Shining example
Greg Dyke sees HYMS students in action
I recently completed my first six months at HYMS and would like to thank everyone for making me so welcome.

There are lots of challenges facing medical schools at the moment, including uncertainty over University and NHS funding for education, and over future funding for health research, with reductions in the research council budgets and charities earning less on their investments. The proposed NHS reforms are quite radical, signalling the end of SHAs and PCTs, and the development of new GP commissioning consortia and new education and training networks.

However, HYMS has huge advantages in facing these challenges. We have a very strong partnership with the NHS through our local teaching networks in primary and secondary care. We have a good track record with the MRC, which has not faced the same cuts as the other research councils, and a good track record with the Wellcome Trust and other charitable funders. We also win considerable funding from the National Institute for Health Research, which has not had its budget reduced significantly so far. The Budget has signalled positive developments in health research, including simpler regulation and more consistent research governance nationally, more information for patients wanting to participate in clinical trials, and facilitation of on-line health records research.

We have been reviewing our strategic plan, looking ahead over the next ten years. Given the current concerns over funding, we are focussing our research efforts in our areas of strength and existing critical mass. We are also thinking about possible new teaching programmes in selected areas. We want to develop further the international profile of HYMS, through links with other medical schools, and developing contacts with academic colleagues all around the world.

Although challenging, my job is great fun. In this edition you will see that I have been privileged to attend the opening of the new HYMS Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research, the HYMS students’ prize-giving, the first two meetings of the Ethics Society run by and for HYMS students, and our first PhD student’s graduation. I feel very fortunate to be the Dean of HYMS, and I look forward to working together with you to tackle the challenges we face, and to continue our successes.

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Replicating reality
Greg Dyke, former Director-General of the BBC and the University of York’s Chancellor, spent a day with HYMS staff and students in York.

He began his visit at the Learning and Resource Centre at York Hospital (LaRC). Accompanied by HYMS Director of Clinical Study Dr Jonny Thow, he watched students practising cannulation and observed a Year 2 teaching session with Dr Barbara Stewart, paediatric consultant, and a bedside teaching session with Dr John Davies, clinical lecturer in surgery.

He also observed students practising their clinical skills on a Laerdal SimMan 3G with realistic anatomy, accurate clinical functionality and PC-driven software.

Since October 2008, York Hospital’s HYMS Clinical Skills Facilitators and Clinical Development Team have worked to incorporate clinical simulation using a high quality patient simulator into medical student and Trust staff training.

They received financial support from the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) in 2009 and invested in the SimMan 3G. The hospital also invested in a Scotia Medical Observation and Training System.

This allows live or recorded images of a scenario as it unfolds to be transmitted to a classroom in the LaRC to be used to debrief students.

Some of the SHA funds were also used to convert a locker room in LaRC into a simulated clinical area in which scenarios were run. They also built a control room next door connected with a one-way observation window.
Greg was interested to see that clinical simulation is widely recognised as an important way of training medical staff to ensure safer care for patients (as recommended in Chief Medical Officer's 2008 Report ‘Safer Medical Practice: Machines, Manikins and Polo Mints’).

High risk industries such as aviation use simulation to reduce risk from unlikely and rare events, allowing people to prepare for risky scenarios in a safe environment. It enables conditions that closely resemble reality to be recreated, whilst removing danger.

HYMS students learn clinical skills with the support of CSFs Esther Taylor and Jean Gears who teach skills in a simulated environment with trainers and simulated patients. For example students will learn to take blood from a plastic arm before attempting to take it from a real one.

“Clinical Simulation can be used to teach so much more though,” said Esther. “It can be used for technical and non-technical skills such as team work, communication, situational awareness and so forth. With the equipment we now have, we can run realistic, challenging scenarios with clinical colleagues specifically for medical students such as managing acutely ill medical patients.”

Greg returned to the HYMS office at the University of York where he had a group session with senior staff before a PBL briefing from Director of PBL Janine Henderson.

After lunch he observed a PBL Session with Dr Andrew Davidson and students before having tea with staff at the end of the day.

The Dean of HYMS, Professor Tony Kendrick, said: “It was a good opportunity to update Greg on the excellent progress of HYMS. He was particularly interested to meet staff and students and hear what they had to say about medical teaching and research.”

Lord Winston helps celebrate the message of science

A Science Engagement Celebration event was held to celebrate the different public engagement activities developed across the University of York.

The event was an opportunity for outreach volunteers to interact and for members of the public to see the breadth of outreach material available.

