



THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM

MEDICAL SCHOOL

February 2014

www.buckingham.ac.uk/medicine

Second Edition



Artist's Impression of the New Medical School at the University of Buckingham

Inaugural Open Day Attracts Students from Across the World

Professor Mike Cawthorne, Head of the Medical School welcomed over 50 guests to the first University of Buckingham Medical School Open Day

Guests hailed from as far as Saudi Arabia keen to see the Buckingham campus and hear first-hand what they can expect as a student of Buckingham. Professor Stuart Petersen, Director of Medical Education then gave an interesting and informative presentation on the MB ChB degree detailing the core components of the Programme



Professor Mike Cawthorne, Head of School



Foundation Year Doctor Sophie Goldstein talks about the impact of clinical placements in deciding which field to specialise in.

and how the academic and clinical aspects of the curriculum will prepare new graduates for life as a doctor.

Foundation Year doctors Sophie Hanina, Shingai Pepereke and Sophie Goldstein who are coming to the end of placements at Milton Keynes Hospital, shared their experiences of life as junior doctors, their typical (and extraordinary) working week in the surgical department under the direction of Chief Surgeon Professor Doug McWhinnie who is

the Medical School's Phase II Lead and in charge of the clinical side of the Programme. Alumni were on hand to answer questions about the student experience and other senior staff including Mr. Martin Wetherill, Medical Director at Milton Keynes Hospital took part in a Q&A panel session. At lunch there was opportunity for visitors to have informal discussions with academic and clinical staff and ask further questions.

The date of the next Open Day will be announced shortly and is expected to be scheduled for early April 2014

Interested parties are welcome to visit the campus at any time by contacting the School Admissions Officer, Stephen Maden at medicine-admissions@buckingham.ac.uk

For admissions enquiries please contact Stephen Maden via medicine-admissions@buckingham.ac.uk

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Contributing Authors: **Helena Kealey and Ash Dawotal**

First University Medical School Selection Day

The Medical School invited almost 40 hopeful students to attend its first Selection Day on 4th February. Over 70 applicants went through an initial paper screening and those who met the high academic benchmark were offered the chance to display their wider skills by taking part in a series of workstation exercises designed to assess the other attributes essential for becoming successful in Medicine.

A team comprising of senior academic and clinical staff headed by Professor David McLoughlin, an expert in selection, observed as students completed the eight exercises designed to test communication skills, comprehension, numerical capability, team working abilities, consultation style and analysis culminating in a personal interview.

Staff at Buckingham spent considerable time studying the

different methods used by UK medical schools in selecting students for highly competitive places on undergraduate MB ChB programmes. Ensuring a high academic standard from the outset is of paramount importance but we also recognise how significant an individual's ability to interact with peers and patients is in modern medicine. By marrying both of these elements we will be setting the best possible test of a future doctor's ability.

As students can choose to apply to the Medical School directly the usual UCAS deadlines do not apply. A further Selection Day is scheduled for April with a third due to take place after applications close on 29 August 2014. For further information about submitting an enquiry or application please visit www.buckingham.ac.uk/admissions/applyonline



Chandos Road Building, venue of the Medical School Selection Day

Psychopathic Doctors

On January 15 Mr. Oliver Pearce, the Director of Trauma Surgery and Clinical Lead for Orthopaedic Research at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, presented three short talks about his most recent research at Buckingham.

The hall was filled with professors, scientists and students from the Buckingham Institute of Translational Medicine alongside many prospective MB ChB undergraduates who had visited the University for the Medical School Open Day, held earlier that morning.

The talk was an exciting mix of cutting edge research and humorous although poignant insights into the doctoring profession, as Mr Pearce presented: Titanium in Ceramic Hip Replacements, Chondromalacia in the Knee and Psychopathy in Doctors; his final talk involving the shocking exposé that an

abnormally high level of psychopathy exists amongst doctors, with particular concentration amongst surgeons and paediatric doctors. His research was based upon tests that were sent to fellow clinicians via email.

