

# Medical Education News

Imperial College London

September 2009 | Issue 3

## Student Union Presidents—Past and Present



Left to Right— Dr Lucy Pickard, Dr Danny McGuinness, Dr Shiv Chopra, Dr Tim Wills, Mr Mark Chamberlain and Mr Anil Chopra

The 2009 ICSM Student Union Summer Ball, in aid of the Children's Heart Foundation, provided a rare photo opportunity as six consecutive Student Union Presidents joined students and staff at The Room by the River on the South bank, to celebrate the graduation of the class of 2009 and also the end of the 2008-09 academic year. Anil commented "this opportunity highlighted how great it is when we keep in touch with alumni, I hope that we will all be able to attend medical school events in years to come". Highlights of the evening included guest speaker, Professor Karim Meeran, a presentation of: 'the colours', the Students' Union awards for varied contribution to the

### Awards to NHS staff for Teaching Excellence

The contribution of over 800 NHS staff in West London to delivering the undergraduate course is valued immensely by the College, and there is recognition that the teaching is a shared activity, delivered by the medical and nursing staff, pharmacists, therapists and many others employed in both hospitals and general practice. Ten prizes are awarded each year and they may be made to staff at any grade and in any profession. Congratulations to the 2008-09 winners:

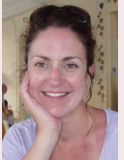
- Dr Nagi Barakat, The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
- Dr Musa Barkeji, West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
- Dr Hugh Bethell, North West London Hospital NHS Trust
- Dr Sushen Bhattacharya, North West London Hospital NHS Trust
- Mr Raj Bhutiani, North West London Hospital NHS Trust
- Mr Vassilios Papalopis, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- Dr Bobby Prasad, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Dr Amrit Sachar, West London Mental Health NHS Trust
- Dr Simon Steward, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- Mr Hamid Zadeh, West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

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medical school; the Roger Banister prize for sporting excellence; and the ICSM alumni prize awarded for contributions outside of medical school, whilst promoting the good name of the school. Following the presentations, students, staff and guests danced the night away at the after party to the eclectic pop-rock-RnB-motown mix of the 'SOLE Clickers'.

Meet...

Dr Carolyn Gabriel







I have been a Consultant Neurologist and Academic Co-ordinator for undergraduate neurology at St Mary's since 2004. I am a General Neurologist with subspecialist interests in peripheral neuropathy and HTLV myelopathy. I have been involved in many facets of undergraduate education over the last five years, from admission interviewing, to acting as group leader on the Patient Contact Course, from lecturing, to taking finals revision groups and examining for PACES. Since being appointed in April as Vertical Theme Lead for Clinical and Technical Competencies, Patient Safety and Preparation for Practice, (quite a mouthful and quite a challenge) I have been on a very steep but enjoyable (sometimes) learning curve, increasingly feeling less of a charlatan. The biggest challenge is my role, over the last three months, as Academic Lead for the development of student e-portfolios. We hope to introduce an e-portfolio system, which will enable students to collect information and reflect upon their experiences and development throughout their studies, for the new intake this autumn. This, my inclusion on 16 committees, and my clinical work have more than kept me busy in recent months! I hope to develop the Patient Safety and other aspects of my Theme in the months to come.

## Top Technology Tips

Ms Maria Toro, Senior Learning Technologist

	<p>Explore results visually. Google has added a link to the top of its search results list, labelled 'Show options'. Click this to reveal new search-related features and select 'Wonder wheel' view, which offers a visual depiction of search results: <a href="http://www.google.co.uk">http://www.google.co.uk</a></p>
 <p><b>NovaPDF Lite</b></p>	<p>Easy free PDF creator that doesn't require any extra software: <a href="http://www.novapdf.com/">http://www.novapdf.com/</a></p>
	<p>Format any webpage for printing and cut out any unnecessary information. <a href="http://www.printwhatyoulike.com">http://www.printwhatyoulike.com</a></p>

