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We 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

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Clinical Education Centre grand opening

The opening of the Keele University and University Hospital of North Staffordshire Clinical Education Centre

This state of the art centre opened it's doors to students and staff during the second half of September 2004 after handover from the contractors to the users on 7th September.

This Project provides a purpose built, Clinical Education Centre (CEC) in support of professional education in North Staffordshire. It incorporates two separate projects:-

- a) A further expansion of the new undergraduate medical school (UGMS), which received it's first students in September 2002.
- b) Reprovision of the Nurse Education Centre, which is required as part of enabling measures for the 'Fit for the Future project'.

Bringing these projects together has provided an outstanding opportunity to set the foundations required for developing a forward-looking approach to professional education. Additionally, it has offered the flexibility to include elements of Postgraduate Medical Education. The facility, which will have an official opening ceremony during March 2005, has been designed in line with best



practice models and provides a landmark building from which to 'champion' clinical education in North Staffordshire. An integrated health library acts as resource for all users as well as the local health economy.

The CEC is located close to the Keele University Medical School building and it is planned that the two facilities will be run as a single entity. Use of the City General site maximises the use of clinical expertise and resources whilst at the same time creating significant economies of scale and efficiency through the centralisation of common facilities.

The project responds to the continued requirements of the NHS Plan as restated in Delivering the NHS Plan - Next steps on Investment, Next steps on Reform, Department of Health, April 2002 which commented:

"by 2008 there will be over 8,000 more nurses each year leaving training - a 60% increase. Similarly, there will be an extra 1,900 medical school graduates per year – a 54% increase"

Research Workshops

The Faculty of Health Research Institutes planned to hold three Research Workshops during 2004, with the aim of identifying possible synergies among researchers which could be exploited to improve the likelihood of obtaining funding and contributing to successful RAE returns. Two of these events took place during May.

The Workshop on Research into Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, held in the School of Medicine building at Keele campus on 19 May, attracted some 50 participants. Sessions were chaired by Professor Alicia El Haj, Research Dean of the Faculty of Health, and Professor Mark Ormerod, Research Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. Research presentations covering a wide range of topics were given by members of the School of Life Sciences, the Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine, the Arthritis Research Centre, RJAH Orthopaedic Hospital Oswestry, the University Hospital of North Staffordshire and the Haywood Hospital, and were followed by group discussions. Dr Jim Middleton, a member of the Organising Committee, commented: "I found it interesting to see the kind of work that's going on and to meet the people. There are areas of common interest

which could be built upon in the future. It was good to see the techniques that are being used which would also be of benefit in future research. So collaborations and grant applications could come from this."

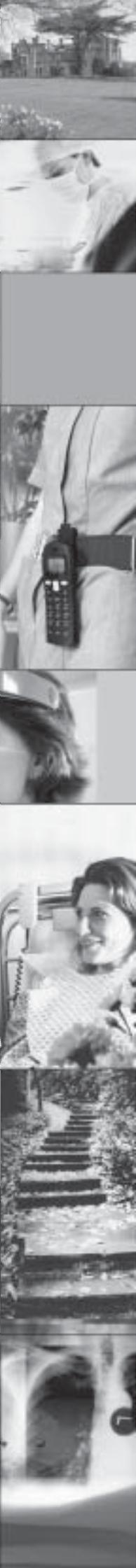
This event was kindly sponsored by Aventis Pharma Ltd.

The Workshop on Research on Ageing at Keele was held on 26 May in the Keele School of Medicine building. About 35 people attended, and talks from members of the Centre for Health Planning and Management, the Centre for Social Gerontology, the Department of Criminology, the Department of Physiology Studies, the School of Chemistry and Physics, the Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine and the Department of Medicines Management were followed by a session on "The Cross Research Council Programme of Ageing", led by Professor Chris Phillipson, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning and Academic Development. The event was chaired by Professor Peter Crome, Head of Postgraduate Medicine, and concluded with open discussions. There was very good feedback to the papers presented and useful leads and contacts were made for future collaboration.

The organisers are grateful to Schering-Plough Limited for sponsoring this event.

Planning is in progress for a Respiratory Workshop to be held later in the year.





Vice-Presidency

Professor Shaughn O'Brien has been elected as Vice President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. This is a prestigious appointment within the national professional body for the specialty.

He has had many previous significant roles in the Royal College including his election as Fellows' Representative on its Council for five years, examiner for professional postgraduate examinations and on examination committees both in the College and abroad, Publications Officer, Convenor of Scientific Study Groups, roles which have led to his editorship of twelve significant RCOG textbooks in areas ranging from gene therapy, evidence based infertility, fetal programming, cancer, the placenta, research methodology and several more. He staged the College's first out-of-London Consultants' Conference here at Keele University.

