

Primary Care Teaching Team

Newsletter - October 2021

EDITORIAL

Chocks away from another academic year which sees the MB21 Curriculum now fully integrated across all five years. The Primary Care contribution to MB21 is substantial, with 20% of the clinical years teaching now in the community. We really appreciate the hard graft and the inspiration this represents - as do the students. The number of nominations for the GP Teacher prizes was exceptional and their comments bowled me over.

It is easy to get blasé about this sort of feedback, but we mustn't, it is the sign of a thriving teaching community. I currently teach Y2 students at Wellspring in Bristol, which I love, but every year I feel daunted at the prospect of feeding the intellectual appetite of this group of bright young people. I know many of you signed up for year-specific teacher workshops - an excellent source of inspiration.

July 2021 saw the retirement of Dr Barbara Laue who masterminded our workshop programme - just one of the ways in which her presence will be missed. We have also secured access for you to a introductory course for medical teachers through the University (see below). I have taken over from Barbara the mantle for editing this newsletter, with Kirsten Gill in charge of production. We will be experimenting with formats as we go and reaching out to you for content.

Great to learn about the Shetland exploits of Rachel Jackson, winner of the Nathan Burton Elective Prize - making the very best of current travel restrictions. Check out below for opportunities to help select the next generation of medical students by conducting online admissions interviews.



One final thing of note, the students who graduated in July 2021 fill in a national survey - the NSS. Under the leadership of (GP) and newly appointed Professor Andrew Blythe (big congratulations, Andrew!) Bristol Medical School is now top (yes top!) of the national league table for student satisfaction - and by a margin. We must be doing something right! Further details below.

Sincere thanks to all of you who have signed up to teach in 2021-22 - especially if you took one of our new packages. Onward!

Trevor Thompson

Professor, and Head of Teaching in Primary Care

GP teacher Prize winners 2020/21

Every year we receive so much positive and heartening feedback from our students about their GP placements, and this year was no exception, despite so much disruption to practical learning, and with much of the teaching done online.



It is INCREDIBLY hard to choose winners, but for this year . . . here we see Dr Charles Hinder of Combe Down Surgery and Dr Sarah Macrow of Overton Park Surgery receiving their very well-deserved certificates from Professor Andrew Blythe, at our Graduation Ceremony on 14th July, and Dr Gloria Tu of Lawn Medical Centre receiving hers from Trevor.

Unable to join us on the day were Dr Jo Glover of Whiteladies Medical Group, Dr Sophie Bell-Syer of St Augustine's Medical Practice, and Dr Tim Sephton of Chew Medical Practice.

Thank you so much to this year's winners, and to all our GP teachers!



“Primary Care placements, though they were online, I found the things I learned from this really valuable and gave me more insight into what I will be doing in the years to come.”

Year 1 student, 2020/21

“Dr W took so much time to teach us interesting medicine but also about all the opportunities there are as a GP . . . He also explained and showed us how the GP practice is run and what it's like to be a partner, something I knew nothing about. He has some amazing stories which he used to teach some fascinating medicine.”

Year 5 student, 2020/21

Introductory very short course on teaching within HE for medical teachers:

This short programme is offered online, and the content meets good practice requirements for a blended learning environment.

It is designed to equip our health sciences educators with the essential knowledge and skills required to enable the effective design and delivery of teaching and assessments. It is available for all colleagues (including sessional) who are involved in teaching University of Bristol Health Science undergraduate students and who might not have a University appointment with access to other programmes on offer to support teacher development for University employees.

The scope of participants' involvement in teaching might range from formal taught sessions to less formal workplace-based teaching, preferably a combination of both and should be significant enough to allow an application of course material to practice.

Completion of all 4 units is not essential, but does provide 10 credits towards the PG Certificate offered by TLHP.

Participants may elect to undertake only the sessions that are the most relevant for them. CTRL and click on the link below for more details and a contact email address.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/tlhp/courses/fmed/>



FILM REVIEW: *The Sound of Metal* (2019) dir Darius Marder

I learned important medical lessons from this taut drama about a rock drummer who goes rapidly deaf.

