Everyone in the department was very pleased to learn that four members of our Under-Graduate GP Teaching Unit received Imperial College teaching awards. The awards reflect the great work the unit is doing to improve the quality and expand the range of primary care-based teaching on the undergraduate medical curriculum.

Following the result of the referendum on our membership of the European Union, it’s clear that universities in the UK will face major challenges in dealing with the consequences of ‘Brexit’. Imperial College London is a leading global university and we are proud of the contribution that staff from Europe make to our academic work. Whatever the future holds, we will strive to remain a leading international university with strong links to Europe.

Professor Azeem Majeed

Many congratulations to Dr Sonia Kumar, Dr Joanne Harris, Dr Rosalind Herbert and Dr Elizabeth Muir for their outstanding contributions to teaching at Imperial College London.

Sonia received the President’s Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence, the highest award for teaching at Imperial College.

Joanne, Rosalind and Elizabeth each received the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Of the 14 awards made for teaching excellence at Imperial College London in 2016, four were made to academic GPs. This reflects the excellent work of the PCPH Undergraduate Teaching Unit.
In June, the CHU held a meeting on developing Quality Indicators involving a collaborative group of researchers across both national and international institutions.

Undergraduate Education/UG Primary Care Education

We are pleased to announce Dr James Stratford-Martin has taken up the role of Head of Year 5 from 1st July. James is a GP who has been heavily involved in the design delivery of the curriculum for the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in Singapore and also has significant teaching experience.

Congratulations goes to Year 5 community teacher, Dr Beena Gohil, who has received an NHS Teaching Excellence Award. Feedback on Beena’s teaching from students include, "I very much enjoyed my placement with Dr Gohil. She took the time out of her day to teach me about different aspects of GP medicine, and when I expressed my interest in becoming a GP, she gave me invaluable insight into her role in the community”.

"In addition to learning about GP medicine, Dr Gohil also allowed me the opportunity to find out more about the career and lifestyle of a GP. This was invaluable for a 5th year student who has many career decisions to make over the next 3 years. I felt I was able to ask Dr Gohil about her practice, her training and her lifestyle in order to get a real insight into the career of a GP”.

CLAHRC

The three London CLAHRCs are hosting a careers development conference for early career researchers working in applied health research on 29 September in London. This conference has been designed as an exciting professional development opportunity for all those working in this field of research, and a chance to collaborate across the London CLAHRCs. Keynote speakers include Dr Louise Wood, Head of Research and Development at the Department of Health, and Professor Huw Davies from the University of Aberdeen, who will give an overview of his research on CLAHRCs.

CLAHRC NWL PhD student, Sophie Spitters, was a member of the team that won the overall prize for best research application at the 7th NIHR Infrastructure Doctoral Research Training Camp that took place in July at Ashridge Business school. The team, mentored by Catherine Exley, Professor of Qualitative Health Research at Newcastle University, won a mock funding application for their feasibility study that focused on increasing physical activity among teenagers in deprived areas by setting up a peer-led activity programme in schools. The study triangulated behavioural measures, questionnaires, interviews and observations to understand implementation and get initial estimates of effect size.
Dr Foster Unit

The Unit has welcomed two new starters to its team. In June, Gajanan Natu arrived. He is an Oracle database administrator and his area of interest is software technology. Within the Unit he looks after the maintenance and technical side of the database, keeping it in running for our researchers.

Ms Dani Kim joined the Unit in July as a Research Assistant. She has a background in Biomedical Sciences and received her MSc in Public Health last year from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is looking at CPRD data and investigating the predictors of (re)admissions in patients with heart failure.

Global eHealth Unit

Dr Melek Somai is a new faculty member at the Global eHealth Unit (GeHU). Melek is a physician, biostatistician, and public health professional with expertise in clinical informatics and global health innovation. In his new role as teaching fellow in eLearning and eHealth, Melek leads the implementation of GeHU’s visionary programme in Health Information Technology and Innovation. He is also a co-investigator of the EIT Health CARE CAMPUS program that aims to transform Active Ageing in Europe through the development of an innovative training curriculum for carers.

WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Training & Education

WHO Collaborating Centre staff and twenty students from the Master of Public Health course visited multiple UN and humanitarian agencies during their recent trip to Geneva, Switzerland. Over a three-day period the group visited Medecins sans Frontieres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN, WHO and Global Fund. Two students – Praise Izinyon and Rachael Williams – presented mini-projects at the WHO, followed by an excellent discussion with Blerta Maliqi, a technical officer for Family, Women’s and Children’s health.