## Technology Jargon Buster

 <p><b>Blackboard</b> Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)</p>	<p>A VLE is a software system designed to support teaching and learning in an educational setting, it provides a collection of tools such as those for assessment communication, uploading of content, return of students' work, peer assessment, administration of student groups, collecting and organizing student grades, questionnaires, tracking tools, etc.</p>
	<p>Twitter is a free social networking service that enables its users to send and read messages known as <i>tweets</i>. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers who are known as <i>followers</i>. <a href="http://www.twitter.com">http://www.twitter.com</a></p>
<p><b>WIDGETS</b></p> 	<p>A desktop widget is a small specialised application that provides some visual information and/or easy access to frequently used functions such as clocks, calendars, news aggregators, calculators and desktop notes.</p>
	<p>Create your own personalised web page containing widgets for all your most frequently visited sites. <a href="http://netvibes.com">http://netvibes.com</a></p>
<p>If you have any useful links to share, email us at: <a href="mailto:toptips@elearningimperial.com">toptips@elearningimperial.com</a></p>	



## E-Learning Update

Ms Maria Toro, Senior Learning Technologist

### E-portfolios

A detailed evaluation of different e-portfolio systems was carried out in June 2009. The e-portfolio system selected is PebblePad. The evaluation report can be accessed at: <http://tiny.cc/jm8D8>

An e-portfolio Working Group has been set up led by Dr Carolyn Gabriel. The group aims to implement and deliver the Pebble Pad e-portfolio system for Years 1 and 3 starting in September 2009.



The implementation of the e-portfolio system in **Year 1** aims to provide domain areas to support:

- Reflection and communication between students and *Personal Tutors*. This domain will include a reflective section titled 'How I learn'.
- *Skills and Competencies* to record early clinical observations and practice, mapping clinical observations with clinical skills.
- A reflection area for *Communications Skills*.
- A personalised area for record of *Assessments*.
- Reflection on *Professionalism*.

The implementation of the e-portfolio system in **Year 3** aims to provide support on:

- Skills and Competencies to record early clinical observations and practice, mapping clinical observations with clinical skills.
- Opportunities for reflection.



PebblePad – <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk>

## JISC – Organising Open Educational Resources (OOER)

A consortium of Imperial with 9 other UK medical schools was successful in a bid on this Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) project in the areas of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine. The project aims to explore the processes for sharing educational resources in the areas mentioned above looking at technical, IPR, copyright and pedagogic issues. The project is being lead by Newcastle University.



## Today's Technologies for Learning and Teaching 20 April 2009

Oral and poster presentations were made at this event in College. The posters and presentations are available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/b5g9be>

### E-modules

Eleven new e-modules have been produced in the area of **Cardiology**. The e-modules will be accessed by Year 6 undergraduate medical students during their Clinical Cardiology Attachment via Blackboard.



### College E-Learning Committee

The Committee, previously chaired by Professor Dennis Wright, has been reformed under Professor Omar Matar (Chemical Engineering) and reports to the College's Strategic Education Committee.

### Heads-Up-Display (HUD) for game-based learning in Second Life

A HUD or 'Dashboard' has been implemented in the virtual hospital with the purpose of delivering rewards information as well as keeping the learner informed of his/her progress. The HUD let students know what patients they have seen, how far they have gone in their diagnosis process and their score per patient. The HUD also let students know who about the Top Scorer for each of the patients treated within the virtual hospital.

