Vicky wins MedSoc staff award

Phase I Co-ordinator Vicky Prest has been named staff member of the year by HYMS MedSoc.

Her nomination stated: “Vicky is the brains behind the day-to-day running of HYMS. She plays a vital role in the lives of all Phase I students by coordinating the forever changing plenaries, placements etc. However, due to her unequivocal support and guidance, she is of help and support to all students and staff alike. Her unmatched generosity means that she often goes beyond the call of duty to ensure that everyone feels as happy and as comfortable as possible, something which is often taken for granted but I feel should now be recognised.”

Student Michael Monteith, of MedSoc, Hull, said the idea for the MedSoc staff awards was prompted by the University of Hull staff awards. “We asked all students to nominate any staff member that had ‘gone over and beyond their role to enhance the students’ university experience’,” he said.

“In total we received 12 nominations with several staff receiving two or three nominations made up of 100-word blurbs detailing why they nominated each staff member,” explained Michael. “As a committee we read each nomination carefully and decided this year to give it to Vicky Prest whose continual effort to enhance the students’ university lives were appropriately recognised with a beautiful glass award.

“This award not only highlights the hard work and dedication by an individual, but the gratitude the students have to all staff that really work to set HYMS apart. All staff nominated were deserving of the award but this year Vicky really summed up the HYMS ethos in her work and it was really appreciated by the students. Thanks to all staff again from the student body.”

Vicky said: “I was very touched to be even nominated for the award.”

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Vicky wins MedSoc staff award

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“But then when I actually received it, I was very honoured. It means such a lot to me especially because it has come directly from the students. I feel very valued and appreciated by them.”

Other staff to receive nominations were:

In York, Dr Alison Blakeborough (PBL Facilitator and student advisor), Dr Guy Millman (Consultant Paediatrician and Phase II Academic Lead), Dr Marie Cohen (GP and clinical placement tutor), Dr David Pearson (Deputy Dean, Education), Mr Andrew Grace (Consultant ENT Surgeon and clinical placement tutor), Mr Alexander (Consultant Surgeon and clinical placement tutor), Dr Steven Oliver (Senior Lecturer in Population Health) and Helen Balawajder (HYMS Student Liaison Phase I Teaching Coordinator at York Hospital).

In Hull, Gwen Irving (Student Office Manager and Electives Facilitator), Dr Bryan Wilson (PBL Facilitator and student advisor), Dr Ruth Hunter (PBL Facilitator) and Janet Tasker (HYMS Receptionist at the University of Hull).

Click on the link to read all the details of the nominations.

VC’s award for Catriona Kemp

HYMS Librarian Catriona Kemp has been awarded a University of York Vice-Chancellor’s Teaching Award.

Cat was commended for the important work she has done in embedding information skills development within the medical curriculum and her innovative and thoughtful approach to Library services.

Call for workshops

Are you able to run a workshop at the HYMS Education Conference on Wednesday 19 September 2012 at Bishop Burton College?

If you are interested, please send a 100 word description to ann.holiday@hylms.ac.uk by Wednesday July 11. Follow the link for further information.

Inaugural conference for HYMS research students

Professor Sir Richard Gardner was the keynote speaker at HYMS inaugural Postgraduate Research Conference at The Ron Cooke Hub, University of York.

The title of his talk was ‘Bob Edwards: Portrait of a Nobel Laureate’. The conference was an opportunity for all postgraduate research students to get-together and share their research.

Professor Paul Kaye, Deputy Dean (Research), welcomed everybody to the conference. Presentations were given by, among others, Sreemoti Banerjee, Richard Kasprowicz, Antonio Miguel Proa and Edward Richfield. They talked on a variety of subjects ranging from ‘Role of glucocorticoids in platelet function’ to ‘A palliative care service for Parkinson’s disease: patient characteristics and service interventions’.

Prizes were handed out by the Dean of HYMS, Professor Tony Kendrick. Katie Wraith, oral presentation winner, said: “I found the day very interesting. It was good to hear talks on such a wide variety of topics and it was nice to be able to see other HYMS students that I wouldn’t normally get a chance to meet.”

Other prizewinners were Sarbpreet Shota and Joanne Smith for their poster presentations. Joanne said: “The HYMS conference was a great day which allowed me to appreciate the variety of research that goes on across the York and Hull campuses. Meeting such like-minded people and coming joint first in the poster prize has given me a fresh dose of enthusiasm, and I am looking forward to next year.”

Follow the link to see more pictures from the conference.

Prevent strategy

PREVENT is part of the Government’s counter-terrorism strategy and its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. As a medical school, HYMS is one of the public service organisations recognised as playing a front-line role in identifying vulnerable individuals who may be at risk of being exploited by radicals and subsequently drawn into terrorist-related activity.

Vulnerable people here may include our students (undergraduate or postgraduate) as well as patients with whom students have contact and might wish to flag concerns with their tutors. Often students have more time with patients than professionals do, and patients can open up because of this. Students, or tutors, have a duty to be open to this potential and listen to and share concerns as appropriate. There are practical steps to follow if you have a cause for concern. To find out more, log on to:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/counter-terrorism/prevent/prevent-strategy/ or

The Central Prevent Team can be contacted at prevent@dh.gsi.gov.uk.
Jaw-dropping research

PROFESSOR Paul O’Higgins, head of the Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences, and researchers from the Universities of Hull and York have helped identify the chewing habits of a New Zealand reptile. A computer model developed at the University of Hull provides a novel way of investigating the evolution and biodiversity of reptiles, allowing complex moving structures to be studied in 3D and from all angles.