His most recent College achievement was his establishment of the College's new review and CPD Journal *The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist* of which he is the Founding Editor-in-Chief. His Journal has recently been awarded an important APLSP/ Charlesworth Publications prize.

The new post will be a busy one but prestigious for him, the directorate, the Medical School, Keele and the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. He stresses that his appointment as Vice President does not automatically progress on to the Presidency. He expects that it will not impact on any of his clinical practice or research and will significantly enhance his own postgraduate educational profile and that of the Women and Children's Directorate. This is an honorary post which will commence this September for a period of three years.

Although this is a demanding and time consuming post, Professor O'Brien reassuringly expects that he will continue to provide a full commitment to the care of his patients over the three years.

Faculty of Health News

New Course

Keele and Staffordshire Universities have been awarded a joint contract for a new 3 year Doctoral Training Programme in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) by the Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority. The programme is in the final stages of being validated by both Universities and being accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS), and is aiming to have its first intake of ten trainees in September 2004.

The Programme Director is Dr Helen Dent. Mrs Elisabeth Epps is the Programme Administrator. Two academic posts are currently in the process of appointment and a further four academic posts will come on-stream over the next two years.

This year there were 254 applicants for the ten places. Thirty candidates were interviewed in May 2004. In September 2005 and thereafter, the intake will increase to fifteen places. Applicants must have a first degree in Psychology and relevant experience. Successful graduates from the programme will acquire Chartered Status with the BPS as Clinical Psychologists and will be eligible for employment in the NHS.

For further information please contact the Programme Director, Dr Helen Dent, Shropshire & Staffordshire Clinical Psychology Training Programme Faculty of Health & Sciences, Staffordshire University College Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE
T: 01782-294847
F: 01782-294986
Email: helen.dent@staffs.ac.uk

Dr Paula Roberts
Associate Dean
Faculty of Health

New build at Hartshill

It is an extremely exciting time for Research and Development in North Staffordshire. By the late summer it is hoped we will be beginning to build a new patient focussed R&D Centre on the Hartshill site between the present School of Medicine Postgraduate building and the Keele Laboratories. We have been fortunate in receiving funding of £2million from the NHS R&D Central Office and a further £1million through Keele University for this.

The R&D Centre will become the focus of exciting medical and scientific discoveries aimed at improving the care of patient in North Staffordshire and will encompass dedicated patient areas along with state of the art molecular, cell biology and bioengineering laboratories.

The new facility will build on the high quality research activity currently ongoing and will help establish North Staffordshire as a true centre of research excellence in the UK.

Dr Darren Clement
R&D Manager, North Staffs
R&D Consortium



Community information

Over the last 12 months the Community Team has recruited a further 10 GP surgeries locally bringing the number to 45. We have also recruited a further 8 practices in Shropshire and East Staffordshire offering placements to Year 5 students. This is super news, recognising that practices have a lot on their plates with the introduction of the new GP contract and the consequent increased work pressures on practices. A big thanks goes out to all our placement providers.

In July 2003, we ran 2 workshops for the GP teaching practices to prepare them for the New Year 4 modules. We also held Mid-Module review meetings for each module during Semester 1.

During Semester 2, a further 4 workshops were attended by GP tutors covering a variety of issues faced by teaching practices. A further 2 workshops are planned in preparation for the current academic year.

We have also been busy providing placements for the first year students as part of their "early experience". This has been a new and exciting venture for Keele as we are piloting this for Manchester. Again we are very very grateful to all practices and community resources for taking students. The feedback from the students is that the placements are one of the best things about "early experience".

Promotion of Simon Davies

Simon Davies (ISTM) has been appointed Professor of Nephrology and Dialysis Medicine at Keele University. Professor Davies gained the degrees of BSc in Pharmacology and Basic Medical Science (1st Class Honours) and MBBS from King's College Hospital, University of London. He is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians and holds the degree of MD from the University of London.

Professor Davies was appointed Lecturer at Keele University in 1989, following a period as Research Registrar at Guy's Hospital London, and was appointed Senior Lecturer and Consultant Renal Physician in 1993. He is an author of a substantial number of publications on peritoneal dialysis and breath analysis research, has given many invited lectures, and is involved in the management and supervision of research students and trainee Specialist Registrars in Nephrology.

