

# THE CHSE WIRE

## Centre for Health Sciences Education



## Congratulations to the Faculty's Teaching Awards Winners!

The recent EU referendum outcome and resultant political events have surprised many of us and increased uncertainty in an already turbulent educational environment. However, one thing we can be sure of is our commitment to excellence in education. Many staff go that extra mile to improve the experience of our students. Such work was recognised by the University at its annual Teaching Awards Dinner on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. The University's Award for Education in the Faculty went to Dr Lesley Nolan, from the Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy, for her excellent work on the undergraduate dental programme. Our recognition and

congratulations also go to the other nominees: Sharen O'Keefe for her amazing support for staff & postgraduate research students in the School of Social and Community Medicine, and Dr Kirsten Rayner who has spearheaded the teaching of evidence based veterinary medicine in the School of Veterinary Sciences. The Students Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Faculty was awarded to Dr Dan Whitcomb, from the School of Clinical Sciences, for his ability to motivate, challenge and develop postgraduate students. Again our recognition and congratulations also go to the other individuals that students nominated: Dr Alaa Daud, from the School of Oral & Dental

Sciences, for her commitment to improving the experience of her students, and Dr Jenny McNamara, from the Centre for Comparative & Clinical Anatomy, for the detail and attention that she puts into her teaching material.

Congratulations also need to be extended to two groups of academics who have been successful in applying for teaching development grants. These are Rachel Christopher, Alison Catterall & Sheena Warman from the School of Veterinary Sciences and Patricia Neville & Andrea Waylen from the School of Oral and Dental Sciences. We wish you luck in your projects and look forward to hearing the outcomes!

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## Staff Corner 1: Find out more about the Faculty's winner in the Student Nominated Teaching Award: Dr Daniel Whitcomb



My time at the University of Bristol began when I undertook the MSc Molecular Neuroscience course in the School of Clinical Sciences. I was struck by the high-caliber of research undertaken here at Bristol, and so went on to pursue a PhD in Neuroscience in the department, funded by the Alzheimer's Research Trust (now Alzheimer's Research UK). Following a post-doctoral position that included establishing a lab and conducting experiments in South Korea, I was appointed as a Lecturer in Translational Neuroscience in 2013. As part of my academic role, I was invited to contribute as a co-Director of the School's MSc Molecular Neuroscience course; the very one I myself had completed 8 or so years earlier! I am now also a co-Unit Head of our "Neurodegeneration: Symptoms, molecular mechanisms and therapies" unit, which allows me to bridge my teaching to my basic research, my primary research interest being the pathology of Alzheimer's disease at the synapse.

I began my teaching career with some trepidation; I had not lectured extensively before, and would often

deliberate on how to best manage and deliver a teaching session. Naturally, as a scientist, I wanted to use the most effective and efficient teaching methods available, particularly those that had been peer reviewed with an effectiveness found to be statistically significant from the control (a  $P$  of least  $< 0.05$ )! Fortunately, I enrolled on the University of Bristol's continuing professional development program for academics, Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence (CREATE). The CREATE scheme has been invaluable in facilitating the development of my teaching practice. Through the learning sessions, Disciplinary Learning Groups and self-reflective written work, I have now amassed a toolbox of useful approaches and techniques that I believe enhance the student learning experience. As I move towards the conclusion of the CREATE course, I recently received a surprising email informing me that I had been shortlisted for the "Student's Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Faculty of Health Science", as part of the Bristol Teaching Awards. I was subsequently extremely flattered and grateful to be awarded the prize. I genuinely attribute this success to the excellent teaching programs, like CREATE, that I have engaged with here at the University, and equally the valuable feedback and discussions with colleagues with regards to best teaching practice. I hope to continue developing my teaching practice and engagement with novel approaches and technologies as I move forward in my career.

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### What happened when the General Medical Council Visited?

As part of its South West Regional Review, the GMC visited the Medical School during May. The two days involved meetings with the senior team, teaching staff and students from all years of the programme to discuss areas including quality, curriculum design & assessments, the curriculum review, student support and fitness to practise. There was also an opportunity for the School to highlight areas of best practise. The visit went extremely well and the GMC were very complementary about the visit. Most importantly, the subsequent GMC report was very positive and included the following highlights: i) good evidence that the Academy structure supports the delivery of undergraduate education for both learners and educators, ii) a strong system of academic support and a learning environment that values education allowing students to achieve their learning outcomes, iii) an effective system of educational governance that is responsive to feedback from both learners and educators, iv) Learning in The Hospital Environment Programme (LiTHE), which bridges the transition between pre-clinical and clinical learning as an example of good practice, v) educators are well trained and supported in their roles and vi) praise for the developments and level of stakeholder engagement in the design of the new curriculum.

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## Staff Corner 2: Find out more about the Faculty's winner in the University Teaching Award: Dr Lesley Nolan



I first arrived in Bristol as a prospective dental undergraduate in 1975 – in those days it was a much simpler admission process although this meant I had absolutely no idea what I was letting myself in for when I started my BDS degree course. I thoroughly enjoyed both the course and being in Bristol and was

fortunate to secure a job as a Dental Officer for nine years. At this point in my career I decided that it might be interesting to move into academic dentistry and made the decision to return to Bristol University where I completed a PhD in 1995. My plans to return to clinical dentistry had changed as I was developing a love for basic research so, following my heart; I took up a post-doctoral position with Andy Levy working on pituitary tumours and stayed until 2008 when unfortunately the money finally ran out. And so I arrived in January 2009 in what was then the Department of Anatomy where a certain Jon Wakefield eventually

persuaded me that I would like to teach oral biology and anatomy to dental students. I said 'no' a number of times but I am so glad that Jon did not give up on me as a move into the teaching world has been incredibly rewarding even when having to dig deep to find the relevant knowledge lurking somewhere in my brain or text book or research paper!