Professor Lord Robert Winston delivered a sell-out lecture on the purpose of public engagement.

The HYMS Centre for Immunology and Infection (CII) outreach stand included microscopes, colouring activities, posters, a video about the CII and the interactive game good bugs: bad bugs. These activities were popular with members of the public as well as university colleagues and generated a lot of interest in CII research and its activities.

Professor Colin Garner, a HYMS honorary professor in pharmacology, has successfully bid for an EU grant to investigate how infants, children and adolescents metabolise well known drugs such as paracetamol, spironolactone and midazolam using new techniques and approaches.

The PAMPERS consortium, as the programme is known, consists of paediatricians, laboratory scientists and ethicists and research groups drawn from the UK, The Netherlands, Belgium, Poland and Estonia.

“The paediatric population is an under-served group in drug development,” said Professor Garner. “Most paediatric drugs are given ‘off-label’ ie the drugs have not been registered for paediatric use. This probably accounts for the high number of hospitalizations in this group due to adverse drug events which have been estimated to be as high as 40% of all hospital admissions.” The funding comes via PRIOMEDCHILD (www.priomedchild.eu) and is worth over €1 million spread over three years.
Fourth year HYMS students Nikki Scott, Emma Lewis and Matteo De Martino are to have posters published in the International Journal of Obstetric Anaesthesia and displayed at the Obstetric Anaesthesia Association Conference in Edinburgh. Nikki got involved in carrying out a research survey during an anaesthetics SSC with Dr Rafique in Hull. One of the consultant anaesthetists, Dr Purva, asked Nikki to look into the success rates of epidurals on a labour ward and how they varied with different positions and grade of doctor performing them. After a few months, Nikki asked Emma, Matteo and another HYMS student Jennifer Boyle to help to collect the data. Nikki and Emma presented their findings at the anaesthetics audit and Dr Purva helped them to design an abstract to submit for a poster to display at the Edinburgh conference.

Congratulations to Year 4 student Hannah Clark, who won this year’s HYMS Christmas card competition with her original painting ‘Fat Rascal Robin’.

Congratulations to Dean of HYMS Professor Tony Kendrick, who won first prize in the primary health care category of the BMA Medical Book Awards 2010. Professor Kendrick’s book ‘Primary Care Mental Health’, co-authored by Linda Gask, Helen Lester and Robert Peveler, provides a conceptual background and practical advice for the clinician. It was considered “a source of informed practical advice on a wide variety of mental health issues encountered in primary care”. The book is published by RCPsych Publications.

Prof Simon Gilbody (pictured) and Dr Amanda Perry of the HYMS-Health Sciences Mental Health Research Group are successful co-applicants on a grant being led by Alan Tennant at Leeds University to examine the potential of routine risk assessment and screening for self-harm and suicide amongst offenders.

Offender populations (particularly those recently sentenced or remanded) demonstrate high rates of self-harm and suicide. They represent a high risk group where a potential exists to address this public health concern by screening and identification of those who might show signs that are predictive of suicide.

Significant barriers exist to the wholesale use of screening and risk identification in this population.

This programme of research has been commissioned by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme. The group will review the available tools and evaluate their performance in predicting prisoner self-harm or suicide.

The study will be undertaken by members of the Prison and Offender Research in Social Care and Health network (PORSCH,) a practice-research network covering North East England, Yorkshire and Humberside, linked to the national Prison Health Research Network (PHRN).

£3m boost for cancer project

Scientists at HYMS and the University of York have been awarded over £3 million to continue a groundbreaking research project which is helping cancer patients in Yorkshire and across the UK.

The charity Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research is investing in further development of the Yorkshire & Humberside Haematology Research Network, which has already collected data from over 10,000 blood cancer patients in the Yorkshire area. The network works in partnership with 14 hospitals across Yorkshire and Humberside to gather information about each patient’s diagnosis, treatment course and outcome.

The team, led by Professor Eve Roman of HYMS and the Department of Health Sciences, now has some of the most detailed and accurate information in the world from patients with blood cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. The new five-year investment will help the scientists continue their analysis of this data, to provide new insights into what causes blood cancers, and which treatments are the most effective.

Depression can be treated effectively with psychotherapy by mental health nurses with minimal training, according to new preliminary research findings.

The study, led by Durham University’s Mental Health Research Centre, in collaboration with the University of York and HYMS, shows that patients with severe depression can be treated successfully with behavioural activation – a psychotherapy for depression – by non-specialist mental health staff which could potentially lead to considerable cost-savings for the NHS.
New research centre launched

The HYMS Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research (CCMR) was launched at the Daisy Building, Castle Hill Hospital.

