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Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of the North Wales Clinical School on the Glan Clwyd site. In these rapidly changing times, we felt it was all too easy for us, as busy clinicians, to lose track of just why we teach the next generation of student doctors and where undergraduate teaching is going in Wales. Let us be bold from the start – you are some of the most welcoming and talented clinical teachers our students will encounter in their training; not only consultants, SAS doctors, trainees and other grades, but also midwives, nurses and allied professionals such

as pharmacists. A lot is going on in the NHS, academia and politics. We believe that learning should be fun and, as the old saying goes, that you should work hard and play hard—we try our utmost to facilitate both.



North Wales Clinical School, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd

An important feature of being at Glan Clwyd is an exceptionally high standard of pastoral care from the team, both within the

School and in the splendid student accommodation block, run by Derek Blythin and Anita Jones. If you haven't seen it - have a look!

The North Wales Clinical School was set up to provide first class educational facilities for Medical Students in North Wales. There is a high degree of integration of the School with 'the resus team' where students can take the opportunity to calm any fears about any aspect of emergencies - practice really does make perfect and they can learn in this supportive and non-threatening environment.

Links beyond undergraduate education

Although the priority for the School is undergraduate education, there is increasing recognition that generic skills education and training continues into the FY1 and FY2 parts of postgraduate medicine, with joint sessions and the opportunity for inter-professional and multi-professional learning.

SIFT - a history a future?

SIFT: Service Increment For Teaching. Paid by WAG to Trusts in exchange for an auditable quality of teaching. SIFT consists of 2 parts: Infrastructure SIFT (buildings / heating etc) is top-sliced by the Trust (about £600K). Placement SIFT depends on the number of student weeks taught – and is paid in arrears a year later. In a hard fought arrangement between one of our predecessors (Brian Waters) and the Trust Finance Director at that time (Nigel Morris) it was agreed that any under-spend could be carried forwards. In the new organisation this is no longer the case, with the consequence that over £400,000 of SIFT money has been effectively donated to the general running over-spend of the new Trust in the last 2 years. We are now in control of the financial information that will prevent this happening again.

SIFT is used for revenue (posts) and non-revenue (buying stuff), there has been a marked shift to pay for posts rather than kit, but there is a danger of being swamped by on-costs when employing people (national insurance, annual increments etc), which makes it difficult to predict expenditure versus income, or what to do if the curriculum changes.

It is very important that everyone understands that there is not enough SIFT money to pay for all the teaching directly and the circumstances in each specialty vary hugely. SIFT generates good will among the clinical staff. We have emphasised to WAG, the funding body and the Universities that an enormous amount of teaching is done in SPA time, own time and with good-will – for which we are extremely grateful.

It is possible that the new Trust will try to control the SIFT money in the future. We



have suggested that the Undergraduate Committees are the best placed to decide on priorities, because we relate directly to you, our clinical teachers. The Undergraduate and Postgraduate Committees at each hospital will work together to ensure that as much money as possible is spent on education and training. If there are things that you would like bought to help you with teaching, it is well worth discussing this with us in the School as there may be slippage money available as we approach the new financial year. We will order and pay for any kit so that we can keep track of spending.

There are two big projects that we would like you to consider.

BROADBAND

A really big issue is the lack of broadband internet access on the Glan Clwyd site. The hospital internet routes via Cardiff and is slow. In addition, 'web-streaming' is banned by Cardiff. The hospitals either side of us benefit from additional fast academic links (JANET). Doctors are citing the lack of broadband access as a reason why they are not considering working at Glan Clwyd.

In order to provide an independent fast internet access, the IT Team has researched a solution. We could get some money back by charging the doctors in their residences (as an internet provider) and also gain revenue from other potential sources. As an educational

tool, arrangements could be made to provide web-streaming (for education) at certain points across the whole site. The cost is about £25,000 for the infrastructure with a £19,000 annual cost. This would benefit teachers and postgraduates more than the students, but part of our aim is to keep our students wanting to be doctors with us at Glan Clwyd.

MORE CLASSROOMS

As the Cardiff Curriculum expands and more student time is spent in the Clinical School on skills, teaching or video-links, the ability of the School to house the regular major emergency courses organised by the resuscitation department is reduced. The promise by the previous Trust to re-house the resus department if they were displaced from the old social club has not materialised as it is 'not a priority'.

We all disagree with this and, in an effort to provide enough space to teach at the same time as big courses are run, we are looking at building extra classrooms over the cath lab corridor. This would very much reduce the size of any new 'home' that the resus department would need to secure in the future and there would be a permanent resus training room in the new build.

These extra classrooms would allow more flexibility to provide structured FY training and to run a wider range of courses that might be of wider benefit to undergraduates.

Another advantage would be the opportunity to duplicate the current SimMan lab to house simultaneous scenarios – both for training and to enable formal research into simulation techniques. This latter may be an important ingredient of maintaining us as an entity.

The future of medical students in North Wales

The largest number of students has been from Cardiff for many years. The clinical attachments of Swansea postgraduate students 'in the north' will come to an end (sadly) in 2012. Our student numbers may actually go up a little as the Swansea students will be kept in and around Swansea and Cardiff has to find extra placements for its own. The overall number of medical students in Wales is set to remain fairly constant BUT there may be more feeder courses into medicine which may cause fluctuations.

