Welcome from the Founding Dean of Medicine, Professor Karol Sikora.

The opening of our doors to undergraduate medics in January 2015 will be a landmark for British education.

Professor Karol Sikora, Founding Dean of Medicine.

The traditional medical schools do not appreciate that ageing populations, technological acceleration and the consumerism driven by the information explosion have transformed the medical landscape. A healthcare revolution, while inevitable, is also potentially dangerous. We have seen how the NHS, as it has struggled to introduce market and budgetary constraints, has also on occasion forgotten the basic principles of care, compassion and professional excellence.

But Buckingham has form—good form—in this area and its insistence on putting the student first (an insistence it could achieve only because it was independent from the state) has resulted in it coming top of the National Student Survey of Satisfaction more often than any other University in Britain.

This monthly newsletter will keep you up to date with the advancements in the Medical School as we countdown to January 2015, and in touch with current research and publications coming from our well established School of Science.

Applied computing students from the University of Buckingham are setting up a fully integrated and comprehensive MBChB database.

The database will integrate all aspects of data collection from assessment, quality, student support, placements and equality. It will enable collection of many different types of data, such as scanned images, narrative data, and feedback.

In medicine students have to accumulate evidence of their progression which can come in the form of hand written notes from a consultant, for example.

“‘To our knowledge, no other medical school has a fully integrated system such as we’re planning,” said John Ciapham Project lead. The technical lead for this project is Hongbo Du and co-supervised by Torben Kuseler.

The University of Buckingham Medical School App will be available to download in March 2014. The App will include helpful information for prospective undergraduates, and come to acquire:

- Module Information
- Twitter API
- Online Application forms
- Online Calendar
- Forum Discussion Tiles
- Live Updates
MD student presents two clinical research findings

DR PUNITH KEMPEGOWDA, FORMER CLINICAL M.Sc. STUDENT AND CURRENT M.D STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM, PRESENTED TWO OF HIS CLINICAL RESEARCH FINDINGS IN A PUBLIC LECTURE AT BUCKINGHAM LAST MONTH.

Dr Kempegowda compared two different CT modalities - CT calcium scoring and CT coronary angiography - for profiling cardiovascular blockages. The study highlighted the importance of considering ethnicity in risk profiling. The second study evaluated exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) in patients with diabetes. Nearly a third of the study population were found to have symptoms for EPI and further research into this field is in progress.

While the first study was presented as the annual conference of the European Society of Cardiac Radiology, the second study was presented at the Autumn Meeting of the Welsh Endocrine and Diabetes Society. Both these studies were well received.

"Dr Kempegowda is an excellent example of how incorporating research can improve clinical care", said Dr Joanne Selway, Phase I Lecturer for the MBChB.

Profiles: Meet our Members

EVERY MONTH WE PROFILE A MEMBER OF STAFF AND HIGHLIGHT SOME STUDENT RESEARCH, TO HELP YOU GET A FEEL FOR LIFE AT BUCKINGHAM.

STAFF: Dr Kenny Langlands

DR KENNETH LANGLANDS JOINED THE UNIVERSITY IN 2003 AND IS THE PHASE 1 LEAD FOR THE NEW MBChB.

A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Dr Langlands studied Genetics before going on to gain a PhD from the Department of Haematology. This was followed by postdoctoral research at the Universities of Bristol, Pittsburgh and Cambridge before moving to Buckingham to develop research into bioinformation and skin disorders. He has written numerous research papers and maintains an active research programme at Buckingham, covering molecular aspects of dermatological disease.

Dr Langlands is a member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and sits on the advisory board of the Open Dermatology Journal.

STUDENT: Andrew Neves

MY M.Sc. FOCUSES ON AN ATYPICAL ANTI-PYSCHOTIC DRUG THAT IS PRIMARILY USED FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA.

Although it’s effective, it carries the risk of severe weight gain and Type II diabetes – disorders that can be equally, if not more destructive than schizophrenia itself. We are looking at how this drug acts in the body and possible ways we can reduce these side effects. An interesting link to mechanisms associated with binge eating has emerged. It has been a very exciting year for me, and I can’t wait to see how the rest of my thesis unfolds.

On Today at 2pm:

Lecture by Mr Oliver Pearce

TODAY AT 2PM, MR OLIVER PEARCE, A SURGEON AT MK HOSPITAL, WILL PRESENT THREE SHORT TALKS ON HIS RECENT RESEARCH, ON RESPECTIVELY: TITANIUM IN CERAMIC HIP REPLACEMENTS, CHONDROMALACIA IN THE KNEE AND PSYCHOPATHY IN DOCTORS.

The talk will take place in the Radcliffe Centre. Mr Pearce is Director of Trauma Surgery and clinical lead for orthopaedic research at Milton Keynes General Hospital. He is the lead for the Muscular Skeletal Care block of Phase II of the MBChB course at the University of Buckingham.

All visiting students are welcome to attend.

Radcliffe Centre, Church ST.