**School of Medicine**

**Year 6 Course**

**Professional Work Experience Placements**

**Guidelines for Students**

* **Background**

Year 6 is a time when you will begin to consolidate some practical skills and appreciate how healthcare is delivered as part of a team. You will also be concerned with the responsibilities you will have in Foundation Year 1. The Professional Work Experience placement was sometimes referred to as a “shadow attachment” in the past, but this has been changed because it quite definitely gave the wrong impression of what you should be doing during this period. These placements represent important opportunities to revise your Medicine and Surgery, to practice your clinical skills and to observe how other members of the team relate to one another. You also need to use it as an opportunity to improve your ability to recognise how we identify those who are seriously ill and when those on the team seek the urgent assistance of those more senior to themselves. To enable you to get the most out of these attachments your consultant supervisors have been asked to pay special attention ensuring that you achieve all of the objectives necessary during this module. This attachment is designed to prepare you to become a member of a professional team, and you should receive sufficient supervision, encouragement and experience from your lead consultant and the senior members of the team.

* **Aim**

The aim of this attachment is to enable you to appreciate both the range of skills needed to work in a Foundation Year 1 post, and to gain some insight into how you might integrate these skills into professional practice. This experience differs from other attachments in that you should be integrated into the clinical team. Therefore your timetable should reflect the pattern of working of the team.

* **Learning Opportunities:**

You should have the opportunity to review and enhance your competence in practical skills and the “generic” skills such as team working and communication. You should also reflect on your ability to organise a working day. If possible you may also find it valuable to take the opportunity to spend some time working with professionals other than doctors.

* **Supervision**

You should **never be in a position where you are asked to work beyond your competence** or outside the structured supervision required for pre-qualification students. All staff on the team should be aware of these limitations on students work.

* **Consultant Responsibility**

You are working towards Foundation Year 1 posts, and will spend time with the FY1 on the firm. However, your consultant and other senior staff are in overall charge and have the responsibility for supervising and guiding you during the attachment. Your consultant will be responsible for carrying out an Acute Case Report assessment and end of attachment assessment for you, to ensure that your performance is satisfactory to continue to the Final exam.

* **Agreeing & Reviewing Objectives**

The experience and opportunities available to you will depend on the work and organisation of the team in which you are working. If possible you should meet with your consultant supervisor at the beginning of the attachment to agree objectives, while referring to the skills checklist (available on the intranet). You should also meet with your supervisor for an appraisal at the end of the attachment. This meeting should focus on your development towards working as a FY1, and should be an opportunity for both you and your supervising consultant to express your views on what you do well and those areas where further work may be required.

* **Acute Case Report**

From 2004 the Final MBBS exam no longer included a “long case” as part of the clinical exam. The Exam board therefore decided that students would be required to perform this as part of their PWE attachments. Further information regarding the Acute Case Report can be found on the intranet.

* **Problems on your Attachment**

 If you have any problems or concerns during your attachment, please contact Maya Mistry (Year 6 Curriculum Assistant) m.mistry@imperial.ac.uk to discuss your concerns further.