The launch was accompanied by a keynote lecture by Professor Mauro Perretti, Professor of Immunopharmacology, William Harvey Research Institute, London.

His lecture was entitled “Harnessing the Resolution of Inflammation for Anti-inflammatory Drug Discovery”.

The Centre lead, Professor Khalid Naseem, welcomed some 50 guests to the launch and the Dean of HYMS, Professor Tony Kendrick, spoke about the HYMS CCMR.

During his opening address Professor Kendrick explained: “Cardiovascular diseases are a leading cause of mortality both nationally and here in our local community. The creation of the CCMR will allow HYMS to consolidate and focus our strong research expertise in this area of biomedicine.”

He said the CCMR had five research themes:

- Clinical and Molecular cardiology
- Diabetes and Metabolism
- Thrombosis/Haemostasis
- Vascular biology
- Respiratory medicine

It would look into the major health problems of heart failure, diabetes, atherosclerosis, thrombotic and haemostatic disorders via a range of approaches. He said the potential benefits of the CCMR included creating a unique competitive edge to allow translational research – “from bench to bedside”.

The CCMR would attract national and international recognition in the area, increase its ability to attract both high calibre scientists and sustainable research funding which was now moving towards more cognate multidisciplinary centres.

The CCMR replaces the former Centres for Biomedical Research and Clinical Sciences. It is one of five HYMS research centres. The other four Centres are:

- Anatomical and Human Sciences
- Health and Population Sciences
- Immunology and Infection
- Neuroscience

Next year staff from the CCMR will move from several different locations to the new Allam Building on the campus of the University of Hull, which will bring all the staff into one centre.

Blindness treatments to benefit from new in-‘sight’

New research shows that the areas of the brain responsible for vision do not reorganise themselves when the eye is damaged by disease.

This surprising finding, which opposes the prevailing world opinion in this area, is of great importance for developing treatments to overcome blindness.

Researchers funded by the Medical Research Council from HYMS, the University of York, University College London, Moorfields Eye Hospital and the University of Groningen publish their findings in the journal Nature Neuroscience. They report on an investigation of brain signals in patients with macular degeneration.
Dark chocolate is good for diabetics, study finds

A group of researchers from the University of Hull and the Hull York Medical School have found that dark chocolate has significant health benefits for people with Type 2 diabetes.

According to the study published in Diabetic Medicine, HDL (high density lipoprotein) or ‘good’ cholesterol is improved and overall cholesterol balance is enhanced when patients consume 45g of dark chocolate each day.

This is the first study to report on the effects of giving chocolate to individuals with Type 2 diabetes over a period of 16 weeks. The patients were given chocolate either with or without a high cocoa content. The dark chocolate contained 85% cocoa solids compared to the placebo which contained no cocoa solids but was dyed the same colour as the dark chocolate.

Individual 15g foil-wrapped bars were provided and the volunteers were asked to consume one bar three times a day. The patients were advised not to consume any other chocolate for the duration of the study and they were instructed to make no changes to their diet and lifestyle.

Dietary recall suggested that dark chocolate tended to replace other snack foods and there was therefore a reduction of food-based guilt.

Steve Atkin, Professor of Diabetes and Endocrinology, who led the study says: “People with Type 2 diabetes are twice as likely to develop cardiovascular disease and since one of the main contributory factors to heart disease is a low level of HDL or ‘good’ cholesterol, the findings that dark chocolate can improve this, means the results of this study are hugely significant.”

He continues: “Chocolate with a high cocoa content should be included in the diet of individuals with Type 2 diabetes as part of a sensible, balanced approach to diet and lifestyle. This study demonstrates that it can offer a potential reduction in cardiovascular risk without detrimental risks on weight, insulin resistance or glycaemic control.”

Researchers from HYMS and the University of Hull have also found dark chocolate has a significant effect on reducing the symptoms of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). The research, published in Nutrition Journal, found that polyphenol rich chocolate eases the condition, with subjects noting significant improvements to their well-being.
Hundreds of students turned out to hear euthanasia campaigners debate the pros and cons of physician-assisted dying at a meeting of the new HYMS Ethics Society.

Debbie Purdy, who recently won a case at the House of Lords to clarify the rules on prosecuting those who assist in euthanasia, spoke in favour of allowing doctors to help some patients to die. The opposing argument was put by Geoff Morris of campaign group Care Not Killing.