A demo can accessed via YouTube at: <http://tinyurl.com/mwpm2r>

## Physiological Society Prize

*Professor Nancy Curtin*

Congratulations to Meghana Kulkarni, the Imperial College winner of The Physiological Society Undergraduate Prize for Physiology for academic year 2008-9. Each year the Physiological Society awards prizes to students at eligible institutions. At Imperial the prize is awarded on the basis of the excellence of a BSc project on a physiological topic. Meghana's project, "The Effects of Energy Drink on Central Fatigue" was supervised by Dr. Paul Strutton and Lynsey Duffell and was part of her BSc in Surgery and Anaesthesia. In addition to receiving a certificate and £100, Meghana adds to her Curriculum Vitae this very notable achievement. Left to right— Prof. Alison McGregor (*Course Director for BSc in Surgery and Anaesthesia*); Dr. Lynsey Duffell (*Project co-supervisor*); Miss Meghana Kulkarni (*Award winner*); Prof. Nancy Curtin (*Physiological Society Representative for Imperial College*).



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The awards will be presented on the evening of 18 November 2009 at Lecture Theatre G16, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, South Kensington Campus, London, SW7 2AZ and will be followed by Professor Jenny Higham's inaugural lecture and a drinks reception. Registration in advance is required and if you are interested in attending, please contact Joanna Chrobak via email: [umo-admin@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:umo-admin@imperial.ac.uk) or 020 7594 9807.

### Our heroes...

The new Local Teaching Hero scheme is aimed at recognising the excellent teaching delivered by our colleagues at non-consultant level and allied health care professionals. Trusts can nominate up to 10 individuals on two occasions annually; by 31 January and 30 June. Both staff and students are eligible to make nominations to the Director of Clinical Studies. Congratulations to those who were our heroes awarded in June. A full list is available online: <https://education.med.imperial.ac.uk/Staff/heroes.htm> and will be printed in the programme for the NHS Teaching Excellence Awards.



### Meet... Alison McGregor

*Professor of Musculoskeletal Biodynamics and Vertical Theme Head for Research for Scientific Advancement of Medicine*

The clinician scientist theme is ideal for me as it combines my clinical background as a physiotherapist with my scientific research career. When I worked clinically, my fascination was with what went wrong with the musculoskeletal system rather than just treating the symptoms; working out how we could stop these injuries happening again, which is really important in areas like sports and performance. I developed an interest in how the system worked and to investigate and take this further I needed science and scientific skills which led me to my Masters in Bioengineering and then my PhD in the mechanics of spinal movement. I still work in the area of the spine mechanics and have an interest in back pain and elite performance looking at what goes wrong essentially. This work is very multi-disciplinary and for the science to be relevant we work closely with both clinicians including surgeons, general practitioners, physiotherapists, bioengineers, physicists, computer programmers and people like coaches, physiologists for the sports work. The ability to link clinical work with science and scientific observation has underpinned this work and has been at the root of its suc-

cess and relevance. In this role, I'd hope to challenge the way people see scientists and the role of science in medicine. Many people think it's not relevant or it's just not my thing and of course not everyone is going to be the next Nobel Prize winner in science. But if we are all being challenged by governing bodies such as NICE to use evidenced based practice, our peers and colleagues not to mention the media as to why we do what we do and more importantly does it work? Then we need to use science. Without science we also won't make new break throughs in treatments. Unfortunately not all science is good and most studies however well designed have shortfalls, we need to be able to recognise these and digest what the real messages are so we can use these to direct our clinical practice. So we are looking at aspects of the curriculum to integrate some of these ideas using media press releases on topical issues in Years 1 and 2, to working through how to read and report on research in Year 3. The BSc year will then build on these skills and we are looking at how we can maintain this new level of questioning in the final two years of the course.



## Unleashing Aspiration

Medical Schools Council

The Medical Schools Council welcomes the report 'Unleashing Aspiration' from the Panel for Fair Access to the Professions and agrees that for the benefit of all, further efforts must be made to excite young people from all backgrounds about the rewarding challenges offered by a medical career.

Outreach programmes such as MedEx offer the opportunity to learn more about medicine and with more than one in four of all medical school applicants and acceptances from minority ethnic backgrounds in 2007, and women making up 57% of both applicants and acceptances for medical schools, the future outlook is positive. But the Medical Schools Council agrees that much more needs to be done to ensure that social class is not a barrier.