In July, we bid farewell to Dr Zahia Alnoumasi who completed a two-year fellowship with WHO CC and returned home to Saudi Arabia with her children. We thank Zahia for the very valued contributions she made to the Centre and wish her all the best in her next steps!

WelRen

August sees the first cohort of MPH students enrolled in the Open University of Mauritius.

Congratulations goes to Dr Nigel De Kare Silver for being awarded a Visiting Professorship by the University of Technology of Mauritius.
Since its start up in 2013, the Child Health Unit (CHU) has gone from strength to strength. Led by Dr Sonia Saxena, Reader and GP, the team is made up of Academics – Dr Alex Bottle, Dr Benedict Hayhoe and Dr Richard Ma and Researchers – Ms Elizabeth Cecil, Dr Anthony Laverty, Dr Laura van der Bloemen and Dr Shikta Das. The team also has approximately 10 affiliated members involved in active research collaboration.
The work the CHU started has resulted in a number of important changes to practice and policy in key areas of child health. These broadly fall into 4 areas:

1. **Tackling childhood obesity**

We have reported on growing hospital admissions and bariatric surgery in overweight children. We conducted the largest evaluation of the National Childhood Measurement Programme, and developed electronic tools for assessing and managing obesity in primary care (supported by a collaborative NIHR programme grant: PROMISE Paediatric Research in Obesity Multi-modal Intervention and Service Evaluation). The 2015 paper on parental weight cut offs for child obesity was the most downloaded by GPs.

**Impact:**

The CHU works hard to promote the timely translation of its research into health gain for children. Specific examples relevant to obesity prevention include: producing guidelines in friendly formats on managing obesity and inflammatory bowel disease (Clinical Guidelines); Dr Saxena was awarded a Distinguished Scholar Award for her work ‘Tackling Obesity in Children’ in the University of Florida (2014). The Unit raised awareness by disseminating its findings in a debate at the Royal College of GPs attended by 120 stakeholders (2015) and appearing in an ITV documentary ‘Tonight: The Unhealthy Generation’ (2013) and Radio 4 Woman’s Hour to discuss ‘Weight problems in Children’ (2015).

Members of the Unit have contributed oral and written evidence to national policy from work evaluating the National Childhood Measurement Programme (Westminster Food and Nutrition Forum ‘Tackling obesity’ 2014 Health Policy Exchange Report authored by Sir James Cracknell and Health Select Committee Inquiry into Obesity 2015). In 2016, 2 of 10 recommendations in the UK Government’s First Report on the Childhood Obesity Strategy - Brave and Bold Action were to adapt the National Childhood Measurement Programme in light of the Child Health Unit’s research.
Impact of primary care on child health

The work of the Unit has shown that timely access to primary care is associated with fewer emergency department visits (1) and hospital admissions for primary care sensitive conditions in children (2, 3). This work has fuelled public debate on seven day working for doctors. In the wake of the UK general election (May 2015), their research attracted widespread public interest and major position statements from the Royal College of GPs, BMA and fed written evidence into the 2016 Health Select Committee’s Primary Care Inquiry. (Lancet, Annals of Family Medicine and Pediatrics) There is now an NIHR funded work programme to tackle the problem, supporting Ms Elizabeth Cecil’s work, in close collaboration with the Dr Foster Unit at Imperial College London.

Papers


Prevention and treatment of infection in primary care

Additional research has evaluated the impact of national vaccination against bacterial pneumonia (1), the role of appropriate prescribing and dosing of antibiotics (2) in children and risk factors for infections in neonates in international collaboration with Improving Children's Antibiotic Prescribing Group (iCAP) Prof. Mike Sharland, Prof. Ruth Gilbert and Prof ICK Wong. The research has been cited in national guidance and researchers in CHU won the Royal College of General Practitioner’s Research Paper of the Year (Medicines for Children) awards (2013). A BJGP paper showing that British children, whose weights have increased in past decades, are under-dosed oral penicillins resulted in changes to children’s amoxicillin dosing in the British National Formulary for the first time since 1963 and a further prize, RCGP Research Paper of the Year prize (2014), was awarded for this work. Research within the Unit has since demonstrated similar dosing problems in hospitals in 4 countries (BMJ 2015) (3).

