Forging links with India and Sri Lanka

HYMS Deputy Dean (Education) Dr David Pearson was part of a delegation from the University of York which visited India and Sri Lanka to promote new health-focused and academic links with the two countries.

The visit included the first formal event of the university’s 50th anniversary celebrations – a special reception for York alumni at the residence of Ian Felton, UK deputy high commissioner in Bangalore, attended by the UK minister for public health, Anna Soubry.

The eight-strong delegation, led by the vice-chancellor, Prof Brian Cantor, included representatives of the university’s departments of health sciences, management, biology, chemistry and electronics as well as HYMS.

It focused principally on building links with medical and nursing schools with a view to establishing formal partnerships on curriculum development and elective modules for medical students as well as joint work in diabetes nursing care.

In Sri Lanka, the York delegation held discussions with the University of Colombo about joint research in plant biology and ecology, and student mobility programmes.

There was also a celebration to mark the university’s 50th anniversary with Sri Lankan alumni.

David said: “There was no doubt that there are many and varied possible opportunities to building long term partnerships with Indian colleagues in Medical Colleges and Research Institutions.

“The short term gain is likely to be in having more focussed productive student electives as a way of building links; the medium term gain in developing funded faculty exchanges and collaboration in education and training.”

Scarborough hosts HYMS@TEN event

HYMS@TEN celebrations got off to a great start this year with an event held at Scarborough Hospital.

Organised by Student Liaison Officer Ellie Johnston and her team, some 75 guests enjoyed a meal, lecture and workshops about HYMS until late in the evening.

Dr David Pearson, Deputy Dean (Education), thanked the team and said: “What a great ‘do’ and a great showcase for the best of HYMS education, research and service. The evening was a credit to Ellie and her team who obviously worked extremely hard.”

David kicked off the evening with a lecture about HYMS going forward.

(continued on page 2)
Curriculum review
Update by Rachel Walden
The HYMS curriculum review is organising a sequence of ‘Focal point’ meetings to explore specific themes within the curriculum, in line with our aim of ensuring an inclusive and evidence-based process.
Each of these will bring together what is already known, seek to establish best practices and draw together recommendations for change that are linked to relevant evidence.
Focal points will take the form of a one or two day seminar at Bishop Burton College during March and April 2013. The HYMS curriculum review focus points are:
• Focus on... improving teaching and learning in ‘Phase 2’ (20 March, convener: Janine Henderson)
• Focus on... transition to the workplace (19 April, convener: Colin Jones)
• Focus on... best practice in teaching, learning and assessment (24 April, convener: Alison Pettigrew)
• Focus on... community clinical placement (26 April, convener: Tony Kendrick)
• Focus on... professional identity and development (30 April, convener: Demian Whiting)
• Focus on... broadening our horizons (date tbc, convener: Ian Watt)
• Focus on... science and scholarship (date tbc, convener: Paul Kaye)
We want to engage as many people as we can in the process. If you would like to participate in one of these meetings please e-mail Rachel Walden at curriculum@hyms.ac.uk
We would like to say a big thank you to all the students who attended our curriculum review open forums throughout January. Your thoughts and opinions are essential in helping us improve our curriculum. We would also like to thank all of our focal point convenors for agreeing to help us bring together and run each of the conferences. The curriculum review is a collective effort and we could not make progress without the help and support of faculty, staff and students.
The HYMS curriculum review is now on the website. Information and updates including our vision for the HYMS curriculum is available on the ‘developing our curriculum’ page.

Scarfborough hosts HYMS@TEN event
(continued from page 1)
HYMS Professor of Palliative Medicine Miriam Johnson spoke about current research and HYMS alumnus Dr Mike Hughes talked about his HYMS experience. Mr Phil Perry, Scarborough’s Director, Clinical Studies – Acute, spoke about HYMS in Scarborough.
Afterwards there were workshops on Sharing Good Practice, run by Phase 1 Core Curriculum Tutor Dr Gordon Hayes, Curriculum Review, run by Academic lead for Curriculum Review Dr Steven Oliver and HYMS Curriculum Review Project Officer Rachel Walden, Clinical Skills, run by Honorary Clinical Tutor Joanne Whitehead, and Electronic Record of Achievement run by Business Systems Project Lead Dan Parker.
Representatives from the Thackray Museum in Leeds also attended and displayed a range of historical surgical instruments.
Follow the link to see more pictures of the event.

