

Primary Care Teaching Team

Newsletter - March 2022

Editorial: Opening Up

It's said that mountaineering disasters are more likely on the way down from the summit. We have certainly been in the high peaks of our capacity over the pandemic - personally and professionally. In the lead up to our *Festival of Teaching* (see below) I have been pondering the future of UG GP teaching. For me, our move to telephone consulting has been a threat to teaching quality. With keen students it's fine, but it was at times agony to feel the interest of our less engaged brethren slip away, as I called up the tenth patient of the morning. The sheer *theatre* of the face-2-face consultation has been sorely missed. How satisfying it was yesterday to see my student's satisfaction as she reduced the inguinal hernia of our octogenarian patient on his sofa - the small shrine to his deceased wife on one side.

But for sure, practice will not go quite back to the way it was. Telephone consulting is considerably more convenient for certain patients, is more environmentally sustainable and can also allow us more flexibility in the management of surgeries. So in planning the future of teaching we need to take this into account and give more focus to telephony skills. This is true for hospital colleagues too. One thing I think will come, and which is sorely needed, is much better quality *speakers* for conventional telephones, or the more widespread use of shared headsets. On my patch, language and accent are already a barrier, and we should be optimising sound quality, so students have a better chance of grasping the conversation. Another thought is more regular use of video consulting - I am not sure why this has been slow to catch on.



So as we come down off the peaks of the pandemic let's be mindful of lessons learned and continue to try and optimise student learning in the aftermath. We look forward to hearing your concerns and your ideas in the final plenary session of April's *Festival of Teaching*.

Trevor Thompson

Professor, and Head of Teaching in Primary Care

ON TUESDAY THE 5TH OF APRIL 2022

festival of teaching

THE CLIFTON PAVILION, BRISTOL ZOO GARDENS

TEACHING DILEMMAS	LIVE MUSIC
EDUCATION SPEED DATING	TEACHING FOR NEXT YEAR
RESEARCH UPDATE	PRACTITIONER WELLBEING
DR PHIL HAMMOND	VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

PLUS MORE SESSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED!
 email phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk to book your tickets

 University of
BRISTOL
 Centre for Academic
 Primary Care

Here's a lovely piece of poetry, and write up, that stem from an online GP placement. It is taken from our brilliant [Out of our Heads](#) website, which is home to over 500 creative works, mainly by medical students, exploring the turbulent interface of medicine and the Arts.



'A surprisingly memorable online consultation' by Oliver Sinha, from his first year. 2020/21

**'Waiting aside his laptop for the 'Teams' meeting to begin
 Microphone off, camera on, he joined and gave a grin
 A consultation lurking, on the strike of 9 am
 He'd just finished some notes regarding the brain stem
 The patient joined, battling pain and connection difficulties
 He opened the consultation which put his nerves at ease
 Stories of life and illness were told in great lengths
 Being interviewed by a group who shared their strengths
 A good consultation closed with pandemic discussion
 The patient left with a surprising positive repercussion
 Another line spoken, just after they said goodbye
 The patient told her husband that I was a nice guy'**

"My poem is from an experience I had during the second term. We were interviewing an elderly patient over 'Teams', who, like many elderly people, was finding it hard to use this online system at first. The consultation was relaxed, and I was trying my best to get involved by asking questions. It was one of the first consultations where I felt that I had applied the core model of consultation within our course intentionally, and I had more of a plan of action than I had done for previous consulting experiences.

The main thing that stuck with me from the consultation was at the very end, when the patient thought they had left the 'Teams' meeting, turned to the other person in their house and exclaimed that I was lovely (or words to that effect). Not only did that make me feel proud for trying my best during the consultation, but it reminded me of one of the reasons I decided to study medicine in the first place. In a consultation you get an insight into someone's life, an insight that few people will ever see, and so must be treated with respect . . . "

You can read the rest of Oliver's text on the [Out of our Heads](#) site.

During our weekly CAPC Teaching Team meeting last week, Lizzie Grove shared with us that she had hosted her very own (mini) Winter Olympics. She very kindly agreed to share a bit more for our Newsletter . . .



She writes, “We celebrated the end of the Winter Olympics this weekend with our own mini-home games. Events included the three-legged biathlon, the mirror ski-slalom and, like the real games, the highlight was the curling. With ice curling 'stones' and an off-cut marble curling rink we enjoyed a close-run game. It was much trickier than I realised, and despite winning a team silver, I think I'll leave the real game to Scotland where curling began in 1620.”



As a new initiative we would like to start sending you links to educational articles that might enhance your teaching practice. We would like to be able to send you the actual pdfs, but this is not permitted under copyright. But *Medical Education* and *Medical Teacher* are journals that are listed by OpenAthens which you should have access to as an NHS GP.