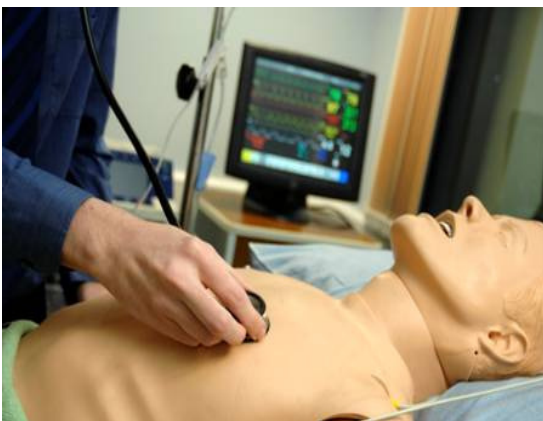
The North Wales Clinical School is a joint venture between higher education institutions and NHS Trusts in Wales, funded by the WAG and Cardiff University. Under the SHARE (Strategic Health Alliance for Research & Development) agreement, Bangor University will have a combined role in educating medical students, through the School of Medical Sciences, headed by Dr Mike Rees (who is also a cardiologist). Although the aim might be to have students for longer placements in the North on their Cardiff course, it is no secret that Bangor aims to produce doctors *de novo* in the not too distant future. It is my view, as Honorary Senior Lecturer, that the Clinical School should be clinically led within whatever



set-up the future holds, if the Clinical Staff are not to disengage as sometimes seems reported within other academic institutions.

Dr Chris Cefai (microbiologist in Wrexham, who is largely responsible for the fantastic concept and reality) has resigned as the first Director of the North Wales Clinical School. Professor B. Paul Morgan, Dean of Medicine in Cardiff, says that "no firm decision has yet been made concerning when, or indeed if, a replacement appointment as Director will be made, and this will be discussed with all stakeholders in the context of the on-going development of plans for the North Wales Clinical School beyond the end of the current funding arrangements in July 2010".

NWCS Points of interest



- We now have an addition to our simulation equipment SimMan 3G. The completely wireless capability of the patient simulator will mean that the students will now be able to practice on a simulated patient in the ward/unit environment. Other departments within the trust will greatly benefit from the introduction of SimMan 3G especially in regard to Human Factors, this will enhance patient safety in the trust and raise educational standards for the students whilst they are on placement. The anaesthetic department currently undertake a formal teaching programme for junior anaesthetists using SimMan 3G.
- Negotiations are currently taking place with the Post Graduate Department to have more involvement with the current FI's. And FI's are increasingly getting involved with Med Student Teaching.

SPAs



We know that an awful lot of teaching goes on in DCCs – ward rounds, theatre, outpatients etc. It is important that time spent in addition is recognised in job-plans, please and we must be wary of the effect on teaching of any reduction in SPAs discussed in job planning. Most specialties have students for 25 weeks or less. Many many thanks for taking the time to inspire the next generation of doctors (they will look after you later, so keep teaching them well).

“Consultant led teaching was of a very high standard with plenty of opportunity to get hands-on”

We have grown to expect excellent feedback from the students about their placement with us, although there is always the odd hi-cough. We think that we get the most out of the students because they feel valued and at home. The newsletter will highlight areas of particular noteworthiness in future issues.

Feedback

Psychiatry scored 100% in all domains across the whole of North Wales in the annual survey, but almost everyone else ‘performs’ above the national average. We aim to help any teachers with specific or particular problems they would like to discuss further.

“Thank you for a brilliant placement such good teaching I’ve never had before!! Really well organised and lots of learning opportunities to be had”

“Teaching is great and SimMan is AMAZING”

“Every doctor that we came into contact with deserves recognition! We had an endless supply of teaching and encouragement from all the staff, they all dedicated ample time to us”

“Very friendly and well organised , great facilities. Thanks for a fantastic placement”

“Undergrad are great. Really made a real effort and all Doctors, Nurses & teaching were great”

“Excellent teaching, made freely available. Friendly staff”





Teaching the Teachers

We aim to pay for a limited number of people each year to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education at Bangor University – please e-mail Jayne McCall for further details. It would be great to get as many of our regular teachers as qualified as possible. I must emphasise that we really appreciate the effort that clinicians put in to showing students clinical material (old fashioned experience and apprenticeship).



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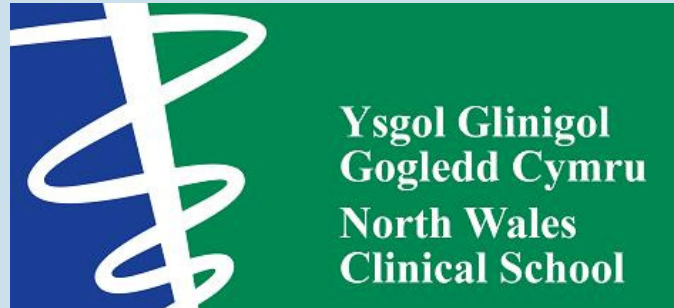
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Want to get involved

If you would like to get involved with teaching at the Clinical School i.e. simulation, tutorials, clinical skills please contact any member of the staff here at the school, we would be most grateful for any interests received.