

Update – Autumn Term 2018

As the year comes to an end, the Curriculum Review continues to progress, and the team extends its thanks to teaching staff and students for their input and engagement over the last few months, as activities with stakeholders has increased.

Phase One

With the new curriculum due to roll out to Year 1 in October 2018, much of the current focus is on Phase One. [Professor Mary Morrell](#) and [Dr Omid Halse](#), the Phase One Leads, have overseen a series of comprehensive workshops and away days for the Module and Domain Leads to draft and refine module content, ready for submission to College.

Feedback so far has been positive; staff have observed how inspiring it is to see the energy and commitment as both new and existing teachers collaborate and share ideas to link crosscutting themes, and develop the module and domain content. The key areas under discussion are the new Lifestyle Medicine & Prevention module; the Systems and the Patient Experience modules; and the Anatomy & Diagnostics domain.

Our proposals are currently being reviewed by a series of reference panels, whose guidance on areas such as Module Intended Learning Outcomes, Module Content, Learning and Teaching Approach and the Assessment Strategy will help shape the final module outcomes that will be submitted to the College governance processes in February 2019. Feedback so far has been encouraging.

Engagement

As the principles of the new curriculum begin to crystallise, the Review team has been keen to talk to our partners, listen to their views and illustrate the changes being made. These have included lively discussions with Staff Student Liaison Groups and Student Union reps, and in open Town Hall meetings.

We have presented the structure of the new curriculum to the Imperial College Health Trust (ICHT) undergraduate firm leads, and have kicked off a formal process to canvass patient views through working with ICHT's Lay Forum. We hope to grow these discussions further with other groups, such as Citizens West London, through the lens of social accountability.

In the new year, the team will be taking the Curriculum Review on the road to our partner hospital trusts, aimed at both students and staff.

Assessment

With such major curriculum changes, we need to take the opportunity to examine our assessment processes, particularly considering the impending introduction of the national [Medical Licensing Assessment \(MLA\)](#) in 2022/23.

Our aim is to achieve authentic assessment which prepares our students for practice, but which reduces the overall burden of assessment. We want to reduce the number of high-stakes assessments our students need to take, while having sufficient data points and quality metrics to make decisions about their competencies and fitness to progress.

[Dr Amir Sam](#), Assessment Development Lead, together with a small team recently visited Maastricht to meet with assessment expert Professor Cees van der Vleuten, and to explore the possibility of introducing a method known as *programmatic assessment*. We are currently in discussion about these proposals and our Curriculum Assessment Group will be reporting back to the Project Board.



(L-R) Chris Harris, Dr Amir Sam, Professor Cees van der Vleuten and Dr Paul Kemp in Maastricht

Visit from Professor John Henderson

We were extremely fortunate to welcome Professor John Henderson from Bristol Medical School this term. Professor Henderson has been chairing a major curriculum review at Bristol, where they have just completed Year 1 with success.

Professor Henderson spoke to a wider College audience on the Bristol experience in an inspiring talk, titled '*From the ground up; designing and implementing a medical undergraduate curriculum in mid-flight*'. He then spent two days sharing his wisdom and knowledge with small groups of our teachers involved in the Curriculum Review and met with some of our students to discuss the teaching of humanities.

There is a stimulating article about the visit, and an interview with Professor Henderson, that you can [read on the College news site](#).

Phase Two

All documentation for the new Phase Two (BSc) proposals have now passed through College Governance processes and the new BSc curriculum is set to launch in October 2019. We are currently appointing staff to lead these BSc modules.

Phase Three

Although this phase will not commence until July 2022, we are engaging with stakeholders. The exact composition and timing of the MLA for our students remains unclear, but one key change to the curriculum will be the implementation of an extended longitudinal assistantship after exams, to fully prepare our students for their future medical careers.

Phase Three Leads, [Dr Niamh Martin](#) and [Dr Andy McKeown](#), have met with speciality leads in the current Years 5 and 6 to discuss their thoughts on how these specialties should be represented in our programme. It is likely that the current block structure will alter to accommodate more integrated learning with new modules, such as The Ageing Patient, and increasing opportunities for our students to see undifferentiated patients.

As always, you can get in touch with the whole Curriculum Review team via curriculumreview@imperial.ac.uk at any time – we want to hear from you! – or directly with me at the link below.

[Dr Jo Harris](#)

More from the Review

- For those with College login details, you can [see previous Curriculum Review Town Hall events on Panopto](#)
- All information is available on the [Undergraduate Medical Curriculum Review webpage](#)
- [Follow the School of Medicine on Twitter](#) for updates on events like Town Halls