If you have an nhs.net email address you can register for access to OpenAthens via [here](#). At least Bristol CCG is listed and I am assuming all others are too. Once you have registered for OpenAthens you should have full text access to these two key journals and a vast amount of other resources.

We hope to put relevant links on forthcoming newsletters - so this is an invitation to be prepared for the fun ahead! All in the name of evidence-based teaching ... Best wishes, Trevor.

Would you like students to help with quality improvement projects at your practice?

We are pleased to invite submissions for
STUDENT CHOICE placements for **Autumn 2022**
for **Year 2** students.

Students will spend 3 weeks at your practice, usually to undertake a quality improvement or audit.

Why supervise a Student Choice placement?

- **Useful** to your practice, e.g. undertaking quality improvement, developing patient materials or helping to evaluate your service
- **Engage** with, **inspire** and be inspired by the next generation of clinicians
- **Enthusiastic students** who have chosen a project they want to do
- **Generous** remuneration available

What is involved?

Placements run in a 3-week block in September / October 2022

Placements can be for single students or small groups

Students will carry out quality improvement or audit projects useful to your practice.

We have successfully run student choice digitally this year, and many projects can be adapted to run on-line if needed.

Funding is available *per student* placement, to enable supervisors to provide mentoring and support.

Number of students	Remuneration and expected supervision over 3 weeks
1	£1764 (7 sessions)
2	£2268 (9 sessions)
3	£2772 (11 sessions)
4	£3276 (13 sessions)
	Add £504 for each additional student

Key info:

Placements run: September / October 2022 for 3 weeks

Application by a short on-line form

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 21st MARCH

Interested or want to discuss an idea?

Please contact us **as soon as possible** to discuss

Contact: Rachel.johnson@bristol.ac.uk or phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

GP4 update

Starting in September 2022, students will do 18 Wednesdays in GP4 rather than the current 36 Wednesdays. The GP4 Wednesdays will continue during the Complex medicine for older people (CMOP) block, but not the shorter speciality clerkships. With the increasing numbers of students coming through the medical school, we hope that this change will make GP4 sustainable for the future. Next year is going to be a large Year 4 as fewer students are intercalating, so we very much hope all our current GP4 teachers will continue teaching throughout the whole GP4 year (2x 18 week blocks).

This will be the third year in the new MB21 curriculum - a big thank you to our great group of enthusiastic GP teachers for making this possible. Our latest student feedback showed that GP4 is rated highly by the students. With finals now at the end of year 4, GP4 students are engaged, keen to learn and get stuck in with patient consulting and authentic tasks such as phlebotomy.

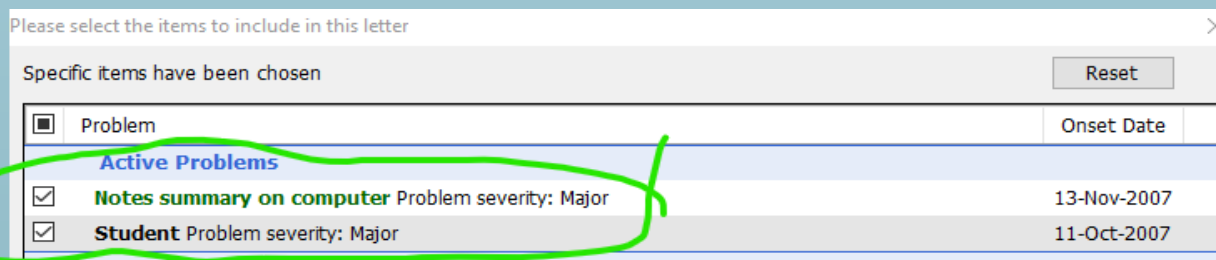
If you would like to get involved in teaching GP4 next year please contact us on phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk and see more information on our [GP4 webpage](#).

In other news, you may be interested to keep up to date with the latest CAPC research that's taking place at the University.

Each issue of **CAPC Research News** will update you on the latest research findings from across our research themes, highlight new study announcements, update you on recent blog posts and events, provide information on our latest research and practice tools, and highlight opportunities to get involved in our research.

You can sign up for the [newsletter here](#). The latest newsletter [can be found here](#).

And finally, from the archives, a little piece of GP teacher humour . . .



Please select the items to include in this letter

Specific items have been chosen Reset

<input type="checkbox"/>	Problem	Onset Date
Active Problems		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Notes summary on computer Problem severity: Major	13-Nov-2007
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Student Problem severity: Major	11-Oct-2007
Minor Past Problems		

We hope you enjoy our Newsletter, and that you would like to continue to receive it. However, if you would like to unsubscribe, please just drop us a quick note at any point to phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk to let us know, and we'll take you off the mailing list.

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Email us on phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

Or why not give us a call? 0117 4282987

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