Professor Davies' contribution to research into peritoneal dialysis is recognised internationally and has had a significant impact on clinical practice. He has collaborated over several years with Professors David Smith FRS and Professor Patrik Spanel (ISTM) on the

exploitation of their rapid flow tube technologies in the monitoring of dialysis therapy and body composition. His work has led to his recognition as an international authority in his field, and he is the recipient of many invitations to teach, lecture and contribute to textbooks and journals.

Professor Davies delivered his well-attended Inaugural Lecture in January 2004 on the topic of "The Peritoneum as Artificial Kidney: What have we learned?"

New Staff Appointments and Changes (Undergraduate Section)

Hospital Campus

Academic Staff

Dr. Paul Wilson – Year 5 Leader.

Paul Wilson, who is an ENT Consultant, completed our team of Year Leaders at the Hospital site when he joined us in April this year. He has been extremely busy developing the arrangements for Year 5, ready for the end of August, and also familiarising himself (and the rest of us!) with the new Foundation Year arrangements.

Dr. Fiona Leslie – NME Module Leader.

With the departure of Dr. Tim Bowling to pastures new at Nottingham, Dr. Sandip Sen kindly 'filled the gap' of Module Leader for Nutrition, Metabolism and Excretion, until Fiona Leslie's appointment in April. Fiona is also new to the Stoke-on-Trent area, and is settling in well as a Consultant in Gastroenterology, as well as her Module Leader role.

Administrative and Support Staff

Janet Barber – Assessment Administrator.

Janet joined us in January 2004, to assist Diana Tonge with the various assessments for Years 3-5 students. With Dianas departure to another post in September, Janet has recently been promoted to fill the vacancy.

Sarah Pendleton – Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist.

Sarah was another January arrival at the Hospital Campus. As well as undertaking reception duties, Sarah assists with the Sign-up System and gives Karen, our Office Manager, some invaluable administrative support. At the time of writing, Sarah is providing vital cover for Room Bookings and Timetabling on a temporary basis.

Hayley Gratty – Quality Assurance and Facilities Administrator.

Hayley arrived in July, to coordinate the move into the Clinical Education Centre at the Hospital site. She will also be coordinating the background work which is required as the School of Medicine seeks ISO accreditation.

Jenny Banks – change to Year Secretary.

Although Jenny has been on our staff for some time, in January this year she changed role to become a Year Secretary at the Hospital Campus, completing our team of 3 Year Secretaries.

Stuart Whittaker – Clinical Skills Technician.

Stuart joined the Clinical Skills team back in November 2003 on a part-time basis, and assists with setting up and dismantling equipment for our Clinical Skills teachers. He will

continue to expand his role as we move into the Clinical Education Centre skills laboratory.

Michelle Austin –

Timetabling and Room Booking Administrator. With the recent departure of Jill Gordon to another department at Keele, we are pleased that Michelle will be joining us in September to take over Jill's role. Michelle has considerable experience dealing with the central University room booking system, so hopefully it won't take her too long to settle into the job.

Cath Zandy and Vicky Norman – Receptionists.

Cath and Vicky joined us in August, ready for the move into the Clinical Education Centre, where they job-share reception duties. The size of the building and the number of users will no doubt ensure that they are kept busy!

Sue Swift – Year Secretary.

Sue is a recent appointment to replace Carmel Turner as Year 3 Secretary. Carmel has taken up a post in the American Studies department at Keele.





Keele Campus

Academic Staff

Dr. Karen Grant – Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences. Karen joined the team at the Keele campus in September, moving from the University of Glasgow. She will be contributing to the teaching of the Year 1 & 2 curriculum, and also undertaking teaching in the Life Sciences Department.

Dr. Janet Lefroy – Community Medical Education Coordinator. Janet, a local General Practitioner, joined our Community team this year. She has responsibility for coordinating community teaching in years 3-5, and is also a member of the Communications Skills teaching team.

Dr. Vince Cooper – Senior Lecturer. Another local GP, Vince has been very involved with postgraduate education for a number of years, and has extended his 'portfolio' to include Communications Skills teaching to undergraduates. This year he has also had responsibility for coordinating placements for our Early Clinical Experience programme in Year 1.

Dr. Nikki Goodstone – Lecturer. We welcomed Nikki to the Year 1 & 2 teaching team in September 2003, from Oswestry. She also teaches in the Life Sciences department, and is a

member of the Research Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine. Nikki has taken on the task of coordinating the intercalated degree programme at Keele.

Dr. Gordon Dent – Lecturer. Gordon also joined the Year 1 & 2 team last September, and has teaching responsibilities also in Life Sciences. He has taken on the role of SSM Coordinator for Year 1, and is also an Admissions Tutor.