Papers


Long-term conditions in children

Lastly, research showing long-term outcomes of treatments of chronic diseases diagnosed in childhood such as Type 2 diabetes and inflammatory bowel conditions has changed practice and influenced guidance and primary care prescribing policies. For example, recent research has highlighted that prescribing practice insufficiently mirrors the evidence base for minimising steroid dependent inflammatory bowel disease.
Flu vaccine may reduce the risk of death and hospital admission in people with type 2 diabetes

In a large population of adults with type 2 diabetes in England, patients who received the influenza vaccine had lower rates of hospitalization for stroke, heart failure and chest infection during the influenza season compared with unvaccinated patients.

The study by Dr Eszter Vamos and colleagues and published in the CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal), studied 124,503 patients with type 2 diabetes over seven influenza seasons between 2003 and 2010.

The team found that, compared to patients who had not been vaccinated, those who received the influenza vaccine had a 30 per cent reduction in hospital admissions for stroke, 22 per cent reduction in heart failure admissions and 15 per cent reduction in admissions for pneumonia or influenza.

Furthermore, patients who were vaccinated had a 24 per cent lower death rate than people who were not vaccinated. The team also found a 19 per cent reduction in hospital admissions for acute myocardial infarction among vaccinated type 2 diabetes patients during the flu season, however this finding was not statistically significant.

Influenza seasons are typically linked to an increase in severe cardiovascular events and deaths from these conditions every year. Research shows that influenza can trigger stroke and heart attacks, particularly in people who have a high risk of influenza-related complications such as people with diabetes.

This study examined for the first time whether influenza vaccine can provide protection against individual cardiovascular events among people with diabetes. In addition to
examining health conditions during the influenza seasons, the team also studied the summer months, when influenza activity is low and therefore, no considerable vaccine effect is expected. They used the summer period to better explore and account for the differences between vaccinated and unvaccinated people with type 2 diabetes.

Dr Eszter Vamos, a Public Health Registrar at Imperial College London said: “The potential impact of influenza vaccine to reduce serious illness and death highlight the importance of influenza vaccination as part of comprehensive secondary prevention in people with diabetes.” In an interview with the New York Times, Vamos said, “The flu vaccine is largely underused among people with chronic illnesses. It is really important that people with diabetes receive their annual flu vaccine.”

Professor Azeem Majeed, co-senior author from the School of Public Health at Imperial added: "There are few studies looking at the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine in people with diabetes. Although there have been questions surrounding the effectiveness of the flu vaccine in recent years, this research demonstrates a clear advantage for people with diabetes. The findings of the study illustrate the importance of flu vaccine in reducing the risk of ill-health and death in people with long-term conditions. The flu vaccine is available free to these patients from GPs and pharmacists, and patients with diabetes should ensure they receive the vaccine every year."

The research was supported by the National Institute of Health Research North West London Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care Scheme and the NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre.
NHS ‘mid-life MOT’ has marginal health benefits, say researchers

The study reveals the NHS Health Check, which is offered to people every five years between the ages of 40 and 74, only reduces the 10-year risk of cardiovascular disease by 0.21 per cent. This is equivalent to one cardiovascular event – such as a stroke or heart attack - being avoided every year for every 4,762 people who attend a health check.

The analysis, conducted by lead author Kiara Chang, in conjunction with Professors Azeem Majeed and Chris Millett was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal in May 2016. The study found statistically significant, but clinically modest impacts on the risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and individual risk CVD factors, although diagnosis of vascular disease increased.

Overall programme performance was substantially below national targets, which highlights the need for careful planning, monitoring and evaluation of similar initiatives internationally. For the NHS health check scheme to be effective, it needs to be better planned and implemented – this work will help highlight how this can be done. In future the team plans to evaluate whether particular groups – for instance older patients – have greater health benefits from the check than younger patients. It would also be interesting to investigate the reasons why the health check produced such modest benefits. For instance, to evaluate the advice patients are given during the health check.
In June, the Undergraduate Teaching Unit welcomed more than 150 GP teachers from around the country to the Charing Cross campus for a day of celebration, reflection, learning and creating.

The event included a keynote speech from the chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, Professor Maureen Baker, as well as workshops that addressed this year’s theme, ‘Surviving to Thrive’.

In addition to Dr Youssef El-Gingihy’s talk on ‘How to dismantle the NHS’, Dr Rosalind Herbert hosted the student section of the day. Participants were treated to enlightening and moving presentations by medical students on topics such as stress and the junior doctors’ strikes.