I was incredibly fortunate to work with Dave Dymock and Lucy Donaldson of the Oral Biology team as without their leadership and support I would have struggled with developing and leading the year 3 Oral Biology Unit I now run. I was belatedly persuaded to apply for HEA fellowship (possibly influenced by the fact that I could not secure progression without this?) and have since become involved with the new CREATE scheme as a disciplinary learning group facilitator.

Bristol dental students are great fun and it has always been a pleasure to watch them develop over the five years they are with us & to know that I am part of that process. I found out rather late in my career that I love teaching although perhaps I shouldn't have been too surprised as both my late father and my sister Lynn were and are fantastic teachers in my opinion – I would like to believe that I have inherited at least some of these traits!

### BDS Curriculum Review

Hard on the heels of the Veterinary & Medical programmes a curriculum review has begun for the undergraduate dental programme, the intention being to implement a revised curriculum in 2018/19. The last full review was in 2005/06. The main features of the revisions then were greater integration of preclinical and clinical elements principally by vertical integration of an Oral Biology unit in years 2-4, and earlier initial patient treatment for students, bringing this forward to half way through year 2. Evidence-based dentistry was embedded into the curriculum by the Oral Health Research unit, which allowed for Research Methods teaching and Critical Appraisal projects, both of which strengthened the quality of the elective project. The intention to include community-based teaching at South Bristol Community Hospital was part of this review, and delivered within a curriculum restructure in 2012/13. This restructure was required due to University

regulations stopping units spanning academic years, but this allowed staff to reconsider student progression decision-making. We also mapped the restructured programme to new General Dental Council (GDC) learning outcomes. This mapping was approved by the GDC during the 2014 inspection visit. The report from that visit noted that our BDS curriculum allows students to first treat patients later than other UK dental schools, and we are aware from student surveys that year 1 of the programme is not considered to have sufficient dental relevance. The curriculum review was officially launched on 6th July, and already there have been productive meetings in a scoping and horizon-scanning phase of the review. This phase, which is being led by Rebecca John, with academic support from Andrea Waylen, Nigel Robb and Dave Dymock, and professional services support from Sylvia Elliott, James Tubman and Isabelle Lambson, will report to Annual Programme Review on 14th September 2016.



## What's going on with.....?

**FQT:** We are pleased to announce Dr Angela Hague has agreed to Chair the Faculty's Quality Team. Angela, who is a Senior Teaching Fellow in the School of Oral & Dental Sciences, will shadow our outgoing Chair (Dr Ellayne Fowler) for the summer before taking over the post in August. Angela will also be lead for the CHSE Quality Theme. Angela has been part of the FQT team for many years and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge that will be invaluable in taking this area forward. We are very much looking forward to working with her. We'd like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Faculty, sincere thanks to Ellayne. Ellayne has done an outstanding job in leading FQT over the past 4 years and her drive and enthusiasm has been greatly appreciated.

**Curriculum Mapping Tool:** Since 2015 Nicky Newcombe has led a Faculty project aiming to implement detailed curriculum mapping for the three professional health programmes, in a format which is easy to access and easy to update. The curriculum maps will show the links between teaching activities, assessment components, content themes, and programme outcomes. This enables stakeholders to easily see where and when specific competencies are taught and assessed, but also how elements of the programmes link together. The project is now progressing in two strands: the Student Lifecycle Support Programme (SLSP) team will procure and implement a tool to store and access the maps; meanwhile the Faculty is collating the mapping data in preparation for population of the new tool in 2017.

**UoB Strategy:** You will be aware that the new University strategy has been approved and is available on the University's website. We are now moving into the implementation phase that will result in many exciting changes and develops in education. One of these is the plan to develop a Bristol Institute for Learning and Teaching that will be the focal point for developing and nurturing the University's community of scholars, teachers and educational innovators. We are looking forward to ensuring the work of CHSE feeds into this new Institute.

## Latest!.....



**23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2016**  
Engineer's House, Clifton,  
BS8 3NB

**Faculty of Health Sciences**  
Centre for Health Sciences Education

**Teaching and Learning 1 day  
conference**  
**Key Note: Professor Jo Smith**  
**'Resilience'**

**Free conference includes:**

- ❖ Tea/coffee & buffet lunch
- ❖ Après conference drink
- ❖ On site parking/shuttle bus from Clifton Down
- ❖ CPD points

**Abstracts wanted:**

Short presentations  
Posters  
Workshops

## Future Events



**Written Feedback – A workshop to share good practice on providing written feedback to students.**  
Dr Sheena Warman, School of Veterinary Sciences. Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 10-12. To book please contact Chris Cooper (Chris.Cooper@bris.ac.uk).

Don't forget the University's staff development unit offers a wide range of training. For programmes related to teaching and learning please review the CREATE pages at:  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/academic/learningandteaching/>