Mr. Robert Kirby – Senior Lecturer. A consultant surgeon, Mr. Kirby has taken on the vital role of Director of Admissions, and has had a busy year dealing with our increased number of applications to study at Keele.

Administrative and Support Staff

Viv Woolley – Assistant Technician. Viv was appointed in September 2003 as Assistant Technician in our Multi-User Laboratory at the Keele Campus. Viv works with Fiona Allen to provide technical support for our practical classes in the lab, and also assists with audio-visual provision throughout the building.

Claire Ryles – Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist. There have been a few changes in our Admissions section at Keele Campus this year, as Julia, our Admissions Administrator,

has been on maternity leave. Claire joined us in January to provide some valuable administrative help in this section, and Janice Carr was seconded part-time for several months to work as our part-time Admissions Administrator – thanks Janice for your invaluable work. Julia returned to work in September on a part-time basis, and Carolyn Derrett has recently been appointed to the position of Medical Admissions Assistant. We are very grateful to all our Admissions team for their fantastic work on applications for the intake of September 2004.

Claire Sillito – Administrative Assistant (Year Secretary). Claire joined us in September, as Year Secretary looking after the incoming cohort of first year students. Claire has previously worked in the Criminology Department and also in SPIRE, so has some years of Keele experience under her belt.

Silvana Tulumello & Liz Mitchell – Receptionists. Silvana and Liz joined us in September, job-sharing reception duties for the Keele building in term-time only. As the building is becoming increasingly busy, we are looking forward to having some extra help with the vital 'front-of-house' duties.

District General Hospitals – A student's perspective

Medical students at Keele spend part of their studies either at Staffordshire General Hospital or at Shrewsbury Hospital. What are these hospitals like? Two of our students give us an insight into their recent experiences.

Staffordshire General Hospital

You might be forgiven at first look in thinking that Stafford is just another small DGH where nothing exciting really happens. Well you are partly right; it has only 410 beds compared with over 1,300 at the North Staffs. However, as I found out while I was doing my Special Study Module (SSM) last year that appearances can be deceptive. I came to Stafford to do my SSM in cardiology. I found everyone very keen, approachable and more than happy to teach me, and I was made to feel as part of the firm. I couldn't believe my luck when I was invited, in the first week, for a meal with the entire firm. I soon found out that since I was one of very few medical students at the time at Stafford, I could get to practice my clinical skills and get valuable feedback. It felt so good going to the MAU and having enough time and opportunity to clerk patients. I learned a lot during my stay in Stafford and that's why I am back

now in Stafford doing my project option.

There are good facilities here in Stafford. The library has all major journals and I guarantee you'll find what you need. Accommodation is good. Many would agree, especially those who went to the open day at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, that Stafford has great accommodation in comparison. The shopping centre in small, obviously, that's expected. But you'll still find what you need, and if not Birmingham is only 30 mins away. Stafford even got a Starbucks coffee, and that puts it in my good books. If you haven't already thought about doing a SSM at Stafford, WHY NOT??? I recommend it. Some might say what's happening in Stafford!!! But honestly you always get what you put in. By coming to Stafford there will be plenty of opportunities to practice clinical skills, and being in a strategic position between Manchester, Stoke and Birmingham, the possibilities are endless.

Fady Magdy
4th year medical student

Shrewsbury Hospital

I am a third year medical student who has recently spent four weeks in the Accident and Emergency Department of Shrewsbury Hospital, doing a Special Study Module. I was the only student from Keele to go to Shrewsbury and, as a result, I found the thought of living away from Stoke-on-

Trent and my friends quite daunting. However, this proved not to be a problem, as I was made to feel very welcome from the beginning. All the staff in the A & E department were very approachable and were keen to teach and get me involved in various procedures and management of patients. During my four weeks at Shrewsbury I gained an insight into how Emergency departments work, and I experienced a wide range of clinical situations. I had ample opportunities to clerk and examine patients, and I was able to practise my clinical skills on numerous occasions. I feel this was a really good placement, as not only did I learn a great deal about the management of patients in the acute setting, but I gained confidence in performing medical procedures and interacting with patients.

Shrewsbury itself is a nice, picturesque town, whose local population I found very friendly. There is always something happening in Shrewsbury and there is plenty to do at nights and on weekends. Shrewsbury is a very different town to Stoke-on-Trent, and I enjoyed the change of scenery for four weeks. Overall, I would recommend A & E at Shrewsbury, because it offers the bustle of a large Emergency Department but in a different setting from Stoke-on-Trent.

Jeff Unsworth
3rd year medical student.