



Oxford University Medical School

Proposal of Activities

- **Mentoring for Medical Students.** One-to-one mentoring programme between medical students and clinical academics within the Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School (OUCAGS), who supports all our postgraduate academic trainees. This will allow students access to early stage impartial advice, insights and strategies for overcoming challenges in developing a career in academic medicine.
- **Academic Medicine Seminar Series.** Run a monthly seminar series. The seminars aim to cover a wide range of topics e.g. from the 'cultural' aspect of being a clinical academic ('How combining research and clinical practice differs from clinical practice alone') to more specific advice about a given area of being a clinical academic ('Oral and poster presentation skills').
- **A Cross-Sectional Study of Research Interest and Activity amongst Medical Students.** Plan to launch an online national questionnaire-based study focussing on medical student perceptions of research and research-orientated careers, including barriers and incentives to participating in research as a student as well as following a research-orientated career. Crucially it would also collect demographic information to ascertain how key background characteristics could influence perception. This novel data would inform strategy for UK medical schools on how they can improve involvement in research, as well as identify key issues for the Academy of Medical Sciences to address as part of their long-term INSPIRE strategy.
- **Careers in Academic Surgery Conference.** Through collaboration with the Nuffield Department of Surgery and Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences we would recruit internationally renowned speakers in academic surgery to deliver plenary lectures, and to facilitate a series of workshops on the day. These workshops would range from the simple (such as a CV clinic) to more complex e.g. brainstorming on national collaborative student opportunities in academic surgery. The conference would also include poster presentations and oral abstracts for which prizes would be available.
- **Travel Bursaries.** To enable students to attend conferences and professional development workshops. A central fund with a termly application process and experienced panel judging would increase transparency and opportunity, whilst removing any barriers based on personal or college circumstances.

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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- Research Elective Bursary Scheme for Medical Students. OUCAGS is currently able to provide a modest amount of financial support for final year medical students undertaking a research-based elective. Competition for these funds is always significant as around 15% of our medical students apply and both the quality and range of the projects is impressive. INSPIRE funds would help meet the shortfall and further support those with a demonstrable commitment to a career in biomedical research.

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