Prizes were also awarded in each course year to recognise the excellence of community GP teachers and exceptional students.

We thank all of our GP teachers from around the country who helped to make this day such a success and continue to support teaching our medical students to the world-class standard for which Imperial College is renowned.
A number of abstracts from PCPH were accepted for the Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME) Annual Scientific Meeting which took place in Belfast. This conference attracts medical educators from around the world. Below, three of the team report back on their experience of the conference.

**Dr Sonia Kumar – Director of Undergraduate Primary Care Education**

I gained a lot from this conference, from jotting reflections during the keynote and plenary sessions, as well as workshops, but also during the spontaneous conversations that arose with other delegates during the conference. I heard about “DermARTology” which linked well to the session we are running in year 5, where the media of art is used to stimulate dermatological observation skills. I also attended a session on the use of concept maps in a medical school in Brazil. We are considering using these in year 3 to promote the students skills in clinical reasoning and allow them to start making the key links between the science and patient.

I also attended a really interesting workshop on leadership, where the concept of follow ship was introduced and a novel comparison was made between leader/follower and teacher/learner. We talked about the use of “heat experiences” to challenge both a team and group of learners to push their boundaries of thinking into the “chaos zone”, as this is where real thinking and innovation comes from. I also went to a workshop on using the year 6 of the MBBS degree as a F0 year, really preparing students for future independent practice. They used audio diaries as the method of gathering reflections, rather than the traditional templates we often ask students to complete. We are already exploring whether this method of audio diaries can be used with our students in year 3.
These are just some of the many thoughts and reflections I had after the 2 days. The reward is the translation of these ideas and conversations into effective meaningful change within our curriculum and setting, and a positive change forward for our students.

Dr Emma Metters – Senior Clinical Teaching Fellow

ASME this year was a great opportunity to meet others from different universities also involved in the delivery of similar teaching. It was good to share experiences and hear that others have often come up against the same challenges and obstacles. It proved valuable learning to hear how others were delivering similar teaching for their students but in different ways and provided some useful take home tips.

I presented a poster on the ‘windows method’ of feedback which was originally developed for postgraduate doctors but adapted for use in undergraduates by Dr Roger Neighbour. We ran a training session for all our GP tutors in the use of the model with the aim to add a new feedback method to their tool box of methods. The study then followed up these tutors 6 months later in a focus group to evaluate their perspective of using the new model and their perceived advantages and disadvantages. The key advantages of the model is its ability to facilitate discussion of emotions from the beginning, and the depersonalisation of the feedback enabling more specific feedback to be given. Tutors tended to pick and choose aspects of the model that they found useful rather than use it in its entirety.

The presentation stimulated some interesting discussions regarding other feedback methods already in existence and whether there is need for another model. All present agreed there were some useful and new ‘windows’ opened up which could be useful in their own teaching and feedback. All in all it was an interesting conference and time well spent with department colleagues.

Dr Jo Harris – Deputy Director of Primary Care Education and Deputy Head of Undergraduate Medical School

The ASME conference was excellent with something for everyone to savour. I have come away buzzing with ideas. It was exciting to see (and stand in the lunch queue with) people speaking whose work you have read and quoted. The panel debate with Cees van der Vleuten on the future of medical education was a case in point. Although this session seemed to state the problems we all know rather than find many solutions, Imperial were prolific contributors to the lively accompanying Twitter feed!

In a parallel session I presented some of the research from my doctorate studies looking at assessment of professionalism from the point of view of the assessors which was well received. Other parallel sessions gave insights into how other schools have tackled issues Imperial is currently grappling with and we have started discussions outside ASME e.g. many thanks to Newcastle for sharing their experiences with setting up a spiral pharmacology curriculum.

With many medical schools now starting to train physicians associates, Imperial is keen to find out what effect this will have on our newly qualified Imperial graduates. I attended a stimulating workshop with presentations from several American schools and a UK school giving their experience so far with a chance to ask questions of those with a 30-year experience in the field. Belfast is a fun city, the Waterfront was a great venue and the Titanic exhibition is not to be missed!

Congratulations to all those who presented their work. For further details about any of these projects please contact Jo Horsburgh. Further details of the conference are available on the ASME website.
The Department of Primary Care and Public Health showcased key areas of its research at the Imperial Festival, held at the South Kensington campus in May. The beautiful weather sent the mercury soaring as children of all ages flocked to our stall—its aim was to promote a healthy lifestyle through a balanced diet and regular exercise.