The lead character, Ruben, evades past demons on the road as a touring grunge act with girlfriend Lou, also on the run from something.

When over the course of a few weeks Ruben becomes profoundly deaf, his shrink points him to a therapeutic deaf community. Here he finds himself at the crossroads between anger and denial, from where he seeks solace in an expensive cochlear implant.

As you can imagine, all does not go well. Amongst the standouts of this movie is the quizzical authenticity of the lead, Riz Ahmed, and the way the soundscape shifts from that of the hearing to that of the deaf.

The movie hinges on the question of deafness as a medical tragedy to be cured/pitied or as a possible lifestyle, constrained but luminous. Highly recommended.

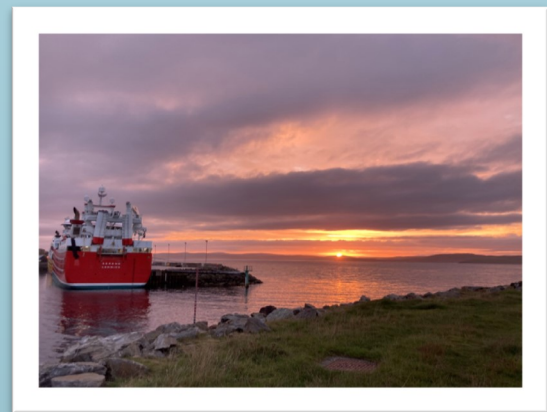
Another superb deafness-themed film is *Beyond Silence* (1996) about the musically gifted child of deaf parents.

2021/22 winner of the Nathan Burton Prize in Primary Care

Each year a prize to the value of £250 is awarded to a student to study primary care during their elective period.

Applications for this prize are submitted prior to the elective period by completing an application form in which applicants tell us the aim of the elective, which may involve a project or an opportunity to gain a unique experience that will have an influence over their future career. Our winner this year, whom some of you will have met during her GP placements, is Rachel Jackson.

Rachel is spending her elective on the Shetland Islands, and has kindly let us share some of her favourite photographs, some of her thoughts, and her Instagram handle **@shetlandon2wheels** for those who would like to read more.

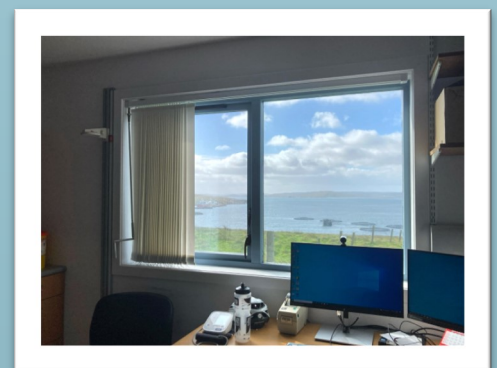


“23/9 - A window of opportunity: I’ve had a busy week so far. The GP here has really pushed me and given me my own list of patients to see. This has been great and the people here are lovely so don’t mind seeing me for an extended appointment!

I’ve realised this week that as doctors and medical students we are in a very privileged position. We see people often at their most vulnerable. Every patient no matter who they are or what their problem is has to be treated with the same care and compassion. To best help someone at their most vulnerable, they must trust you.

This got me thinking that a consultation is like a window. GPs only have a small window of time to see a patient. To provide someone with the right treatment you need to be able to see the full picture. You need to see through the window. Patients will only show you the view out of their window they want you to see. If they don’t trust you, they won’t open their curtains wide enough to show you the full picture of what’s really going on.

I think this practice has the best view of any GP surgery I’ve ever been to!”



National Student Survey 2021

Here is what Andrew Blythe, Emma Clark and Joe McAllister said to us all back in July:

Dear colleagues

The results of the National Student Survey for 2021 were published at the end of last week. We are delighted to report that out of the 31 UK Medical Schools for which results were published, Bristol came top.

