Top tips for interviews and how to make an excellent application to medical school were just some of the subjects students learned at a HYMS summer school.

Some 22 lower-sixth form students from 14 schools across the region including Hull, York, Leeds, Bradford, North East Lincolnshire and Kirklees took part in the event, held at the University of Hull.

They enjoyed a wide variety of activities and sessions over three days and were supported throughout by current HYMS students.

On the first day, they participated in a PBL session and learned about clinical skills. They heard from HYMS ambassadors about what life was really like as a medical student and learned how to perform CPR in a Heartstart session, led by current fourth-year Josh Shaw.

In the evening students had a chance to unwind with a circus skills workshop, learning how to juggle, spin diablo and ride a unicycle.

The next day saw students practising their communication skills on a simulated patient and Dr Joe Cuthbert, a current FY2 junior doctor, talked about life after graduation, as well as sharing his experiences from his time as a student at HYMS.

In addition, they participated in some excellent debates on a range of medical topics from organ donation to fertility treatment.

On the final day they took part in a range of workshops, including a GP quiz delivered by HYMS Director of PBL Dr Andy Davidson, a session on medical ethics and they tried their hands at suturing with the HYMS Surgical Society.

Top tips shared at HYMS summer school

NSS result success

The overall satisfaction rate for HYMS in the latest National Student Survey (NSS) results is the highest since the medical school began.

Standing at 92%, it is four points higher than last year’s result. Two other areas where satisfaction increased by 13 points were in assessment and feedback and organisation and management.

The change in students’ ratings of aspects of feedback means HYMS is sixth in the table of the 33 UK medical schools in relation to ‘feedback on my work has been prompt’.

The Dean, Prof Trevor Sheldon, said: “A great many thanks to all of the assessment team and tutors across the MB BS who have worked hard and with a clear focus to obtain this result - a 24% point improvement.”

HYMS Senior Lecturer in HIV and Honorary Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV Medicine Fabiola Martin has become a member of the Rare Disease UK (RDUK) management committee. RDUK is a national alliance for people with rare diseases and all who support them.

RDUK has been working to ensure the UK develops an effective strategy for dealing with rare diseases. It recently launched a landmark report ‘Improving Lives, Optimising Resources: A Vision for the UK Rare Disease Strategy.’

Fabiola’s new role

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DOCTORS, consultants and other NHS staff delivering excellent teaching and support to medical students on the Hull York Medical School undergraduate medical course were honoured at awards evenings organised by HYMS.

The new HYMS Clinical Teaching Excellence Awards aim to recognise and reward excellence and commitment in clinical education and student support across a range of NHS settings. Nominations for the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and the York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust areas came from the students themselves.

HYMS Dean Professor Trevor Sheldon said: “We are so grateful for the hard work and support of the clinicians across our region who help to teach the next generation of doctors. We wanted to do something to acknowledge their contribution to our undergraduate medical course and the HYMS students themselves came up with this prize-giving idea.

“They have voted for who they wanted to win so it is a real tribute to the hard work and commitment that local NHS colleagues put into teaching our students.”

To see the winners click on the following link:

Winners of the Team Excellence Award: Belgrave Surgery, Scarborough, with HYMS Dean Professor Trevor Sheldon

New awards recognise excellent student support

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Schizophrenia and cannabis link

HYMS Year 4 student Mohamed Zuhair is co-author of a paper that has been published in Molecular Psychiatry that suggests the genetics of schizophrenia increase the chances of future cannabis use.

During the summer after his first year at HYMS, Mohamed wanted to put his previous degree in biochemistry to some use so carried out lab work at the Institute of Psychiatry. Whilst there he joined other researchers to use a large data set already in place to look at healthy patients who had an increased genetic predisposition to getting schizophrenia. They found a lot of them ended up using cannabis.

Up until now it has previously been suggested that cannabis may cause schizophrenia. The research carried out by Mohamed et al suggests there may be a link in the other direction.

Natural oestrogens appear safe

NEW research carried out at HYMS has found that phytooestrogens – which are similar to the female hormone oestrogen – appear to be safe and beneficial for men with Type 2 diabetes.

Phytooestrogens are found in a variety of foods including nuts, seeds, soy products and whole grains. Some studies have indicated that countries that consume the highest levels of phytooestrogens have the lowest rates of breast cancer and heart disease. However, due to the similarities between phytooestrogens and the female hormone oestrogen, there has also been concern that they may have a negative impact on male fertility.

The results of this latest study were presented at the joint meeting of the International Society of Endocrinology and The Endocrine Society in Chicago. Dr Thozhukat Sathyapalan (pictured), a HYMS endocrinology researcher based at the University of Hull, and lead investigator of the study, said: “Prior studies have found that daily consumption of soy reduces the risk of Type 2 diabetes and heart problems.”
**Congratulations to HYMS graduates**

Family and friends celebrated with 140 HYMS students who graduated at Hull City Hall on Monday 14 July at a ceremony attended by the Chancellor of the University of Hull, the Rt Hon Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone.

A reception was held beforehand at the Mercure Hull Royal Hotel where the graduands, their guests, staff and former students mingled and enjoyed drinks and canapes whilst a number of prizes were handed out.

The Dean of HYMS, Professor Trevor Sheldon, congratulated them all on their success. He said HYMS graduates were different, not just because of the curriculum or approaches to learning or teaching, but because they had seen first-hand what a difference good quality healthcare could make in a deprived and often neglected area of the country.

