Major grant for heart failure research

Researchers at HYMS and the University of Hull have won a grant for nearly £600,000 to identify new ways of predicting which patients are at risk of heart failure – and to help find treatments to prevent it.

HYMS Foundation Chair in Cardiology Professor John Cleland (University of Hull and Honorary Consultant in Cardiology at the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust), who is widely regarded as one of the world’s leading researchers into heart failure, will lead the research.

Professor Cleland said: “Heart failure is increasingly common in the UK. About one in every 30 adults in Hull has some evidence of heart failure. In Britain, during 2011, there were almost 400,000 admissions with heart failure and about 4 million NHS bed-days were required to manage the problem.

“Rates have been rising steadily for the last decade. Managing heart failure well with modern treatments is often very successful but it is complex and there are far too few experts compared to the size of the problem.

“The aim of this research is to try to identify people at risk before they get into trouble and specifically target them with relatively simple treatments that family doctors can easily use to prevent or at least delay the onset of heart failure.”

The grant, made by the European Commission under the FP7 Programme, is worth £580,480 to the Department of Cardiology over the next six years. This is the latest in a series of major grants from the European Commission to the department for research into heart failure – one of Britain’s most common and dangerous diseases – which together are worth approximately £1.5 million.

(continued on page 2...)

Grant for autism screening research

Research led by HYMS Honorary Senior Lecturer and Consultant Child Psychiatrist Dr Barry Wright has attracted funding from the Medical Research Council.

The study, managed by the National Deaf Children, Young People and Family Service, looks into autism in deaf children. The research will adapt and translate instruments used for assessing autistic spectrum disorders into deaf children. There are approximately 18,000 moderate-profoundly deaf children in the UK. Of these, between 1.5% to 4% may have some form of autism spectrum disorder.
**Major grant for heart failure research**
(... continued from page 1)

Hull’s Department of Cardiology joins a Consortium led by Professor Faez Zannad of Inserm, University of Lorraine, and the Centre Hospitaller Universitare (University Hospital Centre), Nancy, France, that will carry out this research. Partner organisations (19 universities, hospitals and research organisations) come from nine European countries and the United States of America.

The HOMAGE (Heart OMics in AGEing) project, which takes ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound in cure’ as its prime focus, will identify new blood tests that determine the risk of developing heart failure and then look for novel treatments that can be targeted specifically at those at high risk in order to prevent its development.

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**Staff news**

**Goodbye to …**

Sir Michael Carlisle, who is standing down as lay chair of the HYMS Fitness to Practise Committee, a role he has held since 2007.

**Welcome to …**

Dr Julie Walabyeki, Research Fellow, and Helena Sinclair, Research Secretary, who have both joined the SEDA research group.

**Congratulations to …**

Prof Ian Chetter, Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders, who has accepted the role of Associate Dean (Research) Hull.

Dr Chris Hall, who has been appointed HYMS Primary Care Director of Clinical Studies Northern Lincolnshire.

Prof Alyn Morice, who becomes Interim Head of the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research.

Alison Pettigrew, who has taken up the role of Associate Dean for Quality.

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**What’s new in the curriculum review?**

Update by Rachel Walden, HYMS Curriculum Review Project Officer

Over the past month we have been developing and building on ideas around the curriculum review ‘Focal Points’. The diagram on the left illustrates the key issues we think are important to reflect on in refreshing our curriculum.

Each of these focal points has a HYMS staff member acting as ‘convenor’ who will bring views together – including those raised in a number of one-day workshops dedicated to each topic.

A curriculum review briefing document (see link below) has been created to provide a summary of the focal point workshops.

If you would like to get involved in the curriculum review here are three ways in which you can contribute your thoughts and ideas:

1. **Workshops:** You are invited to attend one of the focal point workshops, details of the workshops can be found in the briefing document. Please contact Rachel Walden at curriculum@hyms.ac.uk for further information or to reserve your place.

2. **Surveys:** We appreciate that there are many people interested in contributing to the curriculum review workshops but are unavailable due to busy schedules. We are keen to provide an alternative way for you to contribute your thoughts, experiences and ideas. As such, we will be distributing a series of curriculum review focal point surveys.

   Currently surveys are available for anyone wishing to contribute to the focus on ‘improving teaching and learning in Phase II’ http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F25CZH7. A survey for our General Practitioner tutors can also be found at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8X9D9HP.