Cancer patient inequalities investigated
A major investigation into inequalities faced by cancer patients in East Yorkshire is to be led by HYMS Professor of Primary Care Medicine Una Macleod.
The five-year project, funded by a £750,000 grant from Yorkshire Cancer Research, will seek to address issues relating to the diagnosis and experience of people with cancer throughout the Hull area.
Poor survival rates have been linked to delays in the diagnosis of cancer, and the first part of the study will concentrate on understanding how people interpret symptoms and the factors that make them go and see their doctor.
Cancer patients in East Yorkshire will be invited to take part in the investigation, which will include questionnaires and in-depth interviews. Cohorts of patients who have been newly diagnosed will be tracked to determine outcomes, and focus groups involving non-cancer patients will also be set up to assess attitudes towards help seeking and health care professionals.
The project is based on data from the North East Yorkshire and Humber Clinical Alliance which shows that cancer mortality rates in East Yorkshire are higher than the national average, and five year survival rates are significantly lower. The data also shows that deprived areas in East Yorkshire have higher mortality rates and lower survival rates compared to national rates. Follow the link to read the full article.

HYMS alumni reunion
A HYMS alumni reunion was held at the York Medical Society rooms, Stonegate, York, when some 30 current and former students enjoyed catching up with each other over canapes, wine and live harp music in the atmospheric venue.

SEDAL seminar series
The Supportive care, Early Diagnosis and Advanced disease Research Group (SEDA) will be holding a new monthly seminar series at the University of Hull in the Hertford building. For further information contact claire.ward2@hyms.ac.uk
**Student successes**

A round up of the latest achievements by HYMS students:

Congratulations to HYMS postgraduate student Christine Leary, who won the Association of Clinical Embryologists Poster Award for work presented at the recent Fertility 2013 conference in Liverpool. The work “Human embryo developmental dynamics in relation to maternal and paternal body mass index”, (co-authored by S Killick and R Sturme) describes key differences in the development of human embryos collected from overweight and obese patients, compared to normal weight women.

HYMS intercalating student Melody Redman has recently been appointed as Deputy Chair of the National BMA Students Education Committee, involved in all national student issues.

Joshua Shaw (Year 3) and HYMS graduate Rebecca Brown have been awarded a British Heart Foundation commendation for their work with Hull York Medical Student Heartstart last year. Hull York Medical Student Heartstart is part of HYMS Pre-Hospital Care Programme umbrella which trains medical students as Emergency Life Support instructors and they are in turn sent into the community to teach these lifesaving skills.


**HYMS@TEN**

News of the latest HYMS@TEN fundraising activities:

- Festive Dress Down Days, organised by Sarah Mussared and Lisa Schubert, held in Hull and York, raised a total of £102.33.
- Christmas events at York Hospital's Learning and Research Centre, including a cake baking competition and a ‘Santa Sweepstake’ raised £69.50. The team at York are planning some Valentine themed events later this month.
- A Secret Santa, organised by Lisa Schubert in December, in York, raised £22.

A big thank you to everyone involved!

Got the bottle? Sarah Mussared is asking for donations of unopened bottles or jars to help to raise money at the HYMS@TEN Gala Day on 8 June. The contents could be anything from pickles to shampoo, as long as the bottles are in date and unopened. Follow the link for more information.

The HYMS Choir will have its first rehearsals on Monday 11 February in Hull and Wednesday 13 February in York. Follow the link for more details.

A Valentine's cake and craft sale will take place on Wednesday 13 February from 12–2pm in the lobby area of the Hertford Building on the Hull campus.