Overall satisfaction with the MB ChB programme at Bristol was 97%. There are 8 domains within the survey and in 3 of these we also came top; for another 3 domains we were second. The domains for which we came first were teaching on my course, learning opportunities and student voice . . . Achieving this satisfaction for teaching during the pandemic is simply amazing and is the result of your incredibly hard work. Thank you.

Thank you for continuing to provide our students' clinical placements during the COVID pandemic and for providing catch-up clinical placements in the specialities from year 4. Thank you for all the new online teaching resources that you have created. And thank you for supporting our students so magnificently by your regular communications and meetings. Above all, thank you for showing such deep concern for all aspects of their welfare and wellbeing.

The National Student Survey is an exit survey in which students in all subjects are invited to participate during the year in which they graduate. Therefore, the results of this survey are a reflection not just of teaching during the COVID pandemic but also of teaching that has taken place over the last 6 years of the MB16 curriculum. The MB ChB programme is 5 years long, but about half of our students take a year out to intercalate or suspend studies at some stage. Therefore, most of the 207 students who completed this survey studied the various years of the MB ChB programme as follows: Year 1 2015-16 or 2016-17 Year 2 2016-17 or 2017-18 Year 3 2017-18 or 2018-19 Year 4 2018-19 or 2019-20 Year 5 2020-21.

Please do share this good news with all your colleagues who taught this cohort of students. We hope that you and your colleagues can take pride in what we have achieved together. We know that our new doctors are very grateful, as are we.

With best wishes Andrew Blythe, Programme Director for MB16 Emma Clark, School Education Director Joe McAllister, Medical Programme Education Manager

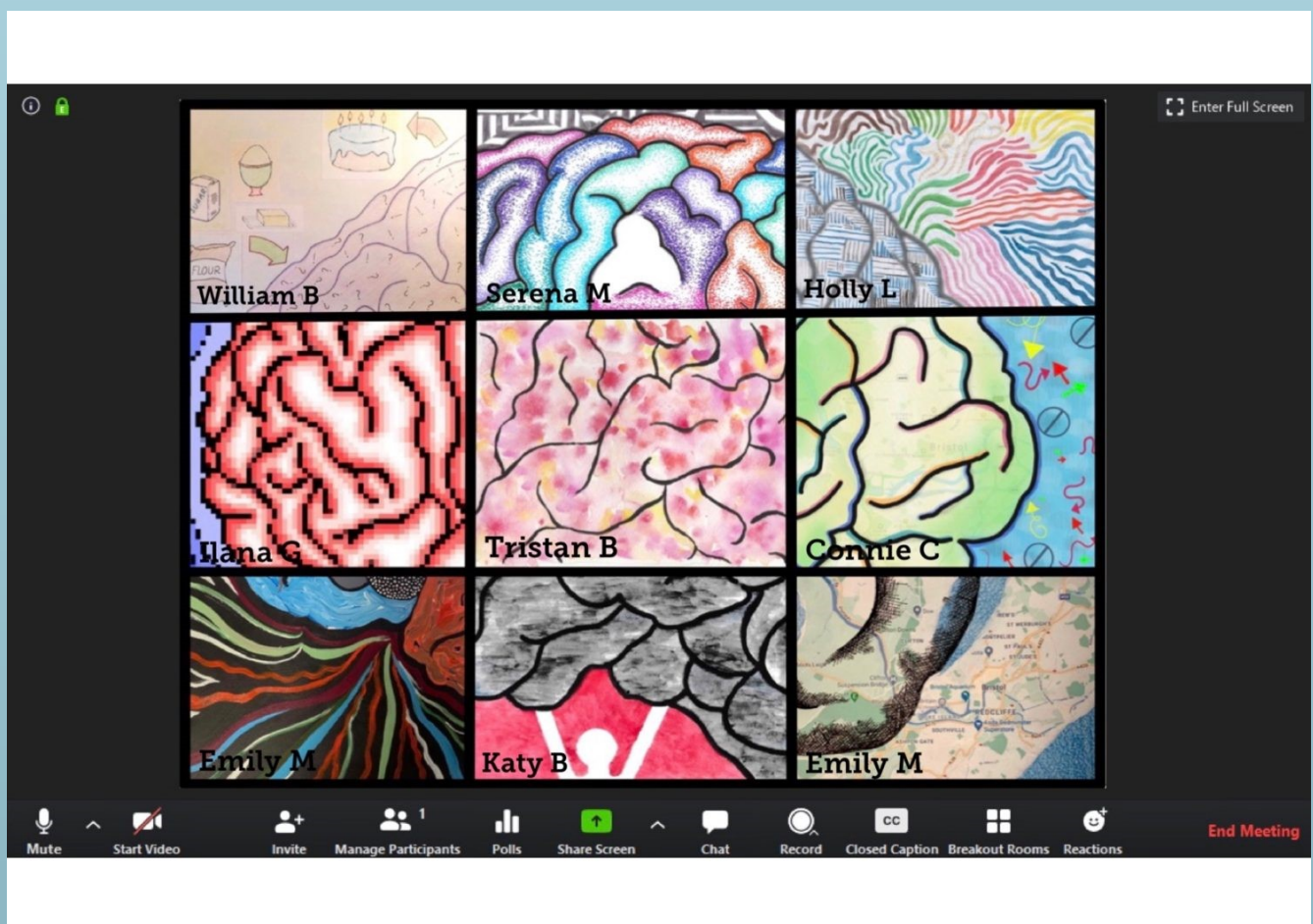
Student artwork from our website “Out of our heads”