“You have seen the acute health problems facing the most vulnerable people in our society and you have had to deal with them. You have all risen to the challenge and made a difference to these people and I hope you will continue to make a difference,” he said.

**Unique networking opportunity**

A unique networking opportunity for researchers across the Hull, York and Scarborough campuses was provided by the third annual HYMS Postgraduate Research Conference.

Held at the Ron Cooke Hub, University of York, it showcased and celebrated the contribution of postgraduate researchers to the diverse research profile of HYMS. There were opportunities for oral and poster presentations from members of the HYMS research family.

**New HYMS prize for women in science**

The Hull York Medical School received an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in April 2014. As part of our action plan to recognise the contribution of women to our medical school, we are inaugurating two annual prizes, one for staff (including honorary staff) and one for students.

Each of these prizes will go to the woman who the panel considers to have made the greatest achievement, taking into consideration the stage she is at in her career.

Nominations may be made by any member of academic or honorary staff and may be made on the basis of significant contribution as a result of one or more of the following:

- publication(s)
- research grant award(s)
- marker(s) of significant contribution to education programme development
- overall profile (eg: invitations to give prestigious lectures, media presence)
- impact of research

This nomination may relate to activities during the previous three years. The prize will be to give a public seminar to HYMS staff, students and invited guests. This annual seminar will be followed by a celebratory dinner.

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**Staff news**

**Welcome to ...**

Elaine Boyes, Head of External Relations and Engagement.

Sue Cooper, Project Support Officer in the Assessment Team.

Janice Harvey, HYMS new Phase I Assistant.

Alexandra Jeffrey, Widening Participation and Admissions Assistant Officer.

Liz Rowson, HYMS Research Funding Officer.

Dawn Wood, SEDA research group’s part-time research secretary.

**Goodbye to ...**

Dom Ennis, Clinical Educational Resources Officer, who has moved to the University of York’s Department of Social Policy and Social Work.

John Lewis, Director of PBL, and Jonathan Lloyd, Associate Clinical Dean for Students, who have both retired.

Lauren Mathews, Phase 1 Support Assistant, who has a new role in the University of York’s Department of Physics.

**New roles for ...**

Jonathan Bennett who has assumed responsibility for Postgraduate Research and Teaching.

Heather Milnes has been appointed Centre Administrator in York supporting the Centre for Education Development and the Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences.

David Pearson, who is moving from his current role as Deputy Dean (Education) to lead an Academy of Primary Care.

Claire Ward has been appointed Athena Swan Project Officer.

**Congratulations to ...**

HYMS alumnus Melody Redman who has had three articles about her experience working in the A&E department at Scunthorpe General Hospital published by the Yorkshire Post.
Marjan’s promotion
DR Marjan van der Woude, Senior Lecturer in Microbiology at the HYMS Centre for Immunology and Infection, University of York, has been promoted to Reader.

The play’s the thing
HYMS Clinical Placement Tutor Dr David Mazza, from Gillygate Surgery, has written a play entitled The Three Peaks that was performed at Edinburgh Fringe. His colleague David Hammond, also a Clinical Placement Tutor, had a role in it. In the play the preparations and exertions of two groups of walkers who set out to walk the famous Yorkshire Three Peaks are described. Their walks are separated by 12 months –12 months that have shaped the lives of all involved.

Natural burial
DR Trish Green’s new book Natural Burial: Landscape, Practice and Experience has just been published. Written with colleagues from the University of Sheffield and Queen’s University, Belfast, the book unravels the many different experiences, meanings and realities of natural burial.

Congratulations, Liz
CONGRATULATIONS to Liz Greensted, administrator at the Centre for Immunology and Infection for over 10 years, who received a “Making the Difference” award for her outstanding contribution to the excellent running of the Centre, and who has left the University of York to dedicate more time to her family as well as pursue her passion for playing the bassoon.

Change website
THE HYMS organisational change website is now live and accessible via http://change.hyms.ac.uk (Please let help@hyms.ac.uk know if you have any problems accessing it). This will be a single place to access information about organisational change and includes a FAQ, diary of meetings, events and key dates and useful documents including workshop materials and outcomes. We will be adding more material over the next few weeks. This website will also be the home to information about the Health Campus development in Hull.

£300,000 grant for HYMS Centre
The Centre for Anatomical and Human Sciences (CAHS) has been awarded a £300,000 grant for a two year fellowship for Ekaterina Bulygina, Moscow State University, to undertake research into how our jaws adapted to the transition from Hunter Gathering to agriculture.

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

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

For details of student events and societies, visit the MedSoc website www.hymsmedsoc.co.uk

September
17
Conference
HYMS 9th Education Conference
“Developing an engaging teaching and learning environment: from classroom and ward to Twitter and Facebook”
University of Hull

18
Lecture
Parkinson’s Disease
Dr Alec Ming, Consultant Neurologist
Dove House Hospice, Hull

October
17
Conference
Methodological Approaches to Health Services Research
HYMS SEDA research group, Lindsey Suite, Staff House University of Hull

18
Course
GP Update Course
Ron Cooke Hub
University of York

November
24 & 25
GMC visit to HYMS
24 - York
25 - Hull

December
1-2
Course
MR Breast Training
MRI Centre
Hull Royal Infirmary

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