



**INSPIRE**

University of Leeds School of Medicine

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### **Proposal of Activities**

- Taster day visit to University research departments based at St James's University Hospital. This established event is part of the MBChB calendar and aimed at introducing undergraduates to research activities and opportunities at Leeds and for first year medical students involves a half-day research taster visit to the biomedical research campus linked to a major teaching hospital. The event includes a tour of laboratories, presentations by clinical academic trainees and undergraduate students at different stages of their clinical academic training and promotional literature describing career opportunities in research including biographies of successful clinical academics at Leeds and how Leeds research has changed the world. INSPIRE 5 will widen the promotional leaflet to include information on research careers in dentistry and non-medical clinical professions for dissemination to students.
- Regional Student Research Conference. We have an excellent umbrella undergraduate research society LEADERS at Leeds which provides a valuable link with the research active student societies, signposts relevant opportunities such as summer work, conferences and prizes, and raises the profile of research in Leeds. Following the success of LEADERS organisation of the 2019 National Student Association for Medical Research (NSAMR) annual conference (Jan 2019; Leeds) this conference will become an annual event. In a new approach, we aim to work with our regional INSPIRE programmes in Sheffield, Hull-York and Newcastle, to encourage student attendance from across the north of England providing undergraduates with the opportunity to network with peers and senior clinical academic colleagues, to present their research in a formal setting and to participate in a programme of plenary talks and interactive workshops which signpost career opportunities across the region (intercalation, summer schools and summer internships, postgraduate clinical academic training programmes).
- TRI (Technology, Research and Innovation) Summer School. In order to supplement research skills the new TRI Summer School is a 3-day initiative with each day focusing on a specific theme. The Technology day would focus on using technology within medicine, with workshops on developing technologies ranging from digital apps to robotics in surgery. The second day would heavily focus on Research methods, with workshops including how to complete a literature review, write an abstract and develop a poster presentation. The third will be a blend between the two days and will focus on Innovation in healthcare. This will include an entrepreneurial aspect, giving students the opportunity to develop business skills and link to our new MBChB Plus programme in Enterprise and Business. Each day will have a programme of academics and clinicians from a variety of

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specialties and backgrounds and we will raise the profile of undersubscribed specialities, e.g. general practice, showcase research in an industrial context and provide valuable networking opportunities to students.

- Themed research network events. We will develop themed research network events in areas such as Data Science/AI, Disease Outcomes, Global Surgery and Devices and Public Health which are linked to clinical specialties including pathology, medicine, surgery, health sciences and dentistry. Key to these activities is establishing links between undergraduate research societies and clinical academics, NHS associate clinical professors and academic trainees in each research theme. Each theme will hold undergraduate networking workshops to promote research; these events allow discussion of up to date research in the specialty area, careers options, open Q&A session and encourage informal discussion with senior role models in a relaxed setting.
- Great North INSPIRE Event 2020. In collaboration with the Academy of Medical Sciences Champions from the Universities of Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester, this new event is open to academic scientists and clinicians from across the region to showcase successful exemplars of multidisciplinary research across disciplines including engineering, big data, medical devices and biomedicine. The programme will include discussion on the current challenges in medicine and proposals for research solutions from leading academics. We plan to include a parallel INSPIRE session at this event to support undergraduate understanding of interdisciplinary working and team science; this student session would signpost academic career pathways and discuss how students can build their academic CV by getting involved in research.
- Equality and Inclusion Summer Research Projects 'Diversity in Academic Medicine'. The proposed new summer scholarships would support medical students from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds to conduct and contribute to research in this emerging area. We propose two summer scholarships (one each in 2020 and in 2021) of 8 weeks duration with scholarship including a stipend at the Living Wage and with the project running costs covered. The proposed scholarships will have both benefits to the recipient, as they will develop their research skills under expert guidance, and students from the wider BME and disadvantaged background cohort wishing to pursue an academic career. It will also help us evaluate whether such targeted scholarships are desired amongst students from these backgrounds and assess the feasibility of offering these in future.
- Conference attendance travel bursary. Building on the success of our INSPIRE 3 and INSPIRE 4 Conference Travel Bursary we will continue to enable

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undergraduate students who have research of publishable quality to attend a national/international conference to present their research. The funds would be available on a competitive basis and this activity will give the opportunity for the highest achieving students to have experience of communicating their research to the wider research community and publication of their research abstract. Students in receipt of the travel award would provide a report of their conference visit which will be published on the Leeds Clinical Academic Training website.

- LEADERS website and portal. Being able to advertise the LEADERS-run events to undergraduate students in and outside of Leeds through the use of technology and social media is needed to attract a range of students. The LEADERS website is a multimedia platform which allows the society to reach students and researchers beyond the scope of Leeds. We are also planning to develop a centralised project portal for our students. LEADERS has been running a virtual research summer school where we pool together research opportunities at Leeds for students to gain experience during the summer; this scheme is becoming oversubscribed and, at the same time, we also recognise the limitation of summer research projects as some students can miss out opportunities as they are unable to stay locally or have summer electives planned. Therefore, extending the opportunity to undertake research options throughout the year would be beneficial for our students. We are planning to set up a fully automated online platform where supervisors can submit projects whenever they are available and students can view and apply to available projects across the year. This will centralise project options and enable the students plan research according to their schedule.
- Signposting Academic Career Options. We are keen to maintain students' interest in research throughout their career. A critical decision point in most academic pathways is to pursue an academic route following graduation. For medical students this is the decision whether to undertake an academic rotation when in Foundation training. We seek to promote academic Foundation opportunities to the MBChB cohort; working with Head of Foundation School, Yorkshire and the Humber (Mr Craig Irvine) and our academic link Prof Julian Scott, we have an Academic Career Pathway slot in the year 5 MBChB Careers Day where we will signpost academic career options (280 students 5th year MBChB). For non-medical clinical academics, we will conduct two sessions a year on academic career options: one for pre-doctoral students and one for those who have completed their PhD. For our 5th Year Dentists and Foundation Dentists (1st year after dental school) we hold a career afternoons/day where early career academic opportunities will be discussed and promoted.

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