Children were encouraged to design their own "Healthy Eating Plates" using felt tips and paper plates and Public Health England's "Eatwell Guide" as a template. In this way they could learn what goes into a healthy meal whilst having fun at the same time! Some beautiful food-based artworks were created, which we proudly displayed on our poster board.

We also hosted an "Exercise Zone" where guests could run on the spot for a minute before guessing how long they would have to run in order to burn off the calories from a tiny 12g box of raisins - the answer was a shocking 5 minutes! The aim of this exercise was to show how exercise is just as essential as a good diet and helps reduce the risk of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and hypertension.

Our colleagues from the School of Public Health also hosted a stall, exploring people's attitudes towards salt in their food. Using iPads, members of the public filled out a questionnaire about their daily salt intake and received their own personalised recommendations (such as using herbs and spices in food as an alternative to using salt as a seasoning). Many people were surprised at how little salt one needs on a daily basis!

The Imperial Festival was a great success again this year and our thanks go out to the organisers, volunteers who helped support our stall, and everyone who visited us. See you next year!
Imperial College London and its WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training (ICL-WHO CC), organised a three-day intensive training tailored to develop and build the capacity of mid-level and senior health professionals in leadership in epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

The training on Leadership in Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response under PIP (Pandemic Influenza Preparedness) Framework was an intensive training intended to equip health professionals with the tools required to manage their selves, organisations, services they provide and health systems they work in, efficiently and effectively, with particular emphasis on epidemic and pandemic situations. The content of the training is built around the best practices observed in recent epidemic and pandemic situations as well as WHO guidance for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response, and aims to help participants become more effective, efficient and successful leaders in a knowledge-based health system.

This training was designed to meet the needs of mid-level and senior health managers and professionals involved in epidemic and pandemic preparedness such as director of surveillance/disease outbreak preparedness at ministry of health level and WHO country offices in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Participants included managers/leaders in their fields e.g. directors of surveillance or preparedness, as well as senior surveillance, disease outbreak and preparedness officials in seven priority PIP countries: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon Morocco, Yemen—in addition to Iraq, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sudan and Syria.
WHO EURO ‘Consultation of the European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery’ May 2016 Copenhagen, Denmark

In May, Professor Salman Rawaf, Ms Federica Amati and Dr Sondus Hassounah participated in WHO Regional Office for Europe’s (WHO EURO) ‘Consultation of the European Framework for Action on Integrated Health Services Delivery’ — a high level international meeting and workshop aiming to strengthen people-centred health systems, as set out in Health 2020, that strives to accelerate maximum health gains for the population, reduce health inequalities, guarantee financial protection and ensure an efficient use of societal resources, through actions consistent with whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches.

During the consultation, the framework’s vision, strategic approach and priority areas of action in alignment with other regional policies was reviewed. During the initial seminars, the framework, which sets out a number of areas for strengthening people-centred health systems by undertaking transformations for integrated health services delivery, was also discussed. On the 3rd day a workshop took place where countries and partners were invited to partake in the exercise of putting the framework to action.

The frameworks’ areas for strengthening people-centred health systems by undertaking transformations for integrated health services delivery are organized in four domains, as shown above, and are guided by the following goals:

1. **People** – to identify health needs and work in partnership with populations and individuals, as patients, family members, carers and members of their communities, towards realizing their greatest health potential;

2. **Services** – to ensure that the processes of selecting, designing, organizing, managing and improving services optimize the performance of health services delivery in alignment with the health needs of those populations and individuals it aims to serve;

3. **System** – to align the other health system functions of governing, financing and resourcing, in order to establish the conditions required to allow services delivery to perform optimally and to enable sustainable system-wide change;

4. **Change** – a cross-cutting property that facilitates the process of managing health services delivery transformations.
Dr Alex Chen: talk in the Scottish Parliament

Dr Alex Chen, a PhD candidate of Imperial College WHO CC, was invited to be a panel speaker in the Scottish Parliament in June. Alex shared the current organ transplant tourism situation in Asia (China, in particular) and overseas transplant legislation in Taiwan.

Since 2001, China’s short transplant waiting times has attracted Taiwanese patients, as well as patients from all over the world. China has given rise to the tourism transplant industry, which in turn has fuelled unethical organ procurement practices for high profits on a national scale.