Members of the new Ethics Society provided refreshments for some 130 students in York and their counterparts at the University of Hull, who joined the debate via videolink.

The evening was hosted by Professor Alan Maynard, who facilitated an audience-led discussion to close the debate.

The HYMS Ethics Society was launched at a meeting with guest speaker Sir Graeme Catto, former president and chair of the General Medical Council. President of the Ethics Society Aysha Bibi said she was delighted Sir Graeme agreed to attend and formally launch the society.

Once again HYMS students showed off their communication skills in the annual competition for the FAMILeY award at the Middleton Hall, University of Hull.

Guests were treated to a series of presentations varying from Sexual Assault Referral Centres to food additives and the effects on the developing foetus.

The eventual winner, Sian Reece, received a certificate and a cheque for £1,000 for her presentation on ‘Female Urinary Incontinence’. The other finalists included:

- Andrea Baxter - ‘Sexual Assault Referral Centres’
- Maria Crouch - ‘Vaginal birth after Caesarean section’
- Nadia McAllister - ‘Food additives and the effects on the developing foetus’.

There was also a guest presentation from Emma Mironska and Greg Chambers on ‘Informed choice prior to breast cancer surgery’. The event was organised by the charity FAMILeY (Female And Maternity Issues Locally in East Yorkshire).
Prizes handed out to HYMS students

Prizewinning students were presented with their awards at a lunch at the University of Hull.

Third year student Ben Boxall was given the HYMS Phase 1 Prize in Pharmacology by Associate Dean for Research Ian Morris for passing his second year with the highest accumulated score from three components.

Associate Dean for Students, Prof Jonathan Bennett, awarded the Bob Morton prize for the student with the most Excellent grades in humanities Student Selected Components throughout both Phases I and II, to Claire Taylor.

The Dorothy Robson Prize for Palliative Medicine was handed over by Dr Peter Smith, a retired ICI executive who named the prize in memory of his late wife. It is given to the student from Years 4 or 5 who produces the best essay on a particular aspect of palliative care and this year it went to fifth-year student Michael Hughes.

Michael wrote an essay entitled: “Symptom control is a key patient priority in palliative care”. He was asked to choose one symptom and discuss its prevalence, impact and management with reference to the current evidence base.

The Jagdish Raut Award went to Samantha Craddock as the student in the second year who has made the greatest advancement in terms of academic studies.

Finally the Arthritis Research UK Prize in Musculoskeletal Medicine went to Muhammad Islam, Year 4, who wrote an essay entitled: “The impact of arthritis in the workplace: what can be done about it?”

The Dean of HYMS, Professor Tony Kendrick, congratulated all the students and wished them well in their continuing studies.

£500 bursaries for electives

Five students (pictured P10 above right) have been awarded £500 bursaries by the Hull Medical Society. To earn the award, students had to submit an abstract about their planned medical elective in 2010, then make a presentation on their return. The students were Simon Stapley, Adam Jakes, Keith Howell, Becky Simpson and Anna Stansfeld.

Year 4 student Naomi Chinn won a special commendation after being shortlisted for the Professor Harold Ellis Students Prize for Surgery 2010. This is the first time such a commendation has been awarded and it was created especially for Naomi after she impressed the panel at the Royal College of Surgeons in London with the confidence and originality of her presentation, ‘Which surgical specialty will become extinct first and why?’.

Student Rachel Stephenson is to present her research from her intercalated year spent at the University of York Biology Department at the Medical Student Research Conference organised by the Acorn Foundation.

Wilderness Medicine Society are looking for professionals with interests in areas such as altitude or diving medicine to help with the society. Email Contact: ben.marshall@hyms.ac.uk

HYMS is looking for healthy volunteers to help with teaching physical examination to medical students. Please contact kelly.northcott-orr@hyms.ac.uk
The HYMS Widening Participation Team, led by Associate Dean for Admissions Jane Adam, has published its strategy for the next three years.

Widening Participation (WP) is undertaken by all medical schools in the UK in an attempt to ensure doctors represent every sector of the population.

The work done by Jane Adam and Widening Participation Manager Jo Cross is aimed at students from less advantaged backgrounds who have an interest in medicine and the potential to be a doctor.

“Compared with other medical schools, HYMS has an extremely comprehensive strategy, covering every age group, using its limited Widening Participation resources to best effect,” explained Jane.

“There has been extensive consultation with our partner organisations during the creation of this strategy.”

In the next three years the WP team aims to reach as many people as possible across the HYMS region, in order to increase the level of knowledge and understanding about studying medicine across the whole region.

