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We would also welcome any feedback on the content of the Newsletter, or suggestions for future content.

Please send these to me, Margaret Hollins, Operations Manager, at Keele University Medical School, or email m.a.hollins@keele.ac.uk.

Margaret Hollins, Editor

Web address:
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/ms>

Events & News: (including previous MedNews issues)
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/ms/news/>

Grand launch of Research Institutes

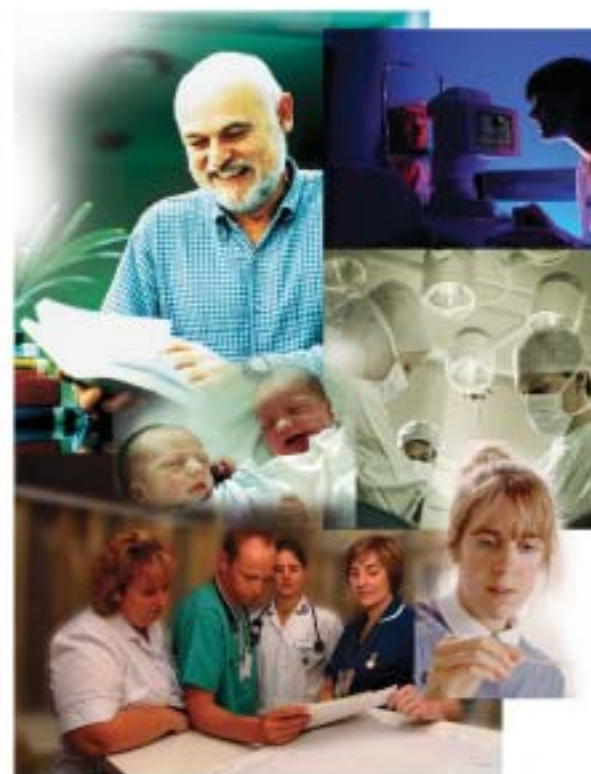
A special ceremony to launch three new research institutes within Keele University's Faculty of Health took place on Monday, 26 January.

The event, at the Undergraduate Medical School on campus, marked the formation of the **Institute of Primary Care and Health Sciences**, the **Institute of Ageing** and the **Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine**.

Keele University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Janet Finch, CBE, DL, welcomed guests to the launch before the University's Chancellor, Professor Sir David Weatherall, one of the outstanding British clinician scientists of his generation.

Professor Susan Dilly, Dean of the University's Faculty of Health and Head of the School of Medicine, gave an overview of the Medical School and developments in Health.

There were also presentations by the Heads of the three new institutes: Professor Peter Croft, Institute of Primary Care and Health Sciences; Professor Chris Phillipson, Institute of Ageing, and Professor Alicia El Haj, Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine.



Plans for the new Medical School, initially in partnership between Manchester and Keele have made great progress, with the commencement in September 2003 of the first student cohort to study all five years in North Staffordshire, leading to a stand alone Keele Medical School in 2007.

Alongside this academic expansion have been plans to structure research into a series of flagship multidisciplinary Research Institutes which span the Faculties of Health, Science and Social Science. These three Institutes build on our current strengths within the NHS R&D structure and Keele University.

Postgraduate Medicine Programme of Courses 2004

Diploma/MSc: Geriatric Medicine

Contact: Mrs K Wilson
Tel: 01782 554699; Fax: 01782 747319

Master's Degree in Medical Science

Students can choose modules to meet their training needs. Modules can be taken as a "one-off" basis by clinicians and health professionals.

Module	Dates
Health Informatics	24-26 Feb
Mental Health Sciences for the Non-Psychiatrist	29-31 Mar
Clinical Effectiveness	20-23 Apr
Research Methods	27-29 Apr 19-20 May
Statistics and Epidemiology	2-4 June 1-2 July
Health Service Management	8-10 June 14-15 July

Contact: Mrs S Arino (s.r.arino@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 554699; Fax: 01782 747319

Postgraduate Diploma/MSc: Rheumatology Nursing

Contact: Miss K Jones
(Kathryn.Jones@uhns.nhs.uk)
Tel: 01782 556246; Fax: 01782 556306

Obstetrics and Gynaecology:

Course	Dates
DRCOG Residential Course	23-27 Feb 13-17 Sept
Family Planning Course	17-19 May
MRCOG Part II Res Course	14-18 June
MRCOG Part II OSCE Course	26 Apr & 1 Nov

Contact: Mrs R Parkin (pma06@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 555434; Fax: 01782 747319

Obs and Gynae Basic	
Surgical Skills	17-19 Mar
Second Degree /	1-2 Mar
Episiotomy Repair – Hands-on Workshop /	24-25 May 6-7 Sept
Third Degree Repair Skills Course	

