An exciting new development is happening in the Clinical Skills Resource Centre created and designed by the staff and students, for students!

The Learning Zone is an interactive clinical skills facility open to all student years to come and practice clinical skills, history and examination skills. The clinical skills team have been working with a group of students to design and create the learning zone ready for student to start using ahead of the summative exams.

The Learning Zone Group is made up of enthusiastic and motivated students from all years, who have strived to push this vision forward. They have cleared a large area in the Waterhouse building to be used solely for students to come in and practice their skills. New equipment and technology, such as augmented reality and iPads will be available to students to improve their learning experience. New models have been ordered and equipment is laid out in preparation for practicing of skills. Students will be able to simulate a patient’s journey, using patient histories and investigations, whilst having access to teaching materials and presentations.

The Learning Zone will have an inspirational area, dedicated to people who have inspired Liverpool’s Medical Students, and students will govern this. In order to aid learning further, a member from the Clinical Skills Team will be allocated to the Zone for an hour a day, allowing students to put any questions to that staff member. We are hoping that students will arrange peer teaching sessions and support each other through the years, improving competence and confidence.

The official opening will be in September, but the Learning Zone Group wanted the facility open in preparation for exam practice, therefore, we plan that the Zone will be open for students to use from 11th May 2016. Please visit and give your feedback on this fantastic opportunity! The Zone will be open Monday - Friday 8:30-4:00pm initially. Email: T1Z@liverpool.ac.uk Twitter: tlzmed

Helen Box, Director Clinical Skills

Revision Weekends

This year, for the first time, the School of Medicine has organised revision weekends for third and fourth year students in partnership with Amy Hutton, Academic Rep. Spread over 3 weekends, from 16th April to 1st May, Amy Hutton (Student Academic Rep) and I organised a combination of targeted lectures and practical clinical skills revision. Attendance was great, with up to 200 students in the lectures and approximately 150 year 3 students over the course of the clinical skills weekend, and with feedback like “these are the best lectures I’ve ever had!” it’s not hard to see why!

My thanks goes out to every student who attended and engaged so enthusiastically – I hope you all found it an enjoyable experience as well as a useful one! I’d also like to extend particular thanks to the fourth year, fifth year and intercalating students who gave up their weekend to support the third year clinical skills weekend. Finally, a massive thank you is owed to the staff in clinical skills for their support with the skills weekend.

We’d really like to know how we could make things even better in future! A feedback questionnaire has been circulated to all third and fourth years so, if that’s you, do take 2 minutes to fill it in to make sure your voice is heard.

Susannah (Clinical Teaching Fellow)
Liverpool medics have been celebrating their success at the National Association of Medical Schools (NAMS) Rugby and Football Tournament.

Alasdair Findlay, Year 5 medical student and Chairman of Liverpool Medical Schools rugby team reports on the teams success in the NAMS tournament:

"On the last weekend of February the rugby team travelled to Birmingham to compete in the National Association of Medical Schools (NAMS) rugby plate final. This has been the result of a season long effort, having playing Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds in a pool stage then had our quarter and semi final fixtures against Peninsula Medical School (in Plymouth) and Leeds Medics respectively. Triumphantly we played the final in Birmingham on the 27th of February beating Nottingham Medics. The team has worked incredibly hard to achieve this, training regularly after hospital placements and travelling to various parts of the country to compete. We have won a trophy and are incredibly proud of this."

The Medical School team are equally proud of the rugby teams achievement and offer our congratulations to everyone involved. This success comes on the back of a win for Liverpool mens football team at NAMS last year and the team reaching the final again this year, just pipped to the post on penalties by Sheffield in the final. Thanks to Christopher Boyle for letting us know. It is evident that our Liverpool medical students are talented sportmen and women and the School is proud to have such dedicated and hardworking teams. Well done!

New Medical Student Research Society

Liverpool Academic Medicine and Clinical Research Society (LivACRes) is a new student Society founded this year to encourage student participation in research.

LivACRes (pronounced Liv-AC-Res) wants to assist students with research at any level, from RSI to audits and to provide opportunities for conducting bigger research. Currently the society is conducting survey research into medical student engagement in research, first in Liverpool then nationally. LivACRes is a platform for making your projects possible by bringing the right people together, whether it is an audit, joining an existing project or national research.

We may be young, but we are ambitious. LivACRes hosted a National Research Conference on May 7th. Thank you to those who came (and commiserations to those who didn’t) to hear great speakers, see your peers’ projects and say hello to some exhausted LivACRes members who organised the conference in under three months! Past events have included workshops and lectures on how to present better, understand systematic reviews and, everyone’s favourite, statistics. The lecture on “why your presentation sucks” was given by the authority that is Mr Ross Fisher, Paediatric surgeon of Sheffield, who has given a TEDx talk in Germany and writes blogs read by over a hundred thousand people.

Coming up we have competitions, revision sessions and a series of newsletters. In the future we want to work with the LIME journal to give experience of writing-up research for publication, and help get your research presented and published. We are creating awards for students excelling in academic medicine and want to recognise and reward your research skills, so watch this space.