Highlights of the strategy for the next three years include:

- Aiming work specifically at parents and teachers, making the most efficient use of HYMS resources, by developing projects that can become self-sustaining
- Developing the Lucy project into a multi-media project with help from the e-learning team, so the project can be used by schools and teachers over the internet as well as during activity days at HYMS
- Working with students from WP backgrounds on website information development to create a new area of the website that provides the sort of information that WP applicants have difficulty finding, and addresses likely fears and uncertainties, such as funding
- Supporting a programme of students from the local region returning to their former schools to talk about medicine and HYMS.

The full strategy can be found at www.hyms.ac.uk
4 May
Seminar: Neurasthenia, masculinity and CFS in 19th century
Deane Building, West Campus, University of Hull, 17.15pm-18.15pm

6-8 May
York Alumni Reunion Weekend
For further information log on to: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/dar0/events/annualreunion.htm

11 May
North & East Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire (NEYNL) Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN) Palliative Care Specialty Group Conference
Royal York Hotel, York

14 July
HYMS graduation
University of York followed by reception at Heslington East

News in brief

► The HYMS Admissions Team will be hosting the annual one-day Northern Admissions Network of Medical Schools conference at Kings Manor on Friday 13th May. This will be an opportunity for colleagues from other universities to say farewell to Associate Dean for Admissions Dr Jane Adam, who set up the network shortly after she began working for HYMS. This year the meeting will focus on medical students with mental health problems.

► The Wellcome Trust has recently awarded funding (by the allocation of 25 studentships over 5 years) to support the establishment of a new four year PhD training programme for interdisciplinary training in the area of infectious disease research. This highly interdisciplinary programme, which is a joint initiative of the Centre for Immunology and Infection and the York Centre for Complex Systems Analysis, will be led and administered by the University of York Department of Biology.

► HYMS Clinical Skills Lead Anna Hammond has received a best poster award at the UK Conference “Communication in Undergraduate Medical Education” held in Manchester. It was co-authored by former HYMS Lecturer in healthcare communication Dr Sarah Collins, former Academic FY2 Dr K Thomas and Professor of Primary and Community Care Prof Ian Watt. Anna’s role within HYMS has also changed. She has been made Director of Communication Skills Teaching.

► HYMS is hosting an intercalated degree away day at Bishop Burton on Thursday 28th April. Current students intercalating on the HYMS BSc (Hons) Medical Science will give brief presentations on their research. Email: richard.nicholson@hyms.ac.uk

Students join first responders

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust has teamed up with HYMS students to train 33 students to become community first responders and help patients in the vital minutes before an ambulance arrives.

They have been trained in basic life-support, Cardio- Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and oxygen therapy and will be equipped with a kit to help patients suffering from a heart attack, cardiac arrest, collapse or breathing difficulties.

The students will work as volunteers on a rota system from 6pm to midnight from Monday to Friday and will respond to calls within a three-mile radius of the university campus in Cottingham Road, west Hull.

They could even be called upon to respond to calls on campus if necessary.

Paul Stevens, network response manager at Yorkshire Ambulance Service, said the partnership is unique.

“The Hull York Medical School is the first of its kind to have joined our life-saving community first responder scheme,” he said.

“As they already work in partnership with the NHS in the region, we felt it would be beneficial to develop this relationship and are delighted to be working alongside them.

“We know that in many medical emergencies, the first few minutes are critical and if effective treatment can be given to patients within those minutes, disability can be reduced and lives can be saved. In Hull and the East Riding, there are 407 community first responders.”

Photo: Hull Daily Mail
HYMS welcomed its second cohort onto the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education (PGCME) at an induction day held at the National Science Learning Centre in January and three former HYMS students are among the group.

It was an opportunity for the PGCME Programme Team to meet the 33 new students, and for them to meet their tutors and peer group for the year ahead.

By the end of the day participants were able to:

- Plan the year ahead by incorporating the PGCME Programme into an already busy schedule
- Use the VLE at an introductory level to plan and organise Module 1, and to locate essential PGCME resources
- Identify their own personal starting point by exploring their current teaching practice, their goals for the PGCME, and formulate an action plan for the year ahead

The day was an interesting mix of presentations, workshops and group work. Professor David Blaney, Undergraduate Dean of HYMS, gave a talk about Priorities in Medical Education. The students were given an introduction to HYMS postgraduate study and the PGCME programme itself.