It’s probably fair to say that no-one reading this Newsletter can properly imagine how it must have felt to start University in the midst of a pandemic. Here is a beautiful piece from a Year 1 group, in 2020/21.

“Virtual Fog” for Foundations of Medicine

“This piece represents our experience of starting medical school, reflecting on the unique year we’ve had adapting to Covid-19. Often, we’ve felt as a group, that navigating online learning can be confusing, challenging and that there is sometimes a sense of something being amiss – we didn’t know what it would have been like in more ‘normal’ years.

It could be worth mentioning we felt a lot of this feeling came from not being able to socialise and properly meet each other. One of our GPs has mentioned she feels a lot of dementia cases she has seen since the start of the pandemic have been due to reduced social interaction and we anticipated that this sense of lack would lead to disjointedness in the final piece....”



To find out what Megs, Connie, Emily, Ethan, Holly, Ilana, Katy, Serena, Steph, Thea, Tristan and William said next about their artwork, do please visit the Out of our heads website [here](#).

“The GP placements online have been brilliant—my GP has been especially supportive and engaging and it was always the highlight of my week”.
Year 1 student, 2020/21

(That gets a  from the admin team!)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH MEDICAL ADMSSIONS ONLINE INTERVIEWS

As you will be aware, each year Bristol Medical School runs a series of interviews for undergraduate medical school places.

We very much encourage staff in the School to contribute to interviewing prospective medical students and value their contribution, and this includes our GP teachers.

This year we will be running the interviews online again, and they will comprise of two assessors interviewing one candidate for a 35 minute interview, on the following dates:

January - Mon 10th, Tues 11th, Wed 12th, Thurs 13th

January - Mon 24th, Tues 25th, Wed 26th, Thurs 27th

February - Mon 7th, Tues 8th, Wed 9th, Thurs 10th

February - Mon 21st & Tues 22nd (Weds 23rd mop up day)

Session 1 08:45am -11:00am **Session 2** 11:15am - 1:30pm **Session 3** 1:45pm - 4:00pm
(2h 15m)

If you are available on some of the above dates, and are interested in helping with these interviews, please contact Jo Bennett, Admissions Co-ordinator, via email to ask for more information. jo.bennett@bristol.ac.uk

Please note, this is not paid work.

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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