Hello and welcome, Dr David Pearson

HYMS is delighted to welcome its new Deputy Dean (Education) who joins us at the beginning of February. Dr David Pearson introduces himself below:

As your new Deputy Dean (Education) I would like to introduce myself to you all. I am starting at HYMS in February 2012 with responsibility for the development, delivery and standards of all educational programmes including the MBBS and intercalated postgraduate degrees.

I want to start by thanking you for your own contribution to these programmes. HYMS is rightly proud of the excellence it has demonstrated over the last 10 years, and the quality of its graduates to date. I am looking forward to helping you build on this excellent start. This can only be achieved in partnership with students, our HYMS alumni, our patients and communities and most importantly the continued commitment of excellent staff (both scientists and clinicians, from within the universities and from the NHS).

My own background is a general practitioner in various practices, most recently as an inner city GP in Bradford where I have seen both the challenges facing the health service and the power of high quality education in overcoming them. In Bradford I worked for the NHS (PCT) as Director of Medical Education with responsibility for both undergraduate medical education and a very successful career support scheme for salaried GPs. Since 2006 I have been with the School of Medicine in Leeds as Head of Primary Care Learning and Teaching, and Director of Intercalated Studies.

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Research publications

RECENT publications by HYMS staff include:

Book:

Journal articles:
Wakil A, Ng JM, Atkin SL. Investigating hyponatraemia. BMJ (Clinical Research Ed) 2011, 3342:d1118
Oxberry SG, Jones L, Clark AL, Johnson MJ. Attitudes to morphine in chronic heart failure patients. BMJ Support Palliat Care Published Online First: 13 December 2011

Trials for new HIV vaccine

HYMS is part of a team which is evaluating whether an injectable vaccine for HIV is safe for use in human volunteers.

The team draws members from HYMS; St George’s University, London; Imperial College; and the Medical Research Council Clinical Trial Unit and Infectious Disease Research Institute. Leading the study for St George’s is Dr Catherine Cosgrove, with Professor Charles Lacey, HYMS Consultant Physician and Professor of Genitourinary Medicine, leading the study at York.
Sandra’s paediatrics poster success

Congratulations to Year 5 student Sandra Jost, who recently presented a poster on ‘Family Centre Care’ at the 2nd School of Paediatrics annual meeting in Sheffield.

The poster illustrates how care and compliance with care for children during illness could be made more efficient by making it more family-centred and focused, and less clinical. Sandra’s project investigated how the principle of Family Centre Care works in the UK and abroad and tested the level of knowledge on the subject amongst staff working in paediatrics in York Hospital with a view to identifying areas which could be improved.

“The poster grew out of a project I worked on during an SSC and is close to my heart,” said Sandra. “The principle of Family Centre Care is that every family member is involved in the care of the child, in discussions and decision making, and every element of the family dynamic is considered. Children are allowed to bring their own toys into the clinical environment to make it feel more friendly and safe. This respect for the family and their wishes and opinions helps parents to remain calm and they are generally more happy and satisfied with their child’s treatment, whilst medical staff can feel that they are equal partners with parents in helping children get better, comfortable and happy again. This approach has shown to lead to quicker recovery, earlier mobilisation, earlier eating and drinking and better compliance among the sick children.”

Amongst Sandra’s highlights from the conference were presentations on Medecins sans frontiers and an ‘out of programme’ experience undertaken in a war zone: follow the link to read her full report.

Giving voice to HYMS training

A special award from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy has been given to HYMS at York Hospital for creating valuable training for medical students to help them with patients with communication and swallowing difficulties.

The York Hospital HYMS Department was awarded Partner Organisation of the Year in the Giving Voice Awards 2011. The new partnership means that up to 80 doctors graduating from HYMS each year will have received extra training from York’s speech and language therapists (SLTs) in communications needs and dysphagia.

HYMS Undergraduate Business Manager Jayne Bone, HYMS Student Liaison Phase II Teaching Coordinator Penny Adams, and principal speech and language therapist Patricia Henshaw collected the award.

Jayne said: “We’re delighted to be given the award. Feedback has already shown that through this training students develop a deeper understanding of the value of speech and language therapy. The training workshops improve communication skills for our doctors of the future when faced with patients with a challenging condition such as stroke or a neurological disorder.”

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In that time we made great changes to develop an excellent integrated balanced curriculum aiming to produce both generalist clinicians and graduates with the expertise and passion to achieve great things in specialist medicine and academia. This should also be our aim for all our educational programmes at HYMS, whether undergraduate, intercalated or postgraduate.

My educational background includes a Natural Sciences Degree (Cambridge), medical studies as a graduate entrant (Edinburgh), a Masters in Primary Care (Leeds) and Educational Doctorate (Edinburgh). My academic interests include the learning environment including quality assurance in education; sustainability in health care and healthcare education; and consultation skills, particularly the challenge posed by language barriers and how we can enhance communication between patients, students and clinicians. My overriding passions are to use education to improve healthcare now and in the future across all health sectors, and ensure that our educational programmes help build a truly sustainable health system in partnership with our communities.

I hope I can use my NHS and University experience to help encourage colleagues to achieve excellence across all our educational programmes, and help our graduates become the excellent clinicians needed in tomorrow’s health systems. I hope to meet personally with as many staff and students as possible over the coming weeks so that I can listen to your ideas, aspirations and frustrations. We can only achieve excellence in education through your help and partnership.
New centre rises to challenge of chronic disease and disorders

HYMS Deputy Dean (Research) Professor Paul Kaye (pictured right) has been made acting director of a new ‘virtual’ Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disorders at the University of York.

