BSAS Conference

We recently hosted the multidisciplinary 10th Anniversary International meeting on Behavioural Science Applied to Surgery and Acute Care Settings.

There were some excellent talks and presentations covering areas from the role of work-related telephone conversations in physicians’ clinical education to dealing with rudeness – piloting an interprofessional team training.

Key note speakers included our own Professor Cleland and Professor Youngson along with Steven Yule from Harvard Medical School and Professor Østergaard from University of Copenhagen.

All of the participants were delighted to come and see Aberdeen as well as experience our hospitality and see our state of the art facilities for medical education.

We even organised a walk up Bennachie to allow them to appreciate the beauty of the local area and the weather was kind. With safety being such a strong focus we were very pleased when they all saw an impromptu fire evacuation as somewhat of a bonus!

“In Thanks for the event of the year. It was a great inspiration and food for thought” - Doris Østergaard

The Participants enjoying some Aberdeen sunshine
Community Star Awards

We were delighted when one of our staff, Dr Jerry Morse, was awarded a community star by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen.

As the Clinical Skills Centre Manager he is kept very busy but still finds time to volunteer and has made a significant contribution to the Scouting movement.

In addition to this, and very much in line with his day job, he also teaches basic life support to numerous groups.

The awards formed part of the Aberdeen Christmas Parade, where the festive lights were turned on, and were followed by a Civic Reception at the Town House.

4 other members of University staff received awards—Fiona Clark, Sonia Domingo, Mark Paterson and Israel Osofero—well done to them all!

Play Volunteer Scheme

The Aberdeen University Paediatric Society (AUPS) play Volunteer scheme is now in its second year. 12 Medical students from years 1-3 were selected from over 30 applicants. The students assist the play therapy team at RACH through supporting imaginative play, arts and crafts, playing video games and talking to children and their families. The scheme has been well received with positive feedback from students and the Play Services Manager. Heather Beattie, Play Services Manager remarked "The medical student play volunteer programme is going from strength to strength. Not only are the students, play staff and children benefiting from the programme, we are all also having a lot of fun with it". Rachita-Beth Lee, a Year 1 medical student said "Participating in the play volunteer scheme is a memorable and life-changing experience. Those few hours every couple of weeks are so rewarding and have given me the opportunity to meet outstanding and positive patients, families and staff. I definitely think that the effort and hard work the play service puts in makes a difference for the children and their families, and allows their stay at the hospital to be much more bearable and enjoyable." AUPS hopes to develop the scheme further in future years and continue to make a positive difference at RACH.

Explorathon ‘16

Dr Flora Gröning, Laura Pérez-Pachón and their volunteers brought the latest developments in digital Anatomy teaching to the city centre of Aberdeen as part of this year’s EXPLORATHON, the European Researchers’ Night on 30 September 2016. Over 100 adults and children put on 3D glasses to explore digital models and learn more about the Anatomy of the human body in the Bon Accord Shopping Centre. Some of these new developments to enhance Anatomy teaching have been funded by the Roland Sutton Academic Trust.

Suttie Christmas Breakfast

Every year we hold a special breakfast to welcome all those who work and train here on a regular basis as well as all the staff who support the running of the centre.

This year’s event was held on 15th December and the turnout was the best that has been seen. There were 123 people who visited for their roll or pastry and coffee or tea over that breakfast time. And the café staff did a fantastic job of brightening everyone’s morning. Of course there was chocolate too!

We would like to thank you all for your continuing help and support over the past year and as we head into the New Year for no doubt another busy year of educating.
Fundraising Success

This year, after a personal tragedy, Sandra McKandie, from our Resuscitation Dept. started fundraising to provide the Police Scotland with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). This was to ensure that they are in response vehicles across the North East Police Division.

After fundraising, which included an auction where £16,000 was raised, Sandra and her husband had raised enough money to purchase at least 10 AEDs. These were donated to the North East Police Division for their vehicles in November.

A number of police officers have now been trained on how to use these AEDs and more will be trained. This means when called to an incident they can provide medical aid if required.

Although currently only in the North East Division the hope is that by continuing to fundraise this will allow all divisions across Scotland to have AEDs, especially in the more remote and rural areas.

We would like to congratulate Sandra and her husband on this fantastic success which we hope will save many lives in years to come.

Café Med

We hope to continue to build on the success of this very popular series, now in its eighth year. Please come along and enjoy the programme while supporting our colleagues who will be presenting.

January Mon 16th The route to healthy and environmentally-friendly diets with Dr Jennie MacDiarmid and Dr Jon Hillier—where we will explore the food production and consumption patterns that need to change to make our eating habits both healthier and more environmentally-friendly.

February Mon 20th Teaching anatomy in the 21st century with Dr Flora Groening and Professor Alan Denison — where we will look at advances in 3D visualisation technology that allow us to explore the human body in new ways. Take part in a demonstration of how we apply this technology to anatomy teaching and join us for a discussion on its benefits to the student experience.

