



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

The MBChB

# Newsletter

Winter 2016

**Welcome to the Winter 2016 Newsletter!** If you have any news to share for future newsletters, please let us know by emailing [lucy.morgan@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:lucy.morgan@sheffield.ac.uk)

## Message from the Dean



The external perception of our medical school is important, for many reasons but foremost for students – future, current and potentially especially for our graduates. We all believe that Sheffield Medical School is amazing; our graduates are sought after, the course is responsive to changing needs of the health service, and studying in South Yorkshire and at this university means most graduates wish to stay in the region. And whilst we all know that (!), it is important that our profile is raised, nationally and internationally, thus over the last two years we have been more proactive in understanding what makes this school so good, and publicising this. The medical student societies, and the recent Social Accountability SSC continue to demonstrate our commitment to the values of collaborative responsive working with local communities. Staff and students work together to constantly review our educational climate through a number of formal ways, like the completion of evaluation forms, and focus groups.

The less formal Staff -Student conversations, student participation in all committees, working groups and many opportunistic discussions mean together we are recognising and continuing good practice and strengthening where we need to. The success is evidenced through our phenomenal rise in the NSS to 4<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> highest mark for overall satisfaction) in 2015, and as a result other schools, and the GMC approaching us to find out what is working so well here.

Additionally, applications to this medical school are up, bucking the national trend of an overall decrease of around 10%. I just wanted to take this opportunity to say how I continue to be impressed (but not surprised) at how professionally our current students and graduates have faced the difficult challenges surrounding the Junior Doctors Strike. The Medical School will continue to support you strongly, this is your future.

**Deborah Murdoch Eaton**  
Dean of Medical Education

Follow the Dean on Twitter [@deborahgme](https://twitter.com/deborahgme)

## Student Evaluation – Thank you for your comments!

We are very grateful for the time our students take in responding to student evaluations, completing the NSS, coming to the Staff- Student Conversations and speaking to their MedSoc Reps, who sit on all of our Committees. We pay careful attention to all of our evaluation data and act as quickly as we can to make changes. Some areas require more substantial response and systems change and it is not always obvious to students that we are working on an area – but we are usually doing something.

The following students completed all of the Phase 2b evaluations and won £5.00 of printer credits each:

**Sade Hacking**  
**Kevin Chun Hin Tang**  
**Akanksha Sinha**  
**Iona McKechnie**  
**Bethany Mitchell**

# The Medical School

## Your new Student Affairs Team – Phase 2b Social Accountability SSC “Achieving Potential”



In September 2015, the Dean appointed us to form a new Student Affairs Team. We thought carefully about what we called ourselves. We knew we would take care of student support and we wanted to encompass a much wider definition of support that would be accessible to all students, not only students facing academic difficulties.

A key part of our work will be to look at how we can assist you, the Sheffield medical student, in achieving your potential – whatever that might be! We are introducing a series of initiatives aimed to ensure all students can access development opportunities and that advice and guidance about opportunities and support on furthering progress is more easily found.

In the next few months we will be piloting an Achieving Potential Programme. This will allow us to more systematically review the progress of all of our students and to look at ways to offer enhanced information to a wide range of students. In the meantime, let us know about your achievements and how we can support you better, or differently.

**Michael Nelson, Director of Student Affairs, Fran Oldale, Student Engagement and Achievement Manager, Vikki Hattersley, Student Affairs Officer**

### Athena Swan – Going for Gold!



The Medical School is part of the application being made by the Faculty for Athena

Swan gold. This gold status recognises outstanding support for equality and diversity and essential to evidence for research awards. We've had the silver award since 2013 and have since introduced further initiatives, including the Lydia Henry awards to support female students doing intercalated BMedScis, demonstrate further commitment to women in science.

Sheffield prides itself as being a “civic University”. The Medical School has been at the leading edge of an exciting innovation with Phase 2b students undertaking a Student Selected Component in Social Accountability. For 4 weeks in December, they worked with 57 community-based organisations across the Sheffield City Region, and covering communities in North East Derbyshire, Rotherham, Doncaster, the Derbyshire Dales, Chesterfield, Bolsover, Bassetlaw, Barnsley and Sheffield.



Students and the community partners worked together on projects that impact on the social determinants of health, inequalities in health, and considered the wider roles of health care practitioners. From the high levels of engagement with what was often a very challenging experience, this produced some amazing outcomes which the students evidenced through their presentations, personal reflections and from wealth of verbal feedback from both students and the community partners. This SSC has clearly had a significant impact upon the organisations, on students perceptions on their wider roles as future doctors, and had an impact on how well the university is perceived within the community! We look forward to what next years' collaborations will produce!

### New Medical School Staff



At the end of last year we welcomed **Ms Kate Linton**, Consultant Urologist at CRH, to our clinical academic team supporting the curriculum.

**Dr Helen Church** (Sheffield, 2010) has started a Medical Education PhD

**Louisa Shilton** has joined us as the Faculty Social Accountability Project Officer.

## Student Achievements



**Lydia Cowell (3a) and Gauri Chillarge (2b)** won the Trent Division of the Royal College of Psychiatry Public Speaking Competition on 18 November. The 3<sup>rd</sup>

year running Sheffield medical students have won.

**Nathan Chapman (3b)** had the results of his BMedSci research included in the following report in the Journal of Health Technology Assessment, *The Head Injury Transportation Straight to Neurosurgery (HITS-NS) randomised trial: a feasibility study*



**Alexandra Bucko, Rebecca Burger, Jon Finn, George Fowler, Regina Sabaratnam, Izzy Avery-Phipps, Shavinthi Wadanamby and Dean Chen** have got through to the finals of the Institute of Medical Ethics (IME) 2016 National Student Debate Competition on the 12<sup>th</sup> March in Manchester – the Medical School wish them luck!

See the Student Achievements Board in Café 1828 for up-to-date announcements.

## Postgraduate Diploma in Physicians Associate Studies – New Course . Dr James Gray appointed



In September 2016 the Medical School will be commencing its first

Postgraduate

Diploma in Physicians Associate Studies.

Physicians Associates are a new healthcare professional who, while not a doctor, work to the medical model, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge base to deliver holistic care and treatment within the general medical and/or general practice team under defined levels of supervision.

## Student Evaluation: You said, we did – Autumn/Winter 2015

- **Students wanted greater flexibility in their Phase 1 and 2a timetables**, so we arranged for students to self-direct their time on a Wednesday afternoon in those phases wherever possible.
- **Students were concerned about overcrowding on central teaching hospital placements** – we liaised with all our regional teaching hospitals to make better use of placement capacity across the region. This will phase in over the next few years.
- **Students wanted us to look at all our support mechanisms** including returning from LOAs and the PATS appraisal forms. The Student Affairs Team have launched a new PATS appraisal form and will be operating a return to studies procedure for all 2016 returning students.
- **Students want us to have a clearer process for placement allocation and online forms** – a new appointment is in place on the Minerva Team and they are working on enhancing these areas.
- **Students want more information on how we allocate placements** – look out for the consultation on our new placements policy – either directly or via MedSoc.

The role is designed to support the growing demand for healthcare, in particular first contact generalist healthcare, and with the course embedded in the Medical School students will interact directly with their counterparts studying in medicine starting to forge the links to support a multidisciplinary workforce of the future. Whilst Physicians Associates have been around for 50 years in the United States they are a relatively new development in the UK and the University of Sheffield intends to develop a course fit for the future built on the reputation and teaching excellence we already have in house. Any enquiries please contact Dr James Gray, Clinical Lecturer in Physician Associate Studies - [j.t.gray@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.t.gray@sheffield.ac.uk)