Trevor appointed new Dean

The Vice-Chancellors of the University of York and the University of Hull have announced the appointment of Professor Trevor Sheldon, formerly Interim Dean, as Dean of Hull York Medical School on a substantive basis with effect from 1 November 2013.

Professor Sheldon said: “I am really looking forward to working with colleagues across both universities and with NHS partners to build on the achievements of my predecessors and take HYMS to the next level.”

The Vice-Chancellor at Hull, Professor Calie Pistorius, said: “I am delighted to welcome Trevor as our new Dean and look forward to working with him. Trevor has ambitions and exciting plans for HYMS and has our support to bring these to fruition.”

The Acting Vice-Chancellor at York, Dr Jane Grenville, said: “Trevor Sheldon has a formidable background in research and, as a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning at York, he is the ideal person to lead HYMS in the next stage of its development.”

Trevor Sheldon joined the University of York as senior research fellow in the Centre for Health Economics in 1992, where he was part of the team developing the national formula for allocating resources to health authorities for hospital and community health services. He was the founding director of the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, established in 1993, which he directed until April 1998.

In 1999, he became Head of the Department of Health Sciences, and later served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at York. He was elected to the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2000.

A HYMS postgraduate student has won a major European award for the second consecutive year for his research into cardiothoracic surgery.

Last year Dr Priyadharshanan Ariyaratnam was the first person from the UK to win a Young Investigator Award since 2005 and is the only person to win the award two years in a row. Turn to page 2 for the full story ...
Priyadharshan Ariyaratnam (pictured above) was presented with the EACTS (European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery) Young Investigator Award for Thoracic Disease at the 27th EACTS Annual Meeting in Vienna.

Dr Ariyaratnam, a Cardiothoracic Surgical Registrar and Research Fellow at Castle Hill Hospital, Cottingham, is studying towards a Medical Doctorate with HYMS, looking at the mechanisms of pulmonary hypertension.

He said: “It came as quite a pleasant surprise to win the award again. The credit must also go to my supervisors Professor Alyn Morice, who is head of the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research at HYMS, and Mahmoud Loubani, who is the Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Castle Hill Hospital heading research there.

“The research involves taking tissue from patients with lung cancer to study the effect certain compounds have on the lung’s blood vessels. This is important as the lung’s blood vessels are connected to the heart so problems with the lungs, such as pulmonary hypertension, can affect the heart and cause severe health problems. This can be the case particularly after heart surgery when the heart and lungs are ‘switched off and on’. In addition, we are studying the optimisation of lungs used for transplantation which is important given the lack of good quality lungs for transplantation.

“The study’s importance spans both understanding the mechanisms governing pulmonary hypertension which carries a high morbidity and mortality, in addition to contributing to the exciting field of lung optimisation of donor lungs in an ‘ex-vivo’ environment before lung transplantation. Castle Hill and HYMS are making quite a name for themselves.”

EACTS is the leading European Association devoted to the practice of cardiothoracic surgery. Each year the Association holds an annual scientific meeting bringing together leaders in the fields of Acquired Cardiac Disease, Thoracic Disease, Congenital Heart Disease, and Vascular Disease from America, Asia and Europe to discuss the latest advances in cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgery.

Its annual awards include the Young Investigators Awards presented to authors of the best manuscripts on topics of clinical or experimental research in the fields of thoracic surgery, cardiac surgery and congenital heart disease, who are under 35 years old. The awards are judged on a presentation at the Annual Meeting as well as the full paper. Winners receive a prize of €3,000.

New PGCME cohort

HYMS recently welcomed the sixth cohort of the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education (PGCME) and the second cohort of the MSc in Human Evolution.

The PGCME Induction Day was held at the Ron Cooke Hub, University of York, when students were greeted by the programme team and given the opportunity to meet their peer group.

HYMS also welcomed 13 Postgraduate research students who joined HYMS in October. HYMS now has over 100 students studying for research degrees.

York CRF celebrates opening

The new York Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at York Hospital held its official opening recently.

The event celebrated this new collaboration between York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the University of York and was also intended to showcase what the York CRF can offer to researchers from the University, the Trust and the pharmaceutical industry.

Formerly known as the Experimental Medicine Unit, the York CRF offers a dedicated, supportive environment based in York Hospital, to conduct clinical research involving both patients and the public, including early Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials.

With a knowledgeable and experienced research team, underpinned by academic rigor, it is expected that the new York CRF will have a transformative impact on clinical research within the trust.

York CRF Clinical Director Professor Charles Lacey said: “We are committed to maintaining excellence in our translational research, and expanding our activities to drive healthcare innovation forward.”

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Members of the PGCME 2013 cohort
THE University of Hull will be holding a postgraduate recruitment event on Wednesday 27 November. There will be information on a range of postgraduate courses offered at the University.  

HYMS prizingiving

MORE than 40 prizewinning students and their families will join HYMS staff and representatives of the NHS and the Universities of Hull and York at the annual HYMS prizegiving event on Thursday 28 November. The event, held at the University of Hull’s Lindsey Suite, will also recognise the achievements of postgraduates and early career researchers and will provide an opportunity to thank members of staff who have made a significant contribution to HYMS@TEN.