In 2015, the Taiwan legislature passed amendments to its original transplant laws banning the sale and purchase of organs for transplantation as a crime against humanity. Studies to determine if there are UK citizens travelling to China, or other countries, for tourism transplants may also need to be considered.

Visit from University of Babylon delegation

The WHO Collaborating Centre welcomed a delegation from the University of Babylon, Iraq, in July. The President of Babylon University, Dean of IT Babylon University, Dean of Nursing Babylon University and the Head of International Development and Scholarships from the Iraqi cultural attaché (pictured left) met with staff to hear about the work carried out by the Centre and discussed possible future collaborations. We were honoured to meet individuals so committed to forwarding medical education in Iraq and look forward to future discussions.

Meeting with Iraqi Cultural Attaché

The WHO CC team met with Iraqi Cultural Attaché Dr Hassan Hadi Ali Al-Alak to review and further discuss collaboration links. WHO CC is looking forward to further support Iraqi medical professionals’ education.
The Athena SWAN Action Plan for the School of Public Health

The School of Public Health Opportunities Committee visited Charing Cross in April to update the department on the changes being made to improve departmental culture and organisation.

The Athena SWAN action plan affects the working environment, career development opportunities and how the department attracts, keeps and promotes staff to feel supported and motivated.

The welcome and introduction was given by Professor Elio Riboli, Director of the School of Public Health. The Athena SWAN progress & action plan was presented by Professor Steven Riley and Dr Ioanna Tzoulaki, Co-Chairs of the Opportunities Committee. The events programme was discussed, followed by a Q & A.

Athena SWAN Family Friendly Event

Each year the School of Public Health organises a day trip to a local attraction where staff are encouraged to bring their children.

This event offers staff members an opportunity to spend work time with their family, as well as promote networking across the School in a social environment. Recent trips have been to London Zoo, Kew Gardens, and HMS Belfast.

The 2016 Family Friendly Day saw staff and their families visit Kensington Palace Garden.

Find out more about how the Imperial College School of Public Health achieved its Athena SWAN Silver Award for supporting the careers of women in science.
In May, the Undergraduate Education team welcomed trainees, teachers, doctors, researchers, students and a host of other open-minded individuals to Imperial College for a day conference on the subject of "Innovative Education using Medical Humanities". Honorary Clinical Research Fellow, Dr Helen McGeown, provided her thoughts on the day:

"Throughout my medical degree and foundation training, I have had few opportunities to engage in learning styles other than those focused on learning and retaining information. Having fond memories of my A-level English class, where we were encouraged to explore ideas rather than regurgitate facts, I was excited to attend Imperial’s conference on Innovative Education using Medical Humanities. The conference programme included a diverse range of speakers, including an actor, a music therapist and a sculptor, as well as doctors and medical students with strong interests in medical humanities. Giskin Day, lead for medical humanities teaching at Imperial provided an introduction to the concept of medical humanities as well as facilitating creative activities, my favourite of which was ‘prescription poetry’.

Speakers at the conference convincingly argued for the inclusion of medical humanities as a core aspect of all medical curricula. So much of our role as doctors involves reading human behaviour and communicating effectively, often in emotionally charged situations. Additionally, we have a need to process our own responses to the, at times, distressing situations we will inevitably encounter in our day-to-day work. None of these skills can be learned from a textbook, and the humanities provide an incredible resource, which has previously been untapped within our discipline. Bloom’s taxonomy of learning (pictured) provides an interesting reconceptualization of how medical education could be approached. Developing what were previously felt to be ‘soft’ skills e.g. in joint decision-making and problem solving draws on analytical and even creative skills that appear at the top of this hierarchy. Equipping medical students with these skills is particularly necessary in the digital age to enable future doctors to deliver a service that can’t be accessed via a computer.

Presentations and workshops on the day actively demonstrated how art and humanities can be used to help communication with colleagues, bedside examination skills and even assessment of dermatological lesions. This was a refreshing change from the traditional didactic style in which conferences are delivered, and the high degree of audience participation kept us engaged throughout the day. This conference challenged how I think, and I have found it more memorable than any other conference I have attended. For these reasons alone it left me utterly convinced that we need a stronger focus on humanities in medical education, and we need it now.”
Imperial college London (ICL), Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (ICHT), Health Education North West London (HENWL) and the GP Federation of Hammersmith & Fulham welcome you to their second annual GP careers conference to learn more about careers in General Practice.