Mr Pearce's first two talks were of a more serious and conclusive nature, tackling the big issues of research around which Mr Pearce has built his career. His presentation of 'Chondromalacia in the Knee' involved an exploration of the many ways that the cartilage at the back of the knee cap can cause pain and require treatment, and the differing possible avenues with which doctors and orthopaedic surgeons like Mr Pearce can take. His second presentation, 'Titanium in Ceramic Hip Replacements' highlighted the abnormally high level of titanium found in the blood of some hip replacement patients caused by hip replacement erosion, and compared these studies with results from alternative types of replacement hip, differing kinds of successful and less successful surgeries and his own personal experience with patients.

as part of the Phase II programme on the new MBChB at Buckingham, which is part of the two and a half year clinical block in which undergraduate medics will study and undertake placements at Milton Keynes Hospital and St Andrews Healthcare Centre in Northampton.

"It was a startling and engaging talk." said Dr Claire Stocker, the Student Support Lead "We are looking forward to actively working with him".



Ollie Pearce

Mr Pearce will be the lead for the Muscular Skeletal Care module

Staff Feature

In every issue we'll introduce you to a member of the Medical School Faculty and ask their views on current affairs in their specialist field

Dr Greg Simons

Dr Greg Simons is GP Lead at The University of Buckingham Medical School. He is also a Senior GP Partner at North End Surgery in Buckingham as well as an Associate GP Dean at Oxford Deanery and an Honorary Medical Officer for SSAFA.

At Buckingham, Greg Simons will run the Consultation Skills Foundation Course, teaching students to take histories and examine patients.

Q: What is your view on plans for GP surgeries to be open 7 days a week?

I think that it is something we should work towards, but is something that needs to be sustainable for the patients and for the doctors.

We need to differentiate between access, which is ability to see any clinician, and accessibility, which is the ability to see a specified clinician. We need to be careful that we don't go so far down the road that we end up emphasising convenience over quality of care. Prioritising convenience doesn't guarantee continuity, and continuity is very important in healthcare. Without a guarantee of accessibility, a patient might end up seeing ten doctors for the same condition.

Q: Is the answer to have more doctors?

It's one answer. There are several different ways of doing it. And we're working on a project at the moment where patients choose between access and accessibility. The solution differs from community to community. I am blessed here with fantastic patients, who support us and have realistic ideas on how it should happen.

Q: How do you think the Medical School will affect your practice and the hospital in Milton Keynes

Personally, I think that it will be fantastic to have a steady stream of medical students within my own practice. We already have students from the University of Oxford and that proves to be a very popular rotation. We're already a training practice, and teach junior GPs.

As Milton Keynes Hospital has already proven, having junior doctors in training and in education creates an injection of resources, as well as services in the local community.

Q: Is the independent nature of the University of Buckingham a draw for you?

I went to The Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, which is an independent medical school, and it had lots of strengths, and I think something like that for Buckingham and the UK is really interesting. The advantage of an independent medical school is



Dr Greg Simons

that they're not constrained by the political zeitgeist that there is at the time. And so therefore you can think outside the box.

Q: What can students hope to gain from undertaking GP placements?

Whilst students are doing placements they get to see real patients and real doctors, real GPs making real decisions and I think that's the crucial thing. They will get to learn about everyday healthcare.

A medical student who is only exposed to specialised problems will know a great deal about uncommon metabolic diseases, but will be less familiar with more commonplace conditions such as a hernia or gout.

General Practitioners deal with these conditions on a day to day basis, and students on placements will learn about the process of diagnosing and treating these. Rather than focusing on a particular disease, General Practitioners deal with the disease and its context, and that includes the patient, the family and the community. Exposure to this practice is immensely valuable to medical students.

Medical School Overseas Recruitment Visits

5-10 February 2014: KENYA

Recruitment and Development Officer Ash Dawotal will be visiting Kenya to attend the UK Universities Fair hosted by Hillcrest School, Nairobi. The fair is open to the general public on Saturday 8th February from 1000 until 1500.

11-18 February 2014: MAURITIUS

Ash will be travelling on to Mauritius during February making private visits to secondary schools on behalf of the Medical School. He will also be attending the public Mauritius University, Career and Job Expo held on 14, 15 and 16 February between 1000 and 1800 at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, Domaine Les Pailles.