Curriculum review

RECOMMENDATIONS from the MB BS curriculum review have been considered in detail by the HYMS Board of Studies and an overwhelming majority have been approved, subject to the final agreement of the HYMS Joint Senate Committee. The Board asked the curriculum review group to look in further detail at two proposals:

• The clinical examination in years four and five of the course, specifically to establish the most reliable balance of assessment formats (ie: OSCEs and OSLEs) and whether these should be delivered as a sequential process.

• The review group was also asked to consider the options for students who did not pass year four assessment at the first sitting. A work group, to be chaired by Dr Colin Jones, will bring forward final recommendations on these specific points in the next month.

Staff news

Welcome to ...

Hong Chen, Research Fellow, joins the SEDA team’s NAT-PD study.

Lisa Dikomitis, Research Fellow, joins SEDA’s Pathway study.

Goodbye to ...

Paul Robinson, Medical Laboratory Technician at HYMS York.

Congratulations to ...

Dr Amy Gadou on completing her PhD. Amy has been appointed Academic Clinical Lecturer in Palliative Medicine at the University of Hull, based in the Hertford building.

Other news ...

Professor Miles Whittington and Dr David Hepburn are the new joint leads for Pharmacology, Prescribing and Therapeutics in the MB BS.

Dr Hugh MacPherson, Senior Research Fellow at HYMS and University of York’s Department of Health Sciences, appeared on BBC Radio 4’s ‘Inside Health’ programme to talk about his acupuncture research. The programme, broadcast on Tuesday 29 October, is available on BBC iPlayer.

Mastermind!

Congratulations to Beverley’s Director of Public Health Dr Tim Allison, who recently won his first heat on the BBC quiz show ‘Mastermind’.

Answering questions on the fiction of CS Lewis and general knowledge, Tim gained four points more than his nearest competitor in progressing to the next round.

‘A sense of anatomy’

Staff and students at HYMS, the University of Hull and the Northern School of Contemporary Dance have collaborated to present ‘A sense of anatomy’. This piece of dance-theatre explores what it means to possess, move and be a body and the performance will take place from 7.30-9pm on Friday 29 November at the Donald Roy Theatre in the Gulbenkian Centre at the University of Hull.
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.  

Calendar of events

For full details of all these events, plus many more lectures, seminars, conferences and social events, visit www.hyms.ac.uk/about-us/news-centre/forthcoming-events

November

14
Lecture (video linked)
Doing clinical trials – the best job in the world
Dr Alyn Morice
Universities of Hull & York

18
Seminar
The development and evolution of the human larynx and the origins of speech
Dr Jeffrey T Laitman
HYMS, University of York

20
HYMS@TEN Lecture
How did that get here?
Dr Julian Parkhill
P/X/001, University of York

21-22
Conference
4th Annual Yorkshire Paediatrics Meeting
Yorkshire School of Paediatrics
Leeds Megacentre

December

3
SEDA seminar
The Great New British Class System
Prof Fiona Devine
Hull University Union

11
Seminar
Phenomenology of bodily modification including cosmetic surgery
Prof Kathleen Lennon/Dr Rachel Alsop
University of Hull

Research publications

RECENT publications by HYMS staff include:


New degree recruiting

RECRUITMENT is now open for the new undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences offered jointly by HYMS and the Department of Biology at the University of York.

Advance notice

THE HYMS Research Network Conference will be held on Friday 6 June 2014, 9:00-17:00 at the Ron Cooke Hub Lecture Theatre and Atrium, University of York.

Hull VC to visit HYMS

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull, Professor Calie Pistorius, will visit HYMS on Tuesday 12 November as part of his annual Faculty visits. The VC will give an update on the University and HYMS’ performance and strategic direction.

Simulation unit opens

NHS England’s Chief Nursing Officer Jane Cummings has officially opened the University of York’s newly extended and modernised Clinical Simulation Unit.

Small project funding

THE University of York is offering funding under a new ‘Small Innovation Projects’ scheme designed to help academics and small businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber to collaborate.

Swings and roundabouts?

A TEAM of volunteers from HYMS joined over 200 others from businesses, local schools and the local community to upgrade an adventure playground in Bell Farm, York.

Lecture this week – book your ticket now!

Professor Ian Cumming OBE, Chief Executive of Health Education England, will be giving a lecture as part of his visit to Hull York Medical School.

The lecture “Aspire to Excellence: How can Health Education England help you deliver high quality health care in the HYMS region?” will take place in the ERMEC lecture theatre, Hull Royal Infirmary, on Wednesday 6 November from 5.30-7pm.

Professor Cumming hopes to meet HYMS students and tutors, local clinicians and healthcare staff to discuss how we can work together to achieve his mandate of ‘Delivering high quality, effective compassionate care: Developing the right people with the right skills and the right values’.

If you haven’t got your ticket yet but would like to attend, contact joanne.richmond@hyms.ac.uk or follow the link.