Hearing directly from a professional what a career means in practice often helps young people make the right choice about their future and Medical Schools are committed to this. The medical sector has already set up institutional and collaborative agreements that make modified offers or provide additional support for young people from underrepresented groups.

Schemes also exist that are aimed at improving outreach to students interested in medicine from disadvantaged backgrounds. A number of Medical Schools, including Imperial, have also forged relationships with the Brightside

Trust to provide an e-mentoring service and in addition, we run an annual summer school, MedEx, which provides 20 able school students from underprivileged backgrounds with the opportunity to be a medical student for a week. This builds confidence by demonstrating to them that they could thrive in, and even enjoy, medical school – something that the majority lack, at the beginning of the week. The student society, Vision Outreach offers a one day conference where school students can practice their interview skills and meet current students. These schemes represent a flourishing partnership between staff and medical students which gives added strength to our outreach activities.

As well as schemes for aspiring students, from this year, we are also able to offer substantial levels of financial support for existing students in need, thanks to the generosity of the New Victoria Medical Foundation and the financial acumen of Vision Outreach, and we look forward to awarding the first bursaries under these schemes in 2009/10.

Professor Sir John Tooke, Chair of the Medical Schools Council and the representative for Medicine on the Panel for Fair Access to the Professions, said 'the Medical Schools Council is committed to social mobility and is keen to build on current examples of good practice and see them extend across the sector'.

The Medical Schools Council's submission of evidence to the Panel is available on the Medical Schools Council website:

[www.medschools.ac.uk/news](http://www.medschools.ac.uk/news).



## Welcome to the new term

Professor Jenny Higham,  
Head of Undergraduate Medicine

The new academic year approaches and as usual activity in the undergraduate medicine course continues at a pace:

I am pleased to announce the appointments of:

- Dr Aaron Vallance, as Clinical Research Fellow - Education/Curriculum Development;
- Dr Keith Gould as the new Theme Leader for 'Molecules, Cells and Diseases' in Years 1 and 2; and
- Dr Adrian Raby as the new Medical Ethics and Law Lead for Graduate Entry Medicine.

In addition to these, further opportunities to get involved are:

- a new Ophthalmology Lead for Teaching;
- Chair of Year 3 Sub Board of Examiners;
- Joint Leader for the Patient Contact Course;
- Year 5 Teaching Skills Lead; and
- Head of Year 5 following the retirement of Professor Tom Sensky.

The curriculum review continues to make progress with changes being implemented this year and ongoing discussion at the Curriculum Review Implementation Group and across the undergraduate committees. A new website will be available to share with you all of the proposed changes: <https://education.med.imperial.ac.uk/curriculumreview/>

Please feel free to email comments to Mrs Michele Foot: [m.foot@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:m.foot@imperial.ac.uk). All staff and students comments/ contributions continue to be very welcome.

In December we will be visited by the General Medical Council (GMC) who will be examining our progress on the implementation of their requirements and recommendations imposed following the Quality Assurance of Basic Medical Education visit during 2007-08. The half-day event will involve the GMC visitors meeting senior with academic and administrative staff to discuss progress on management issues, curriculum development and assessments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your invaluable contributions to the teaching in undergraduate medicine; I am extremely grateful to you. The highly successful courses still attract students of superb calibre that contribute to the life and soul of Imperial, both social and academic.

With best wishes,

*Jenny*



Top—students celebrating Affirmation Day; Right—students and staff on the top table at the Summer Ball.

Medical Education News is produced by the Undergraduate Medicine Office for staff of the Faculty and associated Trusts. We would welcome any articles for publication on your latest medical education news. If you would like to contribute something to the next edition of the newsletter please contact Mr Paul Ratcliffe, Quality Assurance and Enhancement Manager, via email on [p.ratcliffe@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:p.ratcliffe@imperial.ac.uk) or via telephone on: 020 7594 9819.

Online: <https://education.med.imperial.ac.uk/Staff/MEN.htm>

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