   Additional surveys will be made available as the focal point workshops draw closer and will be posted in next month’s HYMS sheet.

3. **Blackboard:** Each of our workshops will be supported by a curriculum review collaboration area on Blackboard. As the review progresses this is the area where we will keep a record of discussions, ideas and recommendations as they develop. We want it to be a place where you can contribute your views on some of the major questions that we are looking at in the review. If you have ideas for the curriculum review that you would like to share please click on the ‘curriculum review’ tab on blackboard.

   The first of our curriculum review stakeholder meetings is scheduled to take place on 13 March 2013. We are delighted that our stakeholder group has a broad representation from both internal and external stakeholders. The Stakeholder group has been formed to help ensure that the review is conducted in line with the principles outlined in the Terms of Reference; in particular that it is inclusive, open, evidence-based and externally credible. It will both feed views in to the process and critically review recommendations developed from the focal point workshops and curriculum review management group.

   Click on the link to see the full curriculum review briefing document.

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**Student successes**

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have had research accepted for presentation at conferences:

**Xenophon Kassianides** (Year 3) presented a poster on “Suitability for endovascular repair has positive implications for perioperative mortality in patients undergoing emergency open repair of ruptured AAA” at the recent Royal Medical Society conference in Edinburgh.

**David Beard** and **Gage Rosimus** (both Year 3) will present their research on iliac artery endofibrosis at the forthcoming AISV conference in France.

And in the media …

Grimsby Telegraph newspaper has published an article about ‘Doctors of the future’ which features HYMS students on placement at Grimsby’s Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital.
HYMS@TEN
An update on HYMS@TEN activities:

Bike@HYMS: Training is well on its way for the 24-hour, 250-mile bike ride around the HYMS patch on 7-8 June. With the warmer weather, the 21 cyclists currently signed up are out and about and getting some serious training under their belts. Follow their progress at: (http://www.facebook.com/HYMSatTEN).

Marathon effort: To raise funds for HYMS@TEN the Dean, Tony Kendrick, has paid for the following five students to run the East Hull 20 mile race on 17 March: Mazin Eragat, Ashley Holt, Claire Lilly, Eleanor Redman and Karim Jundi. Tony himself will be running a marathon at the same time but in the slightly warmer surroundings of Rome. He is also funding Laura Read and Mazin Eragat to take part in the York Marathon on 21 October.

Hull tour: The tour of Hull to raise money for HYMS@TEN has been scheduled for Saturday 27 April at 11 am. If you would like to book a place please email kirstie.skeltonclarke@hyms.ac.uk. We have had a great response so far, so please don’t leave it too late to book. All participants will be asked to make a donation to HYMS@TEN charities.

York Hospital: The team at York Hospital raised £100 for HYMS@TEN with a Valentine Bake Sale, bringing the total raised by them, when added to their Christmas events funds, to £200. They held a Valentine Quiz as well as a cupid’s arrow sweepstake, which was won by a HYMS Year 2 student. A further day of fun and food is planned for Thursday 21 March, with Easter-themed goodies, so if you are in the hospital that day, please pop in and support the team in their fundraising for HYMS@TEN.

Valentine’s cakes: A total of £85.10 was raised for HYMS@TEN from a Valentine’s cake sale held in Loxley, Hull. Organised by Elaine Brookes, Kirstie Skelton Clarke and Sarah Mussared, staff and students enjoyed a selection of cakes, and Valentine’s crafts. Head of Assessment Joanna Micklethwaite won the cake sweepstake and took it to her village quiz to share. Thanks to all who donated cakes and all who ate them!

HYMS choir: With some 30 singers and a manic Zulu wedding song, the HYMS choir is up and running and making a great sound! Next rehearsals are Monday 11 March in Hull MFL and Wednesday 13 March in York MFL, both at 6pm. It’s not too late to join in if you missed the first installment. Email jay.exley@hyms.ac.uk or kathryn.harvey@hyms.ac.uk to get involved.

10k challenge: Roxana Freeman is running a number of 10k races this year for HYMS@TEN. Get fit and join her! Email: roxana.freeman@hyms.ac.uk

Pyjama day: Sarah Mussared organised a pyjama day on Thursday 22 and Friday 21 February in conjunction with the Marrow Society.