Contact: Mrs K Wilson
Tel: 01782 554699
Fax: 01782 747319

Orthopaedics:

North Staffordshire External Fixation Course
(9-11 June 2004)

Contact: Mrs K Wilson
Tel: 01782 554699; Fax: 01782 747319

Diploma/MSc: Psychiatry

MRCPsych Part I
MRCPsych Part II
Contact: Mrs T Podmore (pca02@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 441660; Fax: 01782 441650

Surgery

MRCS/FRCS Course

1-12 March and 6-17 September 2004
Contact: Mrs P Stone (p.stone@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 554224; Fax: 01782 747319

Basic Surgical Skills

27-29 September 2004
Contact: Mrs S Arino (s.r.arino@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 554699; Fax: 01782 747319

Teaching the Teachers

2-day Introductory Course	17-18 May 13-14 July 23&30 Sept 8-9 Nov
Appraisal ½-day PM	5 May 3 Nov
Assessment ½-day PM	8 June 19 Oct
Beds.Teach. 1-day	7 April 14 Sept
Comm.Skills 1-day	4 March 15 July 5 Oct
Mentoring ½-day UG PM	5 Feb 11 Nov
OSCE ½-day UG AM	11 Feb 5 May 11 Oct
PBL 1-day UG	26 Apr 1 Jul 25 Nov
Keele Cert.Med.Educ. Portfolio Introduction Day	18 Mar 28 Sept
1 day workshops:	
Cert.Med.Ed workshops	Tel for dates
Small Group Teach. ½ day PM	11 Mar 7 Oct

Contact: Mrs P Stone (p.stone@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 554224; Fax: 01782 747319

Keele Foundation Trainers' Course for General Practitioners

16-21 May 2004
Section 62 approved
Contact: Dr A Bartlam (pma31@keele.ac.uk)
Tel: 01782 554511; Fax: 747319

KEELE UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF AGEING presents:

"A Workshop on Current and Future Research on Ageing at Keele"

25 February 2004 in the Primary Care Sciences Research Centre, Keele University.

Contact: Mrs G Bloor (bea04@keele.ac.uk), Tel 01782 554254



Health Faculty News

The Faculty of Health has appointed three new Associate Deans to support Professor Susan Dilly, Dean of the Faculty of Health, and progress Faculty developments. They each have Faculty-wide responsibilities in addition to specific portfolios of responsibility. Marilyn Andrews based in the Department of Physiotherapy is responsible for the Faculty of Health Learning & Teaching Committee and progressing the Health Strategy; David Latham, based in the Department of Nursing & Midwifery is responsible for Quality Assurance; and Paula Roberts, based in the School of Medicine is responsible for curriculum developments and marketing. Professor Alicia El Haj is the Faculty of Health Research Dean.

New Course

We are delighted to be offering a new undergraduate course - the two-year full-time Diploma (HE) in Operating Department Practice, sponsored by the Workforce Development Confederation.

The course is the first of its kind in that it will be jointly run with Keele University and Staffordshire University and will include a range of shared multi-professional learning opportunities, and will specifically serve the local NHS Hospital Trusts in Staffordshire and Shropshire.

It will actively recruit from the two counties, aiming to enrol 22 students twice per year. Successful completion of the course, which includes over 1500 hours of clinical practice, will allow the student to become a registered Operating Department Practitioner.

It will be the gateway to a stimulating career caring for patients during the operative phase of their care. The first intake commenced at Staffordshire University in January 2004.

For more information please see:
www.staffs.ac.uk/schools/health/nm/ODP/index.htm

Dr Paula Roberts
Associate Dean
Faculty of Health

Keele Anatomy Facilities

A major feature of the new medical school building which opened on Keele University campus in September 2003 is a state of the art Anatomy Suite. This facility and its staff not only provides increased anatomical resources for health and science education in North Staffordshire, but also a centre for anatomical research and a focus for the dissemination of anatomical information and exchange of ideas between professional groups requiring and utilising anatomy teaching. Although its first major users will be medical students the facilities have already been booked for teaching to students of physiotherapy, nursing and midwifery, with enquiries from podiatry, surgery, operating theatre technicians and biosciences.

Anatomical Laboratories

The premises are licensed under the Anatomy Act of 1984, governed by H.M. Inspector of Anatomy, under the local responsibility of the Licensed Teacher of Anatomy. They comprise a large dissecting room, mortuary, embalming facilities and several adjoining laboratories, resource room and clinical examination cubicles, all under the care of the Senior Anatomy Technician and Assistant Technician / Prosector.



