.

- 20 students, in total, were interviewed.

Student Conference Attendance:

- The INSPIRE workshop held at The Academy of Medical Sciences.
- National Student Association for Medical Research held in Birmingham.

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.

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- INPSIRE iBSc Conference held in Exeter.
- European Medical Student Conference held in Berlin.
- International Student Congress of (Bio)Medical Sciences held in Amsterdam.

Impacts

The Continuation of the Annual INSPIRE East Midlands Research Conference:

- The event has been hosted by Norwich and Leicester Medical Schools respectively, during this grant tenure, serving up to 150 student delegates from four medical schools and permitting research presentation and networking skills development. This has helped to raise the profile of clinical academic research careers.

Extracurricular Research Opportunities:

- The placement of students in extracurricular research opportunities through the LINK Scheme, helping students to develop practical research skills, including literature searching, data collection, analysis and presentation.

Soft Research Skills:

- The programme has provided opportunities to practise soft research skills, including presentation skills, scientific writing and networking through the annual INSPIRE conference and SPARKS presentation evenings.

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