10k Challenge: Roxana Freeman, PA to Head of Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences, is aiming to run as many 10k races as possible throughout 2013 to raise money for HYMS@TEN charities. Click on the link for details of the races, or if you would like to join Roxana in running one (or more!) of them.

We’re on Facebook! HYMS@TEN now has its own Facebook page to record all the events and activities that take place during the year. If you have a Facebook account, you can log on to: http://www.facebook.com/HYMSatTEN or search for HYMS at Ten. If you ‘like’ the page, you can keep up-to-date with all the postings.

**Young author award**

DR Pierpaolo Pellicori (Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research) has won the 2012 Young Author Achievement Award for Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Cardiovascular Imaging with his paper: “Inferior Vena Cava Diameter in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure; Relationships and Prognostic Significance”.

**Award success for Amy**

POSTGRADUATE student Dr Amy Gadoud was awarded second place in the North American Primary Care Research Group Trainee Awards for her research project, “An exploratory study using general practice research database to compare recognition of palliative care needs for patients with heart failure compared with those with cancer”.

**Staff news**

Welcome to ...  
Tracey McEwan, Clinical Skills Facilitator based at York Hospital.
Sarah Brown, PA to the Dean of HYMS.

Welcome back to ...  
Helen Proctor, CCMR Administrator, who has returned from maternity leave.

Congratulations to ...  
Joanna Micklethwaite, Head of Assessment, on her recent marriage.
Prof Bill McGuire, Centre for Health and Population Sciences, who has taken up the role of Associate Dean (Research) York.

**Goodbye to Margaret**

HYMS has said farewell to Dean’s PA Margaret Smith, who retired at Christmas.

Margaret, who had worked for HYMS for eight years, was given a warm send-off by the Dean, Tony Kendrick (pictured below with Margaret), and members of HYMS staff.

Click on the link for more pictures.

**Researcher of the year award**

Congratulations to Professor John Greenman, Centre for Cancer, who has been named Heart Research UK’s Outstanding Researcher of the Year 2012, for his team’s work to develop a new technique which could aid heart surgery.

The team has successfully developed a novel system for keeping human heart tissue biopsies alive whilst continuing to ‘beat’ and otherwise function as though they were in the human body. This work was thanks to a grant from Yorkshire-based charity Heart Research UK.
Stroke research funding

PETER Knapp, Senior Lecturer in Evidence Based Health Care, is part of a research group which has been awarded a project grant of £171,000 from the Stroke Association. The project, ‘Nottingham Fatigue After Stroke study: Understanding the nature of the clinical problem and determining factors associated with fatigue in stroke patients without depression’, will be led by Professor Avril Drummond from the University of Nottingham.

HONEI research

DR Fraser Courts, Research Fellow at the HONEI project, has had an article, Profiling of modified citrus pectin oligosaccharide transport across Caco-2 cell monolayers, published in the journal PharmaNutrition.

Yorkshire’s medical history

AN article in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry highlights the influence of Yorkshire, including the original York medical school, on the foundations of British neurology.

Stoma research article

HYMS Senior Lecturer in Palliative Care Dr Jason Boland has recently had an article published in Palliative Medicine.

Prizegiving thank-you

ANDY Dennis of Medicins Sans Frontieres, who spoke at the recent HYMS student awards ceremony, has posted a piece about the evening on his fundraising page.

Daisy appeal new phase

A ceremony to mark the founding of a new £6.6m PET CT scanner for cancer patients has taken place at Castle Hill Hospital. The scanner will give a more accurate diagnosis for cancer patients and, in some cases, even give a quicker diagnosis.

Dementia care study

RESEARCHERS at HYMS will be partners in a pioneering 30 month study into the effectiveness of using Life Stories to influence the care and improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their families.

Advance notice

THE HYMS Postgraduate Research Conference will be held on Friday 7 June 2013 at the University of Hull Business School. All HYMS academic staff and postgraduate students are invited to attend.