March Mon 13th Advances in dementia research: from the lab to the clinic with Dr Tara Spires-Jones and Professor Craig Ritchie — dementia affects more than 85,000 people in Scotland and currently we do not have any treatments for this disease. Join us as we highlight the latest promising research and discuss how we are turning this new knowledge into treatments.

April Mon 24th Improving Food Safety: from hand washing to whole genome sequencing with Professor Norval Strachan. We will discuss what can and is being done to reduce the risk of food poisoning in Scotland, from the farm to your kitchen, and give an overview of techniques covering good hygienic practices, as well as epidemiology and molecular biology.

May Mon 22nd The key to stroke survival with Professor Phylo Myint and Thérèse Lebedis. Stroke is common in older age and is associated with death and disability. Hear about the latest research on the importance of person-centred care in reducing the burden of stroke.

June Mon 12th The enigma of inflammatory bowel disease with Dr Ashis Mukhopadhya and Dr Indrani Mukhopadhy. The incidence of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is increasing in Scotland, especially in the juvenile population. We will discuss the latest findings in IBD research that will help in the control and treatment of this disease.

Events are free and held in the Suttie Centre Café from 6pm. They start with a short talk from each of the presenters. We then have a short break when the café is open for a caffeine fix and then have an always dynamic question and answer session. The events finish no later than 7.30pm. They are open to the public so please encourage family, friends and patients to join us if the topic is of interest to them.

PG Cert

We were delighted that a number of our colleagues recently received their PG Cert in Medical Education. This covers areas including how to develop desirable professional behaviours in tomorrow’s doctors. Congratulations to them all.
**Confidential Waste**

The University has recently changed its provider for the removal and disposal of confidential waste. The consoles can take paper or thin card. Staples don’t have to be removed.

However they can’t take corrugated brown cardboard or paper clips.

Any non-paper confidential waste (film, cassettes, discs, etc.) can be disposed of via additional bags as can bulk clearances of confidential paper. Contact reception to arrange.

Non confidential paper will now be recycled via the dry mixed recycling green bins.

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**Wasted Space**

In the last 3 months over **219** hours of usable teaching space have been wasted due to failure to cancel in time.

- **September**: 69.25 hours
- **October**: 82 hours
- **November**: 68 hours

This is disappointingly up on previous quarters. Please help us to ensure space is available for your next teaching or learning session - wherever possible cancel an unrequired space a minimum of 14 days in advance. Your confirmation email contains a link to cancel or email.

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**MedChi Main Hall Refurb**

The University has embarked upon an ambitious programme of **making digital second nature** around 5 main strands: World class learning and student experience, Supporting research excellence, Our people, Engaging with the world, Use of data.

The aim of this project is to create learning spaces that make use of innovative technology and furniture to create a flexible digitally enhanced teaching and learning environment that will facilitate novel approaches to teaching and learning. The wide range of technology within these spaces has been designed to facilitate distributed learning, providing a fully integrated learning experience for both local and distant students and offers the opportunity to bring in in external contributions from our partners.

Collaborative learning and group working is at the heart of the Digitally Enhanced Learning Spaces creating rooms with state of the art technology to allow; video conferencing using auto tracking cameras, interactive voting using the user’s own device, enhanced and modernised lecture capture, the ability for users to display their device screens wirelessly to any of the screens in each room.

The rooms are set up with a focussed learning space based around a number of bays with 55-inch display, with the facility for students to wireless project their own devices screen onto the display, localised focussed sound, allowing students within each bay to listen to audio without disturbing the rest of the room, both wired and wireless connectivity the display within their bay and also the main screens and all displays in the room, web cam and microphone to allow each group to independently web conference with external users, a tablet PC should a student not have their own and power sockets to charge devices.

The main teaching wall consists of three large interactive touchscreen monitors providing intuitive surfaces for lectures and students to work with as well as a lectern which enables the lecturer to control what is shown on the different displays around the room. Optimal placement of speakers, microphones and voice-tracking video cameras will enable crisp and clear lecture capture, as well as facilitate video and web conferencing sessions. In addition the MedChi room has 3D capability.

These rooms offer fantastic opportunities for enhancing learning but also present challenges, as staff may need to redesign substantial elements of the course to fully realise the benefits that such rooms offer. Staff will therefore need time and space to innovate, evaluate and reflect, and to build on the innovative teaching that they have already been doing.

The Centre for Academic Development and IT Services are working with a group of staff keen to use these new facilities to ensure they are supported during their initial use of these rooms. If you are interested in using these new spaces please email cad@abdn.ac.uk. The work will produce case studies and good practice guides which, together with an awareness-raising campaign to showcase their work, will build momentum on the use of these rooms and inform the University’s strategy on the development of digitally enhanced learning spaces.