Hungry embryo test

PROFESSOR Henry Leese has developed a simple test to measure how well fertilised eggs ‘feed’ could boost the success rates of IVF treatment. Selecting embryos that perform best before they are implanted in the womb could increase the chance of pregnancy by at least 25 per cent.

Stromal immunology news

CENTRE for Immunology and Infection PhD student Matthew Lakins has set up a ‘Stromal Immunology Group’ with a couple of ex-CIL colleagues in association with the British Society for Immunology.

Student achievements

Congratulations to all the students who have had successes in recent weeks:

Year 4 students Sinead Millwood (pictured right) and Laura Jones recently completed their audit and research SSC and won first prize at a Royal College of Anaesthetics Annual Congress in London. The topic was based on work they had done with consultant anaesthetist Sean Bennett at the Castle Hill Intensive Care Unit, monitoring cerebral oximetry in ventilated patients. The abstract is due to be published in the British Journal of Anaesthetics.

Simon Powell (Year 3) was placed first in the recent Royal Society of Medicines Anaesthetic Section essay prize. Simon was invited to present his essay ‘Intravenous paracetamol – peri-operative safety’ at the Society’s Section of Anaesthesia annual general meeting.

Adam Jones (Year 4) has had an article published in the student BMJ exploring the increasing restrictions being placed on drug company promotions.

Catherine Shutt (Year 4) attended the North of England Obstetrical and Gynaecological Scientific Conference in Leeds and presented a paper, co-written by HYMS graduate and F1 doctor, Anna Stansfield, on the subject of ‘Bilateral absence of fallopian tubes – a rare presentation in primary subfertility’. Click on the link to read Catherine’s abstract.

Tom Armstrong (Year 4) has landed a NASA placement to investigate space science as part of his elective. Tom will fly out to California in August to spend eight weeks working alongside the team responsible for space medicine and research. It will involve looking at how to help astronauts cope when they are propelled into orbit and they experience weightlessness.

Michael Monteith (Year 2) and Fatima Ahsan (Year 5) were shortlisted for Hull University Union Awards, Michael in the category of ‘Most dedicated society member’ for his commitment to MedSoc, and Fatima for the Athletic Union Long Service award.

Adam Jakes (Year 5) presented his research on ‘The relationship between QRS duration and left ventricular mass, volume and scar on cardiac MRI in patients with heart failure at the Heart Failure 2012 international conference in Serbia.

Shirley Sze (Year 3) has won a Santander International Connections Award to spend the summer working with HYMS Senior Lecturer in Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism Dr Sam Xu at the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research Centre at the University of Hull.

Staff news

Welcome to ...

Dr Kevin Anderson, HYMS Primary Care Lead for GP, Nurse Practitioner and Practice Nurse Short Courses.

Professor Tim Croudace, Professor of Psychometric Epidemiology, who joins the Mental Health Research Group at the University of York.

Tracey Ord, Undergraduate School Support Assistant (Phase III), based in Hull.

Michelle Richardson, who will be covering the roles of PA to Professor Khalid Naseem and Administrator at the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research whilst Helen Procter is on maternity leave.

and welcome back to ...

Amanda Fordham, Senior Clinical Skills Facilitator at Hull Royal Infirmary, who has returned from maternity leave.

Goodbye to ...

Ellie Bird, Admissions Assistant (International students and widening participation), who starts PhD studies at the University of Sheffield on the subject of slavery in Canada.

Congratulations to ...

Helen Procter, PA to Professor Khalid Naseem and Administrator of the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research, on the birth of her son, Tristan James.

Charity news

Jonathan Pawson (Year 2) will be undertaking a 100 mile ultra-marathon around the Lake District in July to raise money for the NSPCC.

Dr Paul Pryor will be raising funds for St Leonard’s Hospice by taking part in the Scotland Coast to Coast challenge in September.

Sarah Mussared will be taking part in the Race for Life on 29 July in aid of Cancer Research.

If you would like to find out more about these intrepid fundraisers’ plans or sponsor them, please follow the individual links.

Anna’s teaching fellowship

CONGRATULATIONS to Director of Communication Skills Teaching Anna Hammond who has been awarded a University of Hull Teaching Fellowship, one of only four to be handed out this year. Her feedback states: “Anna transmits an infectious vitality and enthusiasm about her interaction with students as learners which is clearly highly appreciated by them. There is evidence of a practitioner dedicated to both the individual learning needs of the students, the promotion of best practice within HYMS and a corporate responsibility to practice and education.”

Sinead Millwood with Dr Peter Nightingale, President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists


PROFESSOR James Trussell, Visiting Professor at HYMS, has been involved in research that suggests intrauterine devices (IUDs) should be used routinely to provide emergency contraception. Professor Trussell, who is Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University, and the other authors of the first systematic review of all available data from the past 35 years, found that IUDs had a failure rate of less than one per thousand and were a more effective form of emergency contraception than the “morning after pill.”

A HYMS Director of Clinical Studies and a former student have both been given the honour of carrying the Olympic torch. HYMS graduate Aaron Brown, 27, carried the Olympic torch through Selby on 19 June. Aaron, who was one of the founding HYMS students, is the first person in England with Cystic Fibrosis to become a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Also, HYMS Director of Clinical Studies Mr Philip Perry, a consultant in general surgery at Scarborough Hospital, carried the torch through Thirsk on 20 June.