University Challenge: Students are holding rounds of University Challenge starting next month. There will be prizes for the heats and the final, so it will be worth it! Don’t worry if you don’t have a full team – you can either enter as a full team or part of one and we can make up the numbers. Hull students please email oliver.kemp@hyms.ac.uk; York students please email joshua.thompson@hyms.ac.uk.

PGCME recruiting now
Report by Alison Pettigrew, Director of PGCME

The Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education at HYMS continues to grow and is currently recruiting for its next intake which starts in October 2013. The programme has participants from other parts of the country and also European colleagues from Denmark who are taking advantage of the blended learning approach which enables busy clinicians to benefit from the programme without taking too much time away from the clinical environment and their many other commitments.

The focus of the programme is on having a real and measurable impact on teaching practice and the quality of the student learning experience. Feedback from current and previous participants consistently values highly the diversity of the group itself and the opportunity to explore learning and teaching in its own specific context.

As well as being a highly informative programme suitable for all colleagues involved in clinical teaching, it is also importantly accredited by the Higher Education Academy with all successful participants achieving Fellowship status on completion. The HYMS programme is also a recognised accredited route for all GP trainers.

Recruitment is now taking place for the next course which starts in October 2013. Places are limited and so any colleagues interested in the PGCME are encouraged to apply as soon as they are in a position to do so, or alternatively visit the HYMS website which has full details of how to apply and our contact details for any queries.

Primary care course

HYMS recently held the first of its short courses aimed at primary care clinicians in the region.

The respiratory update course, held at Hull Royal Infirmary, focused on chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD) and included short lectures, small group workshops covering aspects of COPD including prescribing, unscheduled care and community support services.

The course was run in association with the local faculty of the RCGP and was the first in a series being developed by HYMS GP lead for short courses in primary care Kevin Anderson and colleagues.
RAG to riches

CONGRATULATIONS to MedSoc which ran a successful ‘Raising and Giving Week’ recently, with the aid of RAG. The aim of the week was to not only raise as much money for charity as possible, but also to integrate with societies from the university, to ensure that students from all disciplines worked together in representing Hull University Union. The MedSoc team of Thomas Robbins, Emma Carroll, Oliver Kemp, Ritika Rampal, Christian Wake, Samuel Pattison, Lyth Hendow, Laura Cunliffe and Danielle Reville and Monika Peltola from RAG worked tirelessly to ensure the week’s worth of events were planned and executed to the highest quality.

MedSin HYMS relaunch

A GROUP of dedicated HYMS students have worked hard over the last year to resurrect the HYMS branch of MedSin. Click on the link to read a report from HYMS branch president Joana Magalhães, about progress so far.

Graduation Ball 2013

THIS year’s Graduation Ball will take place on Saturday 6 July at Carlton Towers. If you would like to attend please click on the link for further details.

FAMILeY Awards 2013

MIDDLETON Hall in Hull saw a double celebration earlier this month with the final of the FAMILeY Awards combining with a presentation to event organiser Professor Steve Killick, former HYMS Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (pictured above), to mark his retirement. The charity FAMILeY (Female and Maternity Issues Locally in East Yorkshire) promotes all aspects of female health in East Yorkshire and funds a yearly competitive award for HYMS students. The five student finalists who each presented a project of direct relevance to women’s health in East Yorkshire were Karen Ball (Year 5), Claire Lilley, Francesca Bilham and Francesca Latham (all Year 4) and Constantine Simintiras (Postgraduate). All the presentations were considered excellent by the panel of judges (a mixture of consultants, academics and lay people), but the eventual winner was Claire Lilley, whose project “Kids with kids: a presentation exploring the local issues, attitudes and interventions surrounding teenage pregnancy” was considered particularly relevant. Claire received a cheque for £1000 from the charity.

Research publications

RECENT publications by HYMS staff include:


Book:


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

Calendar of events

For full details of all these events, plus many more lectures, seminars, conferences and social events, visit www.hyms.ac.uk/events

March

14

Conference

PALAEO spring event

King’s Manor (K/133), University of York

15

The legacy of John Snow: York’s famous son

The Park Inn, York

27

Seminar

Is higher primary care quality associated with lower hospital admissions for people with severe mental illness?

Dr Rowena Jacobs

University of York

April

2

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Exploring the experience of chronic illness through online methods

University of York

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Retelling stories: the educational experiences of pregnant girls and teenage mothers

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