Dissecting Room

This modern and spacious laboratory has room for 16 student groups to carry out anatomical examinations simultaneously and also provides facilities for the display of pre-prepared

material, models, and posters, as well as areas for teaching and teaching preparation. It also has a live digital video feed so that visiting surgeons or our in-house prosector can demonstrate more intricate areas of human anatomy. This is where time-tabled anatomy practical classes take place. Each group of students is allocated a cadaver which they examine under the guidance of the anatomy teaching staff and relate their findings to areas of clinical importance. A major feature of this facility is the ability for students to compare their information and note areas of anatomical variation.





Resource Room

Adjoining the dissecting room is a large well-lit resource room where exhibits are displayed to help students study anatomy and its clinical relevance. Although most of the material is anatomical, other disciplines such as pathology, radiology, and immunology are included. There are dissected specimens (prosections), life-sized accurate anatomical models, bones, radiographic images including plain X-rays, CT, MRI and ultrasound scans, microscopes with histology and pathology slides, pathology pots, posters and several networked computer workstations, LCD projectors, video and DVD players providing electronic delivery of 3D and interactive material on the human body. Resources include four cubicles, couches and equipment to conduct living anatomy examinations on volunteer subjects. The exhibits are changed each week in unison with the medical problem-based learning cases or for special practicals. However, very few classes are timetabled to occupy the resource rooms since the intention is that students will visit them in their spare time, singly or in small groups, for private study.

Bequeathals

Learning the intricacies of the human body, comparing texture and composition, preparing for clinical practice in the health sciences, noting anatomical variation and pursuing anatomical research requires a regular supply of human cadavers. We are very grateful to those benevolent individuals who bequeath their bodies to medical science for such purposes, and the first such bequeathal was made at the beginning of November 2003. Enquiries relating to donations may be made to our bequeathals office at the Medical school.

Contacts:

Mike Mahon, Director of Anatomy
Paul Clews, Senior Anatomy Technician
Carolyn Derrett, Bequeathals Office
Web: www.keele.ac.uk/medicine/anatomy
Telephone: 01782 58 4690



image supplied by 'Primal Pictures'

Recent Appointments and Promotions in Postgraduate Medicine

Dr Khaled M K Ismail MD **MRCOG**

*Senior Lecturer/Consultant,
Academic Unit of Obstetrics
and Gynaecology and
Institute for Science &
Technology in Medicine,
Keele University Medical
School.*

Dr Ismail's area of special interest is Maternal and Foetal medicine and high risk obstetrics including women's mental health. As a clinical lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UHNS, he conducted a series of systematic reviews evaluating the effectiveness of medications that suppress ovulation in the treatment of premenstrual syndrome, and, within ISTM, he has investigated variations in genes controlling the serotonergic pathway in women suffering with PMS. In collaboration with Professor D Smith his group has been recently awarded a research grant by the North Staffordshire Medical Institute to evaluate a non-invasive test to diagnose ovulation. Dr Ismail's plan for the future is to continue collaborating within CSTM, particularly in relation to pregnancy complications secondary to placental problems.

Dr. Isaac K. K. Liu

*Senior Lecturer in Biomedical
and Cell Engineering, ISTM.*
Before joining Keele University in August 2003, Dr Liu was an Assistant/Associate Professor in the Mechanical and Production School of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He completed his PhD study at the Chemical Engineering Department of Imperial College, London in 1995. His

research interests include Cellular Bioengineering, Biomechanics and Biomedical Devices. He has published more than 20 peer-review journal papers in Biomedical and Biophysical areas and 24 other papers. He has been invited to present his papers and to chair symposiums at several international conferences.

Professor Clive Hawkins

*Professor of Clinical
Neurology, Keele University
and Consultant Neurologist to
the Regional Neuroscience
Centre, Stoke-on-Trent.*
Professor Hawkins trained as Research fellow, registrar and Lecturer in Clinical

Neurology at the Institute of Neurology, National Hospital and University College Hospitals, London. He was appointed Senior Lecturer (1992) and Reader, (2000) to the School of Postgraduate Medicine at Keele. His major research interests in Multiple Sclerosis include: 1. Molecular Genetics of Disability and Blood-Brain Barrier disturbance; and 2. Magnetic Resonance Imaging related to Visual Psychophysics and Clinical Trials