The Dean of HYMS, Professor Tony Kendrick, gave a talk on the vision and strategy for postgraduate medical education in HYMS.

Many of the students said how much they enjoyed meeting and talking to others and understanding the objectives for the year ahead.

The first cohort for the PGCME, which started in January 2010, have successfully completed their studies.

If you are interested in studying for the PGCME this year, the deadline for applications is 29 July 2011. For more information or to book a place:

- Tel: 01904 321787
- Email: pgcme@hyms.ac.uk
- www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate

### Short courses

**Surgical Anatomy, Applied Physiology, Critical Care, Applied Pathology, Radiology and Communication Skills**

5-9 September 2011

A five day programme intended for candidates preparing for the Intercollegiate MRCS (Part B, OSCE and MCQ) examinations and covering almost all of the examination. The course has been designed by experienced examiners familiar with the new format of the Intercollegiate MRCS examination. Many of the Faculty will also be experienced Royal College of Surgeons of England examiners.

For more information please log on to: http://www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate/short-courses-cpd.aspx; Tel: 01482 464750/01904 321308 Email: jackie.houlton@hyms.ac.uk

**Geometric Morphometrics**

10-13 October 2011

This module aims to provide students with a firm foundation in the theory and practice of geometric morphometrics as applied to the study of phenotypic and functional variation. This is a HYMS-accredited module bearing 10 credits at level 7. This course runs over an intensive period comprising morning lectures and afternoon and early evening discussion and review sessions over a week. Study packs with pre-reading will be supplied and each afternoon and evening additional review material will be presented in seminar style supported by practical tasks.

More information can be found at: http://sites.google.com/site/hymsfme/gmm-course-2011

Cost: £200 plus VAT (free for HYMS Students).
Congratulations to Dr Miriam Johnson and Dr Sam Cobb on their recent funding awards. Dr Johnson, HYMS Reader in Palliative Medicine, has received £230,000 from the National Institute for Health Research’s Research for Patient Benefit programme for a project entitled “A randomised trial of high versus low intensity training in breathing techniques for breathlessness in patients with malignant lung disease: early intervention”. HYMS Lecturer in Anatomy Dr Cobb, as co-investigator with a colleague in Bristol, has been awarded a BBSRC grant totalling £460,000 for a project entitled “The morpho-functional evolution of bird beaks and skulls”.

The University of York was named University of the Year at the Times Higher Education Awards 2010. Judges recognised our academic excellence, social inclusion and impressive track record in scientific discovery. Since the founding of the University in 1963, York has powered its way to a consistent top ten ranking in the UK and is one of just six post-war universities to appear in the World Top 100.

HYMS is looking for former students who would like to help shape the future of the HYMS alumni association to get in touch. If you have any ideas about how you would like the alumni association to operate, what kind of events of activities you would like to see happen or you have any other good ideas as to how we can take the HYMS alumni association forward, we’d be delighted to hear from you. Please email emma.edmunds@hyms.ac.uk

York Alumni Reunion Weekend takes place 6-8 May 2011. For further information log on to: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/daro/events/annualreunion.htm

Postgraduate first for Ahmed

HYMS first postgraduate research student to graduate Ahmed Aburima is pictured with the Postgraduate Centre head Sarah Elton and Dean of HYMS Tony Kendrick. Ahmed was under the supervision of Professor Khalid Naseem and he conducted research into PkA signalling in blood platelets.

Intercollegiate Basic Surgical Skills (BSS) course

Venue: Castle Hill Hospital
Approved by the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Course dates:  4 – 6 May 2011 & 16 – 18 November 2011
Course fee:  £500

This 2 ½ day course is designed to provide an introduction to safe surgical practice within a controlled workshop environment. It covers:

- Open surgery
- Wound management
- Electro-surgery
- Endoscopic surgery

Features include:

- Intensive hands-on practice of basic skills
- Individual tuition, with a maximum of 14 participants per course
- Personal feedback on performance, with advice for further practice
- A detailed course manual and course video

For an application form please contact:
Claire Acey, Academic Surgical Unit, Castle Hill Hospital, Castle Road Cottingham, HU16 5JQ
Tel: 01482 623393  Fax: 01482 623274  Email: c.l.acey@hull.ac.uk

For more information on postgraduate training options being developed at HYMS, email postgraduate@hyms.ac.uk or visit our website.
Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education
October 2011 - September 2012

For more information or to book a place contact:
- Tel: 01904 321787
- Email: pgcme@hymms.ac.uk
- Web: www.hymms.ac.uk/postgraduate