HYMS curriculum review latest

This month brings the appointment of Project Officer Rachel Walden to work on the HYMS curriculum review.

Rachel will be joining the review team in November from her current post as a program coordinator for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary in Canada. She will have a key role in supporting the curriculum review process and keeping it on track to deliver changes for the 2014-15 academic year.

Part of Rachel’s role will be establishing a strong student voice within the curriculum review. The Academic Lead for the Curriculum Review, Dr Steven Oliver, has begun the process of meeting with HYMS student representatives and in the next month will be widening that discussion to involve the whole student body. “I hope the review will bring a step-change in the involvement and engagement of students in their curriculum,” he said. “Achieving that will mean work for both staff and students, but it is an essential part of refreshing HYMS.”

One of the drivers for the curriculum review is to advance HYMS in its ambition to achieve international excellence in medical education, but how will we know when we are there? One approach is to benchmark the school against other institutions, and HYMS is therefore participating as a pilot site in the new AMEE (Association for Medical Education in Europe) initiative ASPIRE. The ASPIRE programme aims to subject education programmes in a medical school to peer review against a set of criteria that identifies world-class excellence in education. In the initial phase HYMS will be piloting the criteria identified for excellence in Social Responsibility and Accountability and will then hopefully submit a formal application later in the year. Key contributors to the establishment of HYMS, Prof John Cookson and Prof Peter Campion, have been helping draw the ASPIRE response together.

David Pearson, HYMS Deputy Dean (Education), said, “The chosen area resonates well with the reason we were set up as a school, our educational philosophy, and many of our research strengths and interests. Working through the formal bid will be a powerful way to bring staff, students, educators and researchers together and link very well with the curriculum review.” Follow the link to find out more about ASPIRE.

A study into mental health of the elderly, led by Professor Simon Gilbody, HYMS Professor of Psychological Medicine and Health Services Research, has been featured in a BBC Inside Out programme.

The programme reported on a lack of support and diagnosis of elderly individuals suffering from depression and featured Professor Gilbody’s CASPER project, which is the UK’s biggest ever study into mental health of the elderly. The five-year project has attracted £2.5m in funding and is examining the effectiveness of screening and psychological treatments for people aged over 75 with depression. It is hoped that the results of the study will assist in the formation of future public policy.

The BBC programme featured interviews with Professor Gilbody and co-researcher Della Bailey of the University of York’s Health Sciences Department.

Click on the link to see a report in the Yorkshire Post or access a video clip at this link.
Thank-you, MedSoc!

Congratulations and a big 'thank-you' to the MedSoc team, headed by student president Tim D'Souza, who organised a varied programme of events during induction week to welcome the tenth intake of students to HYMS.

MedSoc and the Fresher's Committee team began their preparations at the end of last academic year.

Tim said “We knew that in such a momentous year, we would need to make sure that the new first years had a great welcome to HYMS. The combined efforts of the ten committee members and countless members of staff meant that we were able to host barbecues, formal and informal gatherings, movie nights, campus tours and much, much more. Thank you to all of those involved, we had extremely positive and encouraging feedback from the freshers!”

Deputy Dean (Education) Dr David Pearson praised the team for their contribution. He said, “The real constant throughout induction week has been Tim and his MedSoc colleagues in their purple shirts – dispensing boundless enthusiasm and passion for HYMS, and offering real practical support for students”.

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

Research publications

RECENT publications by HYMS staff include:


Mental health in Malawi

THE University of York is leading a vital international project to establish community-based mental health care in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. 

Pressure ulcer survey

A NEW survey asks patients, carers and clinicians to rate the importance of questions about the prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers to inform future research. 

Staff news

Welcome to ... Prof Miles Whittington, Chair in Neuroscience.
Joelle Maurice, Admissions Assistant, based in York.
Dr Donald Nicholson, Research Fellow, who joins the SEDA research group in Hull. 

Congratulations to ... Dr Simon Hart, Senior Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine, who takes up the role of Chair of the HYMS Academic Progress Committee. 

Baking extravaganza

HYMS staff in Hull took part in The Big Fair Bake on Friday, to raise awareness of a bid by the university to attain Fairtrade University status. 

Yoga for all in York

FOLLOW the link for details of Iyengar Yoga classes at HYMS York. 