Opportunities and career pathways in Primary Care

Including specialisation in diabetes, ophthalmology and acute community care

Learn more about teaching, research and clinical leadership roles

Contact: Mona El-Khatib
For more information

PROGRAMME AND EVENT DETAILS

REGISTER IN ADVANCE

Photo by Dave Guttridge – The Photographic Unit
The ICL team of the Research Design Service (RDS) London hold monthly drop-in clinics. RDS supports research teams develop and submit high-quality applied health and social care grant applications to National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and other national peer-reviewed funding programmes. If you are planning to submit an application to get health & social care research funding, or you would like to find out more about RDS London, come to a drop-in clinic for an informal chat.

Visit one of our regular West London drop-in clinics on the second Tuesday of the month. Advice is free of charge and no booking is necessary. RDS is funded by the NIHR.

Remaining 2016 dates: 13 Sept, 11 Oct, 8 Nov
1.00 pm to 3.00pm
Seminar Room (349)
3rd Floor, Reynolds Building
St. Dunstans Road
London, W6 8RP

Please note, as there are no booked appointments you may have to wait to get seen by an adviser, please be patient and we will try to see you as soon as possible. To make the most of your time with an adviser be prepared to give them a brief overview of your study, outlining the areas in which you are having difficulties and where you would like support and feedback.

If you cannot make the next drop-in clinic, you can still get advice by filling out our online support request form and an adviser will provide you with initial feedback within two weeks.
Prof Paul Aylin –
What is the evidence for the 'weekend effect'?

Paul Aylin is a Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and the Co-Director of the Dr Foster Unit at Imperial. His research has increased the use of data in the management and monitoring of healthcare in the UK and internationally. His work has led to the development of innovative statistical and computational methods for processing large data sets derived from electronic medical records and NHS databases. In his work examining paediatric cardiac surgical outcomes for the Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry, he confirmed serious concerns around the surgical outcomes at Bristol and established the usefulness of routine administrative data (Hospital Episode Statistics) in helping to identify quality of care issues. In further research commissioned by the Shipman Inquiry and published in 2003, he established the role that statistical process control charts (specifically log likelihood CUSUM charts), and other routinely collected data (from death certificates) could play in the continuous surveillance of healthcare outcomes, and in this specific case, the detection of unusual patterns of patient mortality within General Practices.

Dr Steve Weiss - World War II Memoirs
Dr Stephen J Weiss, former Research Associate at the Centre for Defence Studies. Awarded the French Resistance Medal, two Croix de Guerre, the American Bronze Star and promoted to Commandeur in the Order de la Leigon d’ Honneur.

Dr Steve Hajioff - NICE guidelines on suspected cancer
Director of Public Health, London Borough of Hillingdon, and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London.

Dr Brian Fisher - A charter for community development in health
NHS Alliance Health Empowerment Leverage Project TLAP.

Sylvia Westrup – Research ethics and governance in the new setting of HRA approval
NW London Research Management & Governance Manager, West London Primary Care Consortium.

Many of the seminars held at PCPH are recorded. See what’s available to view on our website
Healthcare use among preschool children attending GP-led urgent care centres

Urgent care centres (UCCs) were developed with the aim of reducing inappropriate emergency department (ED) attendances in England. Professor Azeem Majeed, Dr Sonia Saxena and Dr Shamini Gnani aimed to examine the presenting complaint and outcomes of care for young children attending two general practitioner (GP)-led UCCs in West London with extended opening times. The findings were published in *BMJ Open*.

Only 3% of all attendances to the GP-led UCCs were among preschool children over a 3-year period, with nearly a quarter of them being repeat attenders. Although the large majority of children attending were registered with a GP, over two-thirds attended out of hours. The most common reason for attending the GP-led UCC was for a respiratory disease, mainly an upper respiratory tract infection. The most commonly prescribed medications were for infections.

Only one in five preschool children who attended required a referral to a paediatrician or an emergency doctor.

Two-thirds of preschool children attending GP-led UCCs do so out of hours, despite the majority being registered with a GP. The case mix is comparable with those presenting to an ED setting, with the majority managed exclusively by the GPs in the UCC before discharge home. Further work is required to understand the benefits of a GP-led urgent system in influencing future use of services especially emergency care.