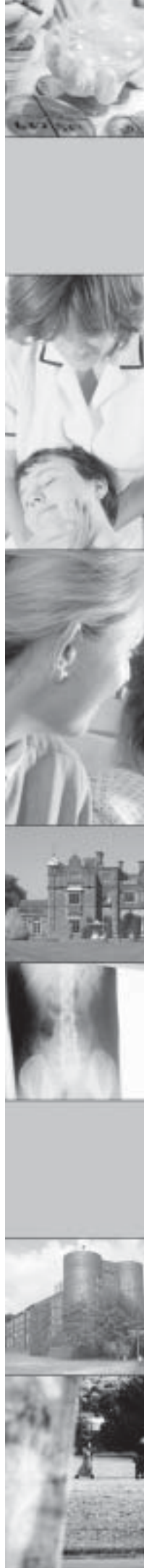
Professor Jon Dobson

*Professor of Biophysics and
Biomedical Engineering,
ISTM.*

Jon Dobson obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of Florida and PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH-Zurich: 1991). Together with Professor Alicia El Haj, he recently received a Sir Henry Wellcome Showcase Award from the Wellcome Trust. He has been an invited speaker at more than 20 international

institutes and scientific meetings, and has over 80 peer-reviewed publications, two patents and four patents pending. He is on the editorial board of two journals, the International Reviewer's Panel for Medical Science Monitor and is a member of the EPSRC Peer Review College. Professor Dobson's main areas of research involve (i) biomedical applications of biocompatible magnetic micro- and nanoparticles, (ii) investigation of iron compounds in the human brain & their role in neurological disorders, and (iii) clinical & in vitro studies of the physiological effects of electromagnetic fields.

Professor Dobson has been chosen to receive a prestigious Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award. The Award, often referred to as the 'Brain Gain' initiative, is a £20 million scheme jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology and is administered by the Royal Society. The purpose of the Awards is to give institutions additional support to attract to this country or keep here researchers of outstanding achievement and potential. Upon launching the scheme in 2001, Science Minister, Lord Sainsbury said: "Scientific excellence is the foundation of a successful UK economy. It is essential that we have a scientific brain-gain to ensure that we continue to turn the best ideas into jobs and prosperity."



Undergraduate student prizes

The Student Awards Committee of the Medical School meets annually to make decisions about prizes for undergraduate students. The Prize Fund was 'kick-started' in 2002 by a generous donation from the Friends of Keele, and the transfer of the Donald Kemp Prize to Medicine (this was formerly a Classics prize). As successive years of the course are taught at Keele, the range of prizes is being extended.

The Committee is, of course, keen to build on the amount in the Prize Fund, in order to provide more prizes and bursaries in the future. Anyone who is interested in fundraising or donating to the Fund is advised to contact Professor Susan Dilly.

THE FOLLOWING PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED IN 2003/4:

Prize	Criteria
Year 1 Prize	Best performance in the summative assessments
Year 3 Donald Kemp Prize	Best performance in June OSCE
Year 3 Progress Test Prize	Best overall performance in the 2 Progress Tests
Year 4 Prize	Best overall performance in 2 OSCEs
Year 4 Progress Test Prize	Best overall performance in the 2 Progress Tests

Medics in the Making?!?

Monday 29th September 2003, 9am, 65 fresh-faced new medical students walked into Keele Medical School eager to get diagnosing! By the end of the day there were 64 of us; obviously the strains of registration and collecting our white coats were too much for one person!

The first week began with introductory lectures, meeting and greeting and familiarising ourselves with the PBL process, which has so far proved to be a success. On Thursday of the first week, the work began, the first PBL case, and our first 'taste' of the anatomy suite, or should that be smell?! Friday of the first week involved a trip to the City General for an orientation session, then on to Manchester for a visit to the Medical School there, followed by a meal in a local Indian restaurant.

The following ten weeks have flown by, PBL interspersed with regular anatomy sessions, pharmacology practicals, lectures; some of them relevant, and the ever popular Early Experience afternoons, a trial system introduced exclusively to Keele Students, which provide patient interaction from year one as opposed to year three.

On a more important note, I feel it necessary to mention the social activities that have provided a welcome break from studying. In the first week the current fourth year medics at Keele organised a 'pyjama pub crawl' around Newcastle. Rather disappointingly, this was only attended by the hardcore drinkers of the year, all 12 of us! However, those of us who went enjoyed the evening. Another medics party was organised for the Golfers Arms, Keele, which was well attended; a good time had by all. Various events organised by the Students Union have been organised throughout the semester, at which medics can always be found, especially the notorious fancy dress nights.

On a serious note, the year group appears to be gelling well, and I personally can see the advantages of having a small year group. Everyone knows everyone and tutors are readily accessible to discuss any problems. The facilities in the medical school are excellent, brand-new equipment, and a fantastic range of resources are available for our use. As we approach the end of the semester, all focus is on the exams straight after the Christmas break. This can only mean one thing, staying in on New Years Eve with the textbooks out!

Tom Cannon
First Year Medical Student