The University’s research excellence and vision has been rewarded by a new £500,000 grant from Wellcome Trust’s Institutional Strategic Support Fund, which together with matching funds from the University will allow the creation of this new ‘virtual centre’ to coordinate research into chronic diseases and disorders.

The University already conducts world-leading research that tackles important public health challenges. These range from the development of new vaccines and drugs against infectious diseases through to the development of health care solutions for diabetes, deafness and mental health disorders, work on social policy and welfare, and research in the medical humanities.

This new Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disorders will help to coordinate these research activities across the University. It will provide funds to develop new lines of interdisciplinary research, to promote the translation of research into the clinic, to support exceptional young scientists in their careers, and to help develop new infrastructure. A particular focus will be to engage more scientists in clinical research, through the use of existing and new clinical trials cohorts.

“Bringing together researchers from different disciplines often fuels innovation,” said the University’s Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Professor John Local. “This exciting new centre will further our vision to make a real impact on important areas of bio-medical and health research. We are determined to make a significant and tangible contribution to a global reduction in the burden imposed by chronic diseases and disorders.”

Professor Kaye said “The success of the Centre will be measured by how well it enables researchers from across these exciting and richly diverse areas of research to share and extend their expertise for maximum benefit.”

The University will appoint a new Director to lead the centre in the coming months, as well as new staff with the specialised mathematical and computing skills to increase the University’s capacity to undertake research on the complex interactions between genetics, environment and health.

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BFS Scientist of the Year

CONGRATULATIONS to PhD student Christine Leary who was named British Fertility Society Scientist of the Year at the Society’s recent annual meeting in Leeds. Christine’s abstract ‘Compromised oocyte quality and embryo development in women with an elevated body mass index (BMI)’ was a summary of her research findings from the first year of part-time study for her PhD and clinical findings attained in the course of her duties as principal embryologist at the Hull IVF Unit. She is currently working in Dr Roger Sturmye’s laboratory at the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research at the University of Hull.

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Parkinson’s solution?

SCIENTISTS at the University of York have made a significant step forward in isolating the cause of Parkinson’s disease in younger adults. Research by a team in the University’s Department of Biology found evidence that movement disorders, including tremor and slowness of movement (bradykinesia), associated with Parkinson’s disease (PD) may be due to a defect in energy production in the nervous system.

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Publication for Verah

CONGRATULATIONS to Year 4 student Verah Harper on the publication of her article ‘Is Pacemaker Syndrome a patho-physiological entity or a measure of quality of life’ in the International Journal of Cardiology. Verah’s poster ‘Bowel preparation for paediatric colonoscopy: a systematic review’ has also been selected for presentation at the British Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition 2012 annual meeting.

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Essay competition

THE Medical Women’s Federation is now taking entries for the Katherine Branson essay competition, open to men and women. The deadline is 16 March 2012 and there are 6 prizes available, worth between £50 and £200.

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Staff news

Welcome to ...

Dr Philip Cox and Dr Laura Fitton, who are both Lecturers in Anatomical and Human Sciences and will be based in York.

Tare Kagbala, Temporary Phase III Support Assistant based in Hull.

Adrian Murgatroyd, HYMS Finance Manager based in York.

Goodbye to ...

Kelly Northcott-Orr, Phase III Support Assistant, who left HYMS at the end of December.

and a temporary goodbye to ...

Sarah Elton, who will be on sabbatical until September 2012.

In Sarah’s absence, Dr Roger Sturmye, HYMS Lecturer in Reproductive Medicine and Academic Lead for Postgraduate Training, will take over as Interim Director of the Postgraduate Centre.

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Inaugural Hull Marathon

HYMS Dean Tony Kendrick would like to bring the inaugural Hull Marathon to the attention of all students and staff in the hope that as many of you will run it as possible, to support the City and the charities which will benefit.

The first Hull marathon will be run on Easter Sunday 8 April this year. Tony will be running it himself, and will sponsor any member of HYMS staff, including honorary staff, and any HYMS student who runs it too, £10 each for their favourite charity, with an additional £10 for the charity of anyone who finishes ahead of him (his likely time will be around 3 hours 30 minutes).

So, come on and sting the Dean for £10 or even £20, get fit, have fun, support the great city of Kingston upon Hull, and support a worthy cause.

(Email contact is Margaret Smith margaret.smith@hyms.ac.uk or click on the link for further details about the marathon.)
2012 Graduation Ball
All staff are cordially invited to the HYMS Graduation Ball 2012 at Castle Howard on Friday 6 July, 8pm until late.

The evening promises to be a great one with a champagne reception followed by a three course meal with wine. Musical accompaniment will be provided by a string quartet and pianist, and all in the magnificent setting of Castle Howard.

As if that wasn't enough, there will also be a swing band, DJ, silhouette artists, raffle and goody bags ... and if you're still peckish later on there'll be a 'midnight snack' – either an ice cream van or a chocolate fountain!

Please come and show your support for the 2012 graduates: tickets can be obtained from Lucy Houghton (lucy.houghton@hyms.ac.uk) for an initial deposit of £30 plus a further payment of £45-50.

Follow the link to find out more about Castle Howard.

If you have any contributions for this internal bulletin, please send them to val.parker@hyms.ac.uk

Stories with the mouse symbol have more information in the news section of the HYMS website, where you will also find breaking news, updates and images. www.hyms.ac.uk/news