The Brexit Effect

The department’s recent article in *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, on the Brexit effect on medical research and health in the UK, has received very good coverage on social media. Here are some of the possible negative consequences for the NHS.

1. The future employment of the 50,000 EU and EEA nationals who work in the NHS (including around 9,000 doctors).
2. The development and implementation of reciprocal agreements to recognise the qualifications of doctors and other health professionals from the EU.
3. More limited rights for UK health professionals to live and work in other EU countries.
4. The access to NHS care of the three million EU nationals in the UK and the access to European healthcare of the two million UK nationals living in other EU countries.
5. Disruption to Pan-European initiatives to protect public health.
6. Loss of funding from the EU for medical research.
8. Reduced funding for the NHS if predictions of lower economic growth for the UK are correct.
9. Threats to the development of health IT standards.
10. Imported NHS drugs and supplies may be more expensive.
11. The UK may be a less favoured site for clinical trials and other industry supported research.
What is your role within the department and when did you join?

I am PhD student in PCPH and am about halfway through my third year. I’ve been here since Jan 2014.

What does your research involve?

The main focus of my work is primary healthcare (PHC) expansion in low and middle-income countries. Most of my work has been in Brazil – where they have rapidly expanded a new model of PHC in the last 20 years and there are high quality datasets that permit detailed analysis. So far, I’ve been looking at determinants of variation within the program (specifically local the strength of local government), how PHC in Brazil has impacted upon mortality by racial groups and the inequality between them, and how individuals in rural slums in Rio de Janeiro use and benefit from PHC. Its lots of databases, statistics, and econometrics interspersed with a few Caipirinhas in Rio!

What do you enjoy most about your PhD?

The PhD is enjoyable (most of the time) and I like working with a diverse range of people – from Ministers for Health in Rio to Brazilian researchers – as well as getting to visit local clinics. I’m a bit of a geek (I wouldn’t be doing a PhD otherwise) and enjoy a challenging data/stats problem to pass a rainy afternoon.

What’s your background?

Before my PhD, I did the Masters in Public Health here at Imperial and an undergrad in Natural Sciences with a focus on virology.

Tell us about your outside interests

Although I’d like to say I have some exciting skills and passionate hobbies, I don’t have much beyond a keen interest in pub quizzes, a fondness of eating and drinking, and travelling (which invariably involves more eating and drinking!). I do quite a bit of cooking in my spare time – my Parmesan melanzane is a work of beauty and I’m committed to making Thai or Indian curries from scratch. I thoroughly enjoy a sci-fi novel (that geekiness again!) so happy to meet in the pub for an appraisal of either Culture or Dune novels. I played the piano fairly well when I was younger, but have let it slip, so now I can just about get through a bad rendition of Tiny Dancer or a David Bowie number. In an effort to deal with the excessive eating and drinking, I force myself to run around various London parks. Having developed some enjoyment from this, I have run a marathon and few half marathons over the years.

‘Lawn Cycling’ provides Tom with the perfect antidote to too many curries.
TASME conference

Professor Azeem Majeed gave a presentation on academic writing at the 2016 TASME conference (Trainees in the Association for the Study of Medical Education). He spoke on the topic of ‘Writing in medicine - How to capture an audience: Social media, editorials, letters and clinical commentaries’. The standard of the presentations and posters was excellent, and reflects very well on clinical trainees and medical students.

Support staff from across Imperial enjoyed a Brazilian Carnival in July to thank them for their contributions to the College.

ICGPS

A group of enthusiastic students at Imperial College School of Medicine set up the General Practice Society (ICGPS) with the aim of developing and promoting an interest in General Practice amongst medical students of all year groups. It is a rapidly growing society, with 79 members and almost 300 people subscribed to the mailing list!

In March, ICGPS held an event entitled ‘Specialist Careers in General Practice’ to show medical students the very varied career paths within General Practice. Four interesting speakers presented with incredibly diverse interests – Dr Graham Easton as a medical journalist, Dr Dana Beale with a special interest in working with the homeless, Dr Jasmin Malik who has experience with tropical/wilderness medicine and Dr Will Wall as a British Army GP.

Training exchange scheme

Tom Cowling is visiting the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Cambridge from July to September, working in the Centre for Health Services Research. His research will involve qualitative analysis of national policy documents related to access to general practice and is funded by the NIHR’s Doctoral Training Exchange Scheme.

Who’s the daddy!? 

Congratulations to Anthony Laverty on becoming a father.