Ash Dawotal

Over 50% of medical students will go on to become GP's

The Importance of Excellence in Teaching

In June 2013 an EU commission on higher education made the recommendation that all University lecturers should be required to undertake teacher training qualifications. This has been met with mixed reactions amongst UK universities where research and publications are often considered to be the main priority of flourishing academics, and an ability to impart their findings in lectures presumed to be synonymous with the quality of their discoveries. The introduction of the National Student Survey allowed undergraduates to provide feedback on their overall perception of the quality of teaching in their institutions and the University of Buckingham is delighted to be ranked consistently within the top 5 universities within this category and is known as the place where *“the most senior academics teach and interact with the newest undergraduates”*.

So how does the issue of teaching qualifications for university lecturers, a current topic for discussion amongst the National Union of Students, impact on medical students and in particular those of the future University of Buckingham Medical School? The GMC requires the JEA UK Professional

Standards Framework (UKPSF) to be incorporated into all teaching. Current Buckingham staff, Dr Kenny Langlands, Dr Claire Stocker, Dr Jacqueline O'Dowd and Dr Joanne Selway have all recently completed the first element of the Postgraduate Certificate for Teaching at Higher Education (PCTHE), undertaken at Oxford Brookes University. Their success ensures that all of the staff involved in Phase I of the MB ChB degree have a current knowledge of how to teach within a university context with particular regard for medical education.

The second part of the PCTHE course is due to begin in September 2014 and will be completed during the introductory terms of Phase I teaching. Undergraduates will be able to enjoy a uniform level of teaching excellence at Buckingham, with student focused lecturing and high standards of professional self-assessment. Dr. Selway, Phase 1 Unit Lead for Membranes and Receptors comments *“The qualification goes above the standard requirement. We're really pleased that the first part of this course has been completed, and we feel ready for the arrival of students in January.”*



Dr Jo Selway

Collagen

A NOVEL METHOD TO ASSESS COLLAGEN ARCHITECTURE IN SKIN' BMC BIOINFORMATICS 2013, 14:260
doi:10.1186/1471-2105-14-260 HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY OSMAN OSMAN, DR JOANNE SELWAY, PARVATHY HARIKUMAR, DR CLAIRE STOCKER, ED WARGENT, PROFESSOR MICHAEL CAWTHORNE, PROFESSOR SABAH JASSIM AND DR KENNY LANGLANDS.

“Rather than a simple protective layer, the skin is a complex organ, specialised for many functions”, said Dr Kenny Langlands, Phase 1 Lead “Loss of skin integrity has cosmetic implications (for example in sun-damage) or more serious clinical consequences, notably in impaired wound healing. Measuring incremental changes in skin structure can provide an “early warning” of later problems, or allow the efficacy of skin-restoring therapies to be assessed. However, effective

methods to do this are not available to researchers. In this report, we developed computational methods to quantify the organisation of a key component of a lower layer of the skin (the dermis), specifically collagen. In this manuscript we were able to measure progressive loss of skin structure in ageing, and diabetic states. We are now in the process of investigating therapies to reverse this damage.”



Dr Kenny Langlands, Phase I Lead

Madhumita Das Student Research

“My MRes INVOLVES A SYSTEMATIC COMPARISON OF BIOLOGICAL PATHWAY ENRICHMENT WITH DISEASE ETIOLOGY, USING DIFFERENT PATHWAY ANALYSIS TOOLS.”

An improved understanding of the role of biological pathways prescribed by genes in normal and diseased states will effect diagnosis, prognostication (i.e. predicting outcome using biomarkers) and pharmacological intervention (i.e. treatment).

I am investigating the use of computational tools to “enrich” complex microarray datasets for processes associated with disease. By using a mix of open-access, commercial and novel packages developed in-house, I hope to gain a more profound understanding of the

molecular basis of specific disease.

Madhumita Das,
postgraduate student at the
Institute of Translational
Medicine, University of
Buckingham

An exciting opportunity

The University of Buckingham is offering the first opportunity in the UK to study medicine in a well-established independent University with a beautiful campus and an enviable reputation for student satisfaction. Clinical study will be in high-class clinical facilities at busy hospitals in nearby Milton Keynes, Bedford and Northampton together with local general practices.

For more information visit our website:
www.buckingham.ac.uk/medicine