The society wants to emulate EdMed’s fantastic outreach work, to increase engagement in research and give students the chance to talk about why research is worth learning about.

To help us grow, get in touch to let us know what would interest or aid you most. Check out our pages to learn what is coming up and use our resources.

www.livacres.com
www.facebook.com/livacres
www.twitter.com/livacres

Harry Bickerstaffe, First Year LivACRes Representative
Foiling the Competition

Edward Steel, Angus Millen and Nick Strouther; third and fourth year medical students represented Liverpool University Fencing Club in April 2016 at the Christie Championship. Here Edward gives an account of the day: "We started the day by fencing Manchester, the hosts of this year's Christie Cup. We took a good lead in the sabre competition, which they then clawed back against our foil team. We were tied going into the epee - the final part of the match - but Manchester had us on this one and we lost the match 75 hits to 68. We were straight back on the piste to fence Leeds. This time we started with the foil and Leeds were clearly the better foilists. Sabre went our however, and we were just five points behind Leeds when the epee portion of the match started. Much to our amazement, our team of epeeists slaughtered Leeds' team and we won the match 70 to 63. That put us on one win and one loss. We then had a tense hour and a half of watching Leeds take on Manchester. We cheered on Leeds, knowing that if Leeds won, all three teams would be on one win and one loss, with the tiebreaker being based on points difference. Leeds took a strong lead early on against Manchester and held it, winning by a large margin. When it came down to points difference, our points difference of exactly zero put us in second place, with Leeds taking home the win."

Our congratulations go to the team for a well fought championship, and we wish them luck for next years rematch!

Careers Events

This year there has been a number of careers events run by the school to help support students in their career planning.

It’s never too early to start considering your future career and even in medical school there are things to be decided such as whether to intercalate, where to do your elective as well as extra-curricular activities to get involved with. It was good to see a good range of year groups at all the events.

GP Event - in the autumn term over 120 students attended a careers night in the Fore sight Centre which highlighted a Career as a GP. Several GPs took to the stage to explain to students how fulfilling life as a GP was and discussed some of the variety of roles available in GP such as a GP with Special Interest, the ability to have a portfolio career as well as opportunities to work abroad. It was great for students to hear from such positive GPs who loved their job instead of the negative press that GPs often get at the moment.

Careers in the Forces - in February there was a career in the forces evening and although we were disappointed that the RAF had to cancel at short notice there was much ample opportunity for students to discuss with the Navy and Army available roles in the forces as a medical student or doctor or as a reservist.

Careers Balloon Debate - in March the Royal Hospital was the setting for a careers Event for 3rd, 4th and 5th year students. The event was held in the form of a Balloon Debate. It was organised as an alternative to a traditional careers fair to help medical students think more widely about future careers and areas of specialism. There were 13 different main speciality areas represented by consultants who had 6 minutes to explain to the audience why their speciality was the best with the aim of ‘staying in the balloon’. The consultants were allowed to use humour and to have a go at other speciality areas. It was an excellent evening and at the end there was a vote on who had given the best presentation and who has ‘sold’ their speciality well. Event evaluation showed that many considered specialities that they might never have looked into had they attended a traditional fair. The event was attended by 150 students and the call was to make it an annual event!

Medical Careers Fair - in early April we had a more traditional Medical Careers Fair at the Liverpool Medical Institution. This event had over 25 stands including all the main speciality schools in Health Education North West as well as stands from Liverpool Tropical Medicine, Liverpool Medical Post Graduate courses, BMA, MDU, MPS, ICAT etc. The stalls were mainly staffed by trainees so it was a good opportunity to go and ask these trainees about the things that students could get involved with at medical school to help them get into that speciality eventually. Talks went on throughout the evening which were well attended and we heard from trainees who had experienced working in Australia and New Zealand as a doctor, as well how to compile a CV from Matthew Green from BPP Health who has written widely on the subject. We also had lots of other interesting speakers and topics.

Next Event - planning is already underway for the next big Careers Event a Careers Fair which will be on Tuesday 11th October at The Crypt, Metropolitan Cathedral.

If any students have got ideas for careers events then places contact careers adviser for the medical school Christine Wadde love@liverpool.ac.uk she would be delighted to hear your suggestions.
The following students have all been nominated for a commendation by staff members since the last Student Experience Newsletter was published in October 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Ala Al Kazemy, Matthew Ronaldi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Robert Power (2), Bethan Salmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Louise Bamford, Nicola Chavasse, Jamileh Clifford, Chloe Desmond, William Down, Jacob Dutt, Daniel Follows, Benjamin Hall (2), Sam Harris, Gethin Hopkin (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Mudassar Iqbal, Charlotte King, Amy Knowles, Sandra Madathilethu, Kumararaj Manoharan, Paula McParland, Anugraha Perumbalath, Mostafa Salam, Leng Sou, Katharine Tooley, Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Eve Roberts, Riah Syed, April Wilson</td>
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</tbody>
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Students have been nominated for a wide variety of reasons from excellent SAMP or RS reports to team working and patient care, presentation at conferences, contribution to teaching sessions and excellence in e-portfolio work. Congratulations to all students who have been recognised for their exceptional attitude and efforts. Good work!

Teddy Bear Hospital

Teddy Bear Hospital is a society that works with children from the ages of 4-11 years in both schools and extra-curricular settings across Liverpool. We deliver two types of sessions. The first is targeted for ages 4-9 and introduces children to what doctors, nurses, dentists do. The children are split into small groups and rotate round 4 stations which include: healthy eating, the human body, hand washing and treating their teddy bears with ‘medical equipment’ from our doctors kit. The session is tailored to the age of the children.

For example, the healthy eating station for 4 year olds teaches the children what foods are healthy/unhealthy, whereas for the 9 year olds the children have to split the foods into the different section on the healthy living plate.

The second session is for the older children and focuses on teaching life support including ABC, chest compressions and rescue breathes. The children are shown what to do through role play demonstrated by the volunteers, then split into smaller groups where they all have the chance to practice on the manikins. The children are encouraged to come up with their own scenarios and then there is quiz at the end to test what they have learnt.

In the last 2 years I have added Basic Life Support sessions to the Teddy Bear hospital curriculum and these have been a great success. The sessions are run by medical student volunteers across the full 5 years and we currently have 540 volunteers on our email system. This year we have completed 57 sessions including both schools and brownies/scout groups with a total of 76 volunteers.

If you would like to know more please visit our blog: http://liverpoolteddybearhospital.blogspot.co.uk

Kelly Gray, Teddy bear Hospital President
You Said, We Did...

At the beginning of this year the medical school team developed some specific plans based on student feedback from the previous NSS survey, end of year questionnaires and other feedback gathered from the student body throughout the year. We undertook to:

- Develop a new travel payment system and put both options to the student vote
- This was completed at the beginning of the academic year and we implemented the payment option with the most votes from students
- Develop dedicated SJT and PSA preparation days, for 5th years
- These ran in November and January respectively and received good feedback from students
- Develop and circulate clinical expectations document and a sources of assessment for the exams
- These have been developed in time for revision and are on VITAL under general assessment for each year group
- Conduct a review of assessment processes, resulting in a report back to students.
- The investigation took place, a report was compiled and a summary sent to students with a link to the full report should students wish to view it.
- Seek approval to appoint a dedicated evaluation officer to help us improve our collation of feedback and ensure feedback is acted upon.
- This post was approved and interviews will take place in June 2016
- Develop a feedback map for students detailing where they receive feedback in the course to help students recognise and utilise feedback more effectively.
- This has been produced and is available on VITAL under general assessment for each year group
- Pursue resources to capture all lectures
- The School has secured a post to ensure lectures are recorded for 12 months. We hope to be able to get students who may wish to view it.
- Try and develop some activities that bring staff and students together socially.
- A staff/student organised and attended Medical School Bake off ran in December 2015, attended by between 40 and 60 staff and students raising £279.16 for student and staff nominated charities Mind and Refugee Action. Amna Mahmood, Year 3 student won both the Peoples and Judges choice awards to make it a clean sweep!
- Provide You Said, We Did updates have gone out to students via email and through this newsletter.
- We hope these activities have helped to improve your student experience and look forward to working with you next year to keep enhancing provision.

Blackpool Students get Unique Chance to Learn Heart Surgery Techniques

An innovative scheme which gives medical students experience of heart surgery early in their training has been set up by a team at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

The hospital is one of the first in Britain to offer the experience to first and second year medical students. Until now, medical students could only gain such experience many years into their training, if at all.

Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Mr Antony Walker and Cardiothoracic Registrar, Miss Gillian Hardman, from the Lancashire Cardiac Centre at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, decided to set up the course to encourage more students to think about heart surgery as a career.

Mr Walker and his team have two students at a time so they are able to get a valuable insight into what it’s like to work as a heart surgeon. They see patients before, during and after their surgery; learn basic surgical and clinical skills; gain an insight into the speciality and what it involves and establish contacts for their future career development.

Miss Hardman and Mr Walker are hoping to expand the course further so more medical students can have the opportunity to see if they might like to work as heart surgeons.

Aikaterini Eleftheriadou, 18, a first year student from Liverpool University, said: “I have wanted to do heart surgery since I came to medical school. Coming here has made me want to do it even more.”

Cindy Rodrigues, 20, a second year student from Liverpool University, said: “I have enjoyed seeing the operations and talking to patients in the Intensive Care Unit.

“I have always wanted to be a cardiothoracic surgeon. I wasn’t sure if I would enjoy it at first but, by coming here, I have proved to myself that this is the career I want. It has been a very positive experience.”

Mr Walker added: “I think it’s important to have students here as we have so much to offer. The interaction of the students with patients and staff members is beneficial for everyone.

“We are one of the busiest units in the country. It’s a very dynamic unit and we embrace new technology in both surgery and education and training.

“I enjoy the teaching aspect. If I can help someone else to do what I do and move forward in their career, I am happy to do that. I’m a great believer in mentoring.”

Debbie Heard, Undergraduate Education Co-ordinator, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust