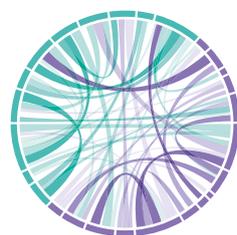




An Introduction to the Medical Schools Council
2020



mssc Medical
Schools
Council
For the future of medicine

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Executive Summary

The Medical Schools Council (MSC) is the representative body for UK medical schools. Its current membership includes forty-two medical schools (comprising of forty one undergraduate and one postgraduate medical school). This document will provide an introduction to MSC, including its structure, current members and key areas of work.

Since August 2019, the elected members of the council are:

- Lead Chair: Professor John Atherton, Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Nottingham
- Co-Chair: Professor Malcolm Reed, Brighton and Sussex Medical School
- Executive Committee members: Professor David Burn (Newcastle), Professor David Crossman (St Andrews), Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak (Glasgow), Professor Una Macleod (HYMS), Professor Patrick Maxwell (Cambridge), Professor Steve Thornton (Queen Mary, University of London).

The forty-two medical schools that make up MSC are represented by the deans or faculty heads of the medical schools. Council meetings take place four times a year, and an elected Executive Committee meets five times a year. Council members also serve on one of three sub-committees: clinical staffing and employment; education; and research.

Priorities

The past year has seen many developments that have

shaped MSC's priorities heading into 2019. Challenges ahead include:

- The implications of leaving the European Union, particularly the impact on medical research and on EU staff and students
- Responding to the increase in medical student numbers
- Working with the GMC on the introduction of a national licensing assessment
- Supporting the transition from medical school to practice, in particular to careers in clinical academia and areas of current significance to the NHS
- Promoting clinical academic careers to both young doctors and the wider public.

Ongoing work

As well as collaborating on new developments, MSC is continuing work on other areas that impact undergraduate medical education, including promoting careers in general practice. MSC is also committed to promoting clinical academic careers and publishes (jointly with the Dental Schools Council) an annual [survey of Medical Clinical Academic Staffing Levels in UK Medical and Dental Schools](#).

Other key policy areas include working with the GMC to develop guidance for medical schools on fitness to practise, leading work to ensure that MSC has an inclusive culture within the council and is leading the sector externally towards the goals of gender equality, and supporting, together with the GMC, the [UK Medical Education Database \(UKMED\)](#), a platform for collating data on the performance of UK medical students and trainee doctors across their undergraduate and postgraduate education and future careers.

MSC Assessment

Through its assessment arm, MSC Assessment, the council is involved in delivering the Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) and has previously delivered the

Situational Judgement Test (SJT). The PSA is an online assessment of competency in the safe and effective use of medicines, developed by the British Pharmacological Society and MSC Assessment. It is taken by final year medical students and Foundation Year 1 doctors.

Specialist groups

A key attribute of the Medical Schools Council is collaboration and the sharing of evidence-based best practice. It has formed two groups, each drawn from the leaders in the medical schools in the relevant areas. The MSC Assessment Alliance is a partnership to improve undergraduate assessment practice through collaboration between all undergraduate members. A key output of the Assessment Alliance is a bank of high-quality assessment questions, or 'items', with face validity and reliability, developed by Assessment Alliance partners for use individually and in common as part of final examinations. The MSC Selection Alliance is made up of medical school selection leads and was launched with a view to looking at the issue of selection to medicine with particular focus on best practice and widening participation. The work undertaken by the Selection Alliance includes providing outreach to secondary schools, developing selection methods and work on contextual admissions. Leaders in education, research, fitness to practise and medical electives also meet.

The office

The Medical Schools Council is supported by twelve full-time members of staff, of whom ten are based in the MSC office in London. Its Chief Executive is Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, who has been in post since 2003.

About us

The Medical Schools Council is the representative body for UK medical schools. The council is made of the heads of UK medical schools and meets in order to shape the future of medical education in the UK.

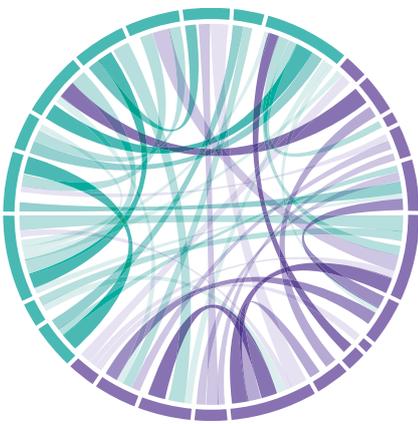
As well as the heads of medical schools, other groups meet under the auspices of the Medical Schools Council to provide expert opinion on particular areas of medical education and research. The Assessment Alliance is made of heads of assessment from member medical schools while the Selection Alliance is made of heads of selection. Leaders in education, research, fitness to practise and medical electives also meet.

Together these groups form a body of experts which is able to define policy, share best practice and run major national projects such as the Assessment Alliance's Question Bank. In this way, the Medical Schools Council allows for the collaborative shaping of strategy and initiatives at the UK level while preserving the autonomy of individual medical schools.

This section summarises the history and current strategic aims of the Medical Schools Council.

History

During the early years of the Second World War, the heads of a number of medical schools would meet to discuss solutions to wartime problems. In 1947, this group was formally established as the Conference of Deans of Provincial Medical Schools. This allowed for greater communication between medical schools across the UK to discuss issues surrounding the role of doctors and how they could be trained to meet the health needs of the United Kingdom, particularly in relation to the creation of the National Health Service.



The Conference of Deans of Provincial Medical Schools consisted of medical schools from Cambridge, Bristol, Liverpool, Durham, Birmingham, Cardiff, Manchester, Leeds, and Oxford. All members of the group agreed that the Conference should serve a purely advisory function and remain autonomous from the medical schools it represented. A separate conference was formed at the same time by the London medical schools called the Conference of Deans of London Medical Schools.

Though separate, the Conference of Deans of Provincial Medical Schools and the Conference of Deans of London Medical Schools would frequently hold joint meetings. In 1989, they merged to become the Conference of Deans of UK Medical Schools.

In 1991, the Conference became the Council of Heads of Medical Schools. It was during this time that the Council became affiliated with the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, now Universities UK and for the first time employing professional policy staff. Finally, in 2006 the organisation changed to its current title of the Medical Schools Council.

Who are our members?

The Medical Schools Council has 42 members, which includes 41 undergraduate medical schools and one postgraduate-only medical school. Our members are the deans or faculty heads of medical schools.

Strategic aims

The strategic aims of the Medical Schools Council are:

The objectives of the Medical Schools Council are to promote, encourage and develop medical schools in the United Kingdom and thereby advance education for the public benefit, in particular (but without limitation) medical education, research and training.

1. To be the authoritative voice of UK medical schools
2. To ensure the world-class quality of UK medical education
3. To be a global leader in medical assessment
4. To focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity, to enhance clinical leadership and develop leaders within medical schools
5. To maintain and build on the close relationship between universities and the National Health Service
6. To explore the public's needs of doctors and the changing role of the doctor in the future of healthcare
7. To promote clinical academic careers and the conduct of high-quality research in medical schools
8. To facilitate the transition between undergraduate and postgraduate environments
9. To support all aspects of medical schools' work and add real value for members
10. To provide a supportive network for medical school deans and their colleagues

The Council

Medical schools are represented by a serving head of a medical school or the dean of the university faculty of medicine. These positions are appointed by each individual university of which the medical school forms a part. It is from this membership that officers of the Medical Schools Council are elected. These roles are chair, deputy chair and treasurer.

This section details election processes, member biographies, observer attendance and MSC funding.

Officers of the Medical Schools Council

The officers of the Medical Schools Council are elected members of the council. As of 1 August 2019, the officers of the Medical Schools Council are:

Lead Chair: Professor John Atherton, University of Nottingham

Co-Chair: Professor Malcolm Reed, Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Treasurer: Professor John Atherton, University of Nottingham

Elections

The officers of the Medical Schools Council are nominated and elected by its members. All full members, including currently serving officers, are eligible for election as officers of the MSC. Members of MSC elect the chair two months in advance of the commencement of his/her three-year term of office. It is not normally expected that the chair be eligible for election for a further term of office.

The treasurer is elected by members to serve for three years, from 1 August in the first full year following his or her election and may be re-elected for a maximum period of three years or for so long as he or she remains a member of MSC whichever is the shorter.

The officers will no longer hold their role if they cease to be serving heads or deans of medical schools. Vacant offices (of more than three months before the completion of the term) will be filled by postal ballot of all the members of MSC.

Membership

Membership on the council includes representation from one post-graduate medical school and forty one undergraduate medical schools. The representatives for these organisations are:



University of Aberdeen

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, Head of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences & Nutrition

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya was appointed Head of the School of Medicine in 2019. Previously, he was Head of Cardiff Medical School. He served as Professor of Reproductive Medicine in the University of Aberdeen and Director of the University's Institute of Applied Health Sciences. He currently serves on several national and international committees relating to reproductive medicine. His major research interest is in the field of reproductive epidemiology and evaluation of interventions in reproductive medicine, particularly infertility.



Anglia Ruskin University (Associate Member)

Professor John Kinnear, Head of the School of Medicine

Professor John Kinnear is the first head of the School of Medicine at Anglia Ruskin University. He graduated from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and trained in Paediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynaecology before completing training as a specialist anaesthetist at the Barts & London School of Anaesthetics. He is currently a consultant in anaesthetics and intensive care medicine at Southend University Hospital. He has a special interest in developing postgraduate medical education, with particular application to simulation-based education and global healthcare improvement.



Aston University (Associate Member)

Professor Asif Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Health

Professor Asif Ahmed joined Aston from University of Edinburgh where he was Assistant Principal for International Post-Doctoral Training and held the Gustav Born Chair of Vascular Biology in the BHF Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences. He graduated from King's College with a BSc (Hons) in Pharmacology and went on to obtain a PhD in Surgery from University College London on his work on platelet abnormalities during bypass surgery. His research interests are focused on pregnancy disorders and cardiovascular disease.



University of Birmingham

Professor David Adams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Medicine and Head of College of Medical and Dental Sciences

After initial training in hepatology in Birmingham, Professor David Adams continued his immunology training at the Experimental Immunology Branch of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA before being appointed to the Chair of hepatology in Birmingham in 1997. David is a Consultant Physician at the Liver Unit in Queen Elizabeth Hospital and as Professor of Hepatology he is also director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Birmingham Liver Biomedical Research Unit. David's clinical interests are transplant hepatology and autoimmune liver disease.



Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Professor Malcolm Reed, Dean, Co-Chair of the Medical Schools Council

Professor Malcolm Reed was elected Co-Chair of the Medical Schools Council in August 2019. Following postgraduate surgical training in the UK and a period of research at the University of Louisville in Kentucky,

he returned to Sheffield for Higher Surgical Training. He became Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in 1992 and was appointed to the Foundation Chair in Surgical Oncology and then Head of the Department of Oncology at the University of Sheffield. Malcolm's current areas of clinical research relate to the surgical management of breast cancer, with particular emphasis on breast cancer in older women.



University of Bristol

Professor Jane Norman, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

Professor Jane Norman is Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Bristol. Jane trained in research and in clinical practice in Edinburgh and Glasgow. For the last 30 years, her translational research programme has investigated factors responsible for the initiation of normal parturition and developed strategies for the prevention of preterm birth and stillbirth. Jane's previous roles include Regius Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Glasgow, Director of the Edinburgh Tommy's Centre for Maternal and Fetal Health and Vice Principal People and Culture at the University of Edinburgh.



University of Buckingham

(Associate Member)

Professor Stewart Petersen, Director of Medical Education

Professor Stewart Petersen graduated from the University of Cambridge, and went on to gain a PhD from the University of Edinburgh. Before joining the University of Buckingham, he taught physiology at the University of Leicester, where he went on to become Professor of Medical Education having led on the development of the new curriculum for undergraduate medicine.



University of Cambridge

Professor Patrick Maxwell, Regius Professor of Physic

Professor Patrick Maxwell undertook postgraduate clinical and research training in nephrology and general medicine at Guy's Hospital and in Oxford. He was appointed as University Lecturer and then Reader at the University of Oxford. In 2002 Patrick moved to the Professorship of Nephrology at Imperial College, followed by the Chair of Medicine at University College London in 2008. He was appointed Regius Professor of Physic and Head of the School of Clinical Medicine of the University of Cambridge in 2012. He has research interests in transcriptional control of genes by oxygen.



Cardiff University

Professor Steve Riley, Dean of Medical Education

Professor Steve Riley is Dean of Medical Education. Previously he was Programme Director at the medical school. He is an alumnus of Boston's Harvard Macey leadership programme and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Educators. His academic interests are in curriculum design, education leadership and application of systems theory to education delivery. He also maintains clinical practice in Nephrology at Cardiff and the Vale UHB.



University of Dundee

Professor Rory McCrimmon, Dean of Medicine

Professor Rory McCrimmon trained at the University of Edinburgh and completed his clinical and speciality training in the South-East of Scotland before becoming an NHS Consultant Physician in Diabetes and Endocrinology at University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool, in 2000. He is currently also Lead Clinician for the Scottish Diabetes Research Network (SDRN), which provides the necessary infrastructure to co-ordinate and enable academic and commercial research throughout Scotland. He is currently research lead for the Academic Health Sciences Partnership in Tayside.



University of East Anglia

Professor William Fraser, Acting Dean of Norwich Medical School

Professor William Fraser has been Professor of Medicine at Norwich Medical School since 2011. He supervises research investigating the diagnosis and treatment of metabolic bone disease including osteoporosis and Paget's Disease of bone. He is on the Editorial Board of several journals, a Director of the Supra Regional Assay Service for bone metabolism and calcium homeostasis, and a Medical Advisor to the National Osteoporosis Society.



Edge Hill University (Associate Member)

Professor Clare Austin, Associate Dean, Research and Innovation

Professor Clare Austin was appointed to the role of Associate Dean for Research and Innovation in the Faculty of Health and Social Care at Edge Hill University in April 2014. She has recently taken up the post as Director of Medical Education upon establishment of the Edge Hill University Medical School. Clare has a BSc and PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Liverpool. Prior to joining Edge Hill University she worked in the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University of Manchester where her research focused on resistance artery structure and function in health and disease.



University of Edinburgh

Professor Moira Whyte, Head of Edinburgh Medical School

Professor Moira Whyte was appointed Head of the Medical School in 2016. She is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and became Director of the MRC University of Edinburgh Centre for Inflammation Research in 2015. Moira is a respiratory

physician who trained mainly in London. Her research interests have focused on molecular mechanisms of innate immune cell apoptosis in the context both of chronic inflammatory lung disease and of host defence against bacterial infection.



University of Exeter

Professor Clive Ballard, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Medical School

Professor Clive Ballard was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of Exeter Medical School in 2016. He joined from King's College London where he was Professor of Age Related Diseases, Co-Director of the Biomedical Research Unit for Dementia at the Institute of Psychiatry, co-Director of the Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases at King's College London and served as Director of Research for the Alzheimer's Society between 2003 and 2013. Clive's research interests focus on improving the treatment and care for people with dementia.



University of Glasgow

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak, Vice Principal and Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak is Regius Professor of Medicine, Vice Principal and Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences at the University of Glasgow as well as honorary consultant physician with the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board. Anna has held a British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Glasgow, as well as the directorship of the Cardiovascular Research Centre between 2000 and 2010. Her major research interests are in hypertension, cardiovascular genomics and systems medicine.



Hull York Medical School

Professor Una Macleod, Dean

Professor Una Macleod was appointed Dean in January 2017. Una Macleod joined the Hull York Medical School in 2010 as Professor of Primary Care Medicine. She joined the School from Glasgow, where she trained in Medicine and had been Senior Lecturer in General Practice and Primary Care and a half-time GP principal in the east end of the city. Her research interests revolve around primary care and cancer, and health inequalities. She is a national leader in the area of cancer and early diagnosis research, has contributed significantly to policy development and holds grants from Cancer Research UK, Yorkshire Cancer Research and the Department of Health Policy Research Unit programme in this area.



Imperial College London

Professor Jonathan Weber, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

Professor Jonathan Weber is the Jefferiss Professor of Communicable Diseases and GU Medicine, and is the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London. He is a clinician by training, and has undertaken extensive clinical and laboratory based research on HIV/AIDS, HTLV-I and other STIs. After general medical training he was a Wellcome Clinical Training Fellow at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, subsequently a Wellcome Trust Lecturer in Cell and Molecular Biology at the Institute for Cancer Research Chester Beatty Labs, and then Senior Lecturer in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital.



Keele University

Professor Christian Mallen, Head of the School of Medicine

Professor Christian Mallen was appointed Head of the Keele University School of Medicine in August 2020.

He is NIHR Research Professor in General Practice and Director of the Wellcome Clinical PhD Programme for Primary Care. He is a practising GP and a Fellow of both the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Faculty of Public Health. His research interests focus on improving the diagnosis and management of common musculoskeletal and mental health problems in community settings.

Kent & Medway Medical School

(Associate Member)

Professor Chris Holland, Foundation Dean of the Kent and Medway Medical School



Professor Chris Holland joined the new medical school from the University of Surrey where he was a Professorial Teaching Fellow and Director of Learning and Teaching for Medicine. He is Consultant in General Adult Intensive Care Medicine at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation, Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Faculty of Intensive Care and the Academy of Medical Educators. Chris has an extensive career in medicine and medical education, working with the national education bodies, the General Medical Council and Local Enterprise Partnerships.

King's College London

Professor Richard Trembath, Executive Dean for Life Sciences & Medicine



Professor Richard Trembath was appointed as Executive Dean for Life Sciences & Medicine at King's College London in 2015. He was previously Vice-Principal for Health and Executive Dean of the Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. Richard was formerly the Head of Division of Genetics & Molecular Medicine at KCL and founding Director of the NIHR Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre in association with Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. His research interests include the identification and characterisation of genes and the molecular

pathways underlying a range of human common and rare disorders.

Lancaster University

Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medicine



Professor Jo Rycroft-Malone is Dean of Faculty of Health and Medicine at Lancaster University. She was previously Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact at Bangor University. She is also the Director for the National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) Health Service & Delivery Research programme, Chair of the National Institute for Care and Health Excellence (NICE) Implementation Strategy Group and is a Senior Research Leader for Health and Care Research Wales.

University of Leeds

Professor Mark Kearney, Dean of the School of Medicine



Professor Mark Kearney is Dean of the School of Medicine at University of Leeds. He is British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular and Diabetes Research and clinical cardiologist with an interest in the natural history and new treatments for patients with heart failure. His research explores addressing the link between diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

University of Leicester

Professor Phil Baker, Head of the College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of Medicine



Professor Philip Baker was appointed in his role at the University of Leicester in July 2015. Phillip previously led Manchester Medical School, the Medical School in Edmonton, Canada and was the Director of the National Centre of Growth and Development in New Zealand. Phillip is an obstetrician scientist with a particular interest in the pregnancy complications preeclampsia and intrauterine growth restriction.



University of Liverpool

Professor Louise Kenny, Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Professor Louise Kenny was appointed to the role of Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences in January 2018. She is an honours medical graduate of Liverpool Medical School,) and a Member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists. Louise moved to University College Cork in 2006 and took up a post as a Senior Lecturer and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Cork University Maternity Hospital where she continued to pursue her long standing clinical and research interest in uteroplacental insufficiency, adverse pregnancy outcome and pregnancy loss.



London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Professor Martin McKee, Professor of European Public Health

Professor Martin McKee qualified in medicine in Belfast with subsequent training in internal medicine and public health. As Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Martin was founding director of the European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition, a WHO Collaborating Centre that comprises the largest team of researchers working on health and health policy in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He is also research director of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, a unique partnership of universities, national and regional governments, and international agencies.



University of Manchester

Professor Graham Lord, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health

Professor Graham Lord is Vice-President and Dean

of the Faculty a He is also an Honorary Consultant Nephrologist at Manchester NHS Foundation Trust. He was previously the Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Experimental Immunobiology at King's College London and the Director of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust from 2012-2019. He has clinical interests in multi-organ transplantation and the genetics of allograft loss.



Newcastle University

Professor David Burn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Medical Sciences

Professor David Burn is Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University's Faculty of Medical Sciences. He took up this position on the 1st February 2017. He is also Professor of Movement Disorder Neurology and Honorary Consultant Neurologist for Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He is currently National Clinical Director for Parkinson's UK. Prior to his appointment as PVC David was Director of Newcastle University's Institute of Neuroscience. David's research aims to improve the diagnosis and management of Parkinson's disease, the Lewy body dementias and Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP).



University of Nottingham & University of Nottingham Graduate Entry Medicine at Derby and Lincoln Medical School

Professor John Atherton, Pro Vice Chancellor; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Lead Chair of the Medical Schools Council

Professor John Atherton was Co-Chair of the Medical Schools Council in August 2019. He is currently serving as Lead Chair. John is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and was previously Dean of the School of Medicine. John

is a practising Clinical Gastroenterologist and is also Secretary-General of United European Gastroenterology, the organisation responsible for gastroenterology in Europe. John has a background in clinical and laboratory research in the upper gastro-intestinal area with a particular interest in the stomach bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*. John is representative for both Nottingham and Derby and Lincoln Medical School



University of Oxford

Professor Gavin Screaton, Head of the Medical Sciences Division

Professor Gavin Screaton was appointed Head of the Medical Sciences Division in Autumn 2017. Gavin was formerly Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London where he previously served as Vice-Dean (Academic Development), and as Campus Dean for Hammersmith. His research focuses on the immunology of infectious disease with particular respect to dengue virus infection. He also continues to lead the medical grand round at the Hammersmith Hospital, part of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, where he is honorary consultant physician.



University of Plymouth

Professor Sube Banerjee, Dean of the Plymouth University Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry

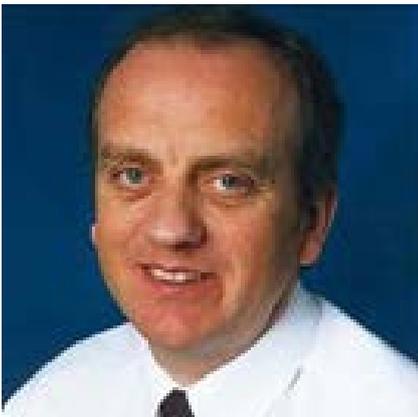
Professor Sube Banerjee was appointed as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health at the University of Plymouth in 2019. He was previously Deputy Dean at Brighton and Sussex Medical School and Professor of Mental Health and Ageing at the Institute of Psychiatry; King's College London. Clinically he works as an old age psychiatrist. He served as the UK Department of Health's senior professional advisor on dementia and led the development and delivery of its National Dementia Strategy. His research focuses on quality of life and quality of care in dementia and the evaluation of new treatments and services.



Queen Mary, University of London

Professor Steve Thornton, Vice Principal (Health) and Executive Dean of the Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry

Professor Steve Thornton is the Vice Principal (Health) at Queen Mary University of London, and is a consultant obstetrician at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. Previously, he was Pro Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of Medicine at the University of Exeter. He obtained his first Professorial position at the University of Warwick in 1998 where he continued to undertake research related to preterm labour. Steve undertook a number of additional roles during his position at Warwick, holding positions with the Strategic Health Authority and leading Research and Development for the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust.



Queen's University of Belfast

Dean - School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences

Professor Pascal McKeown is the Dean of the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences. Following postgraduate training in Cardiology in Northern Ireland, London, and Germany he was appointed to a clinical academic post at Queen's University in 1998. Since 2011, he has held the post as Director of Medical Education. He is a practising cardiologist with a clinical and research interest in Inherited Cardiac Conditions.



University of Sheffield

Professor Dame Pamela Shaw, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health

Professor Dame Pamela Shaw was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health in 2015. Pamela has been Professor of

Neurology at the University of Sheffield since 2000. In 1988 she was awarded an MD with commendation for her work on the neurological complications of coronary bypass surgery. After an intermediate fellowship award from the Wellcome Trust, she was awarded a Wellcome Senior Fellowship in Clinical Science which she held from 1991 -2000. She has also held a wide range of senior clinical and leadership roles in regional and national centres in her areas of research.



University of Southampton

Professor Diana Eccles, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

Professor Diana Eccles is Dean of Medicine and is also Professor of Cancer Genetics at the University of Southampton. She has been Chair of Cancer Genetics since 2004. She is the Chief Investigator for a large national cohort study (the Prospective study of Outcomes in Sporadic versus Hereditary breast cancer). She continues to work as an NHS consultant in clinical cancer genetics which encompasses diagnosis and management of many different genetic conditions that predispose to tumour development in families.



University of St Andrews

Professor David Crossman, Dean of Medicine

Professor David Crossman became the Dean of medicine at the University of St Andrews in 2014. Prior to this, David was Dean of Norwich Medical School at the University of East Anglia. In 1985, he became registrar (Clinical Pharmacology and Cardiology) at Hammersmith Hospital, before becoming a senior registrar (Cardiology) in 1990. He became honorary consultant cardiologist at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals in 2011. As a cardiologist, he has interests in interventional cardiology and heart disease in pregnancy. In November 2017, David was appointed as Chief Scientist for Health, Scotland.



St George's University of London

Professor Jenny Higham, Principal

Before joining St George's, Jenny was Head of Undergraduate Medicine at Imperial College London for 5 years, most recently holding the title Vice Dean for Institutional Affairs and Director of Education for the Faculty of Medicine. She has been awarded 'Mentor of the Year' award at the national Women of the Future Awards in 2011. From 2009 – 2015 she led the Imperial team in set up of the Lee Kong Chian Medical School in Singapore and LKC's Senior Vice Dean. Jenny continues to practise as a consultant gynaecologist at St George's University Foundation Trust.



University of Sunderland

(Associate Member)

Professor Scott Wilkes, Head of the School of Medicine

Professor Scott Wilkes is head of the School of Medicine, Professor of General Practice and Primary Care and part-time GP in Northumberland. He is the Primary Care Speciality Group Lead for the NIHR Clinical Research Network, North East and North Cumbria, a member of the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) and chair the NIHR Yorkshire and North East Research for Patient Benefit Panel. He has worked on the Northumberland Local Research Ethics Committee and the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care. His research interests centre on the management of infertility and hypothyroidism in general practice and embedding new technologies in the clinical consultation



Swansea University

Professor Keith Lloyd, Dean and Head of the Medical School

Professor Keith Lloyd is Dean and Head of Swansea

University Medical School, and a clinical academic specialising in psychiatry. He chairs the Welsh Psychiatric Society, serves as a member of the professional reference panel of HAFAL, and is on the board of Samaritans Cymru. In 2013 he became chair of the UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (DUETS) steering group (part of NHS Evidence). His research interests are psychiatric epidemiology and the management of mental disorders in primary care and community settings, especially suicide and self-harm.



University of Central Lancashire

Professor Cathy Jackson, Head of the School of Medicine

Professor Cathy Jackson was appointed as Associate Dean of Medicine and Head of Medical Education at the University of Central Lancashire in 2014 and as Head of the Medical School in 2015. She is a Professor of Primary Care medicine and remains both clinically active and research active within the area of clinical medicine and medical education.



University College London

Professor David Lomas, Vice-Provost Health

Professor David Lomas was appointed to the role of Vice-Provost (Health), in August 2015. He is also Head of the UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences. Previously, he was Professor of Respiratory Biology in the University of Cambridge and Honorary Consultant Physician at Addenbrookes and Papworth Hospitals, and Deputy Director of the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research. David's research has focused on understanding the pathogenesis of a1-antitrypsin deficiency.



University of Warwick

Professor Sudhesh Kumar, Dean of the Medical School

Professor Sudhesh Kumar is Dean of the Warwick Medical School and Director of the Institute of Digital

Healthcare at University of Warwick. He is a clinical endocrinologist with 22 years of experience as a Consultant Physician in the NHS. His research interest is obesity and its complications, particularly Type 2 diabetes. His interests include developing novel approaches to managing obesity and diabetes that has helped to transform and improve patient care and treatment.

Associate membership status

Associate membership status is offered to new medical schools that have passed Stage 6 of the General Medical Council (GMC) accreditation process and have begun to take students on a course which leads to registration as a doctor with the GMC. Upon achieving Stage 8 of the GMC process, associate members will be eligible to apply to become full members of the Medical Schools Council. For more information on associate membership, please contact the MSC team, either directly or at admin@medschools.ac.uk.

Observers

Invitations to attend MSC meetings are sent to representatives of affiliate organisations in the health, education and research sector that work closely with the Medical Schools Council. This includes (but may not be limited to): Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Academy of Medical Sciences, BMA Medical Students Committee, Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans, General Medical Council, Higher Education Funding Council and House of Lords.

Membership costs

Medical schools are invoiced for the cost of subscription to the Medical Schools Council once every academic year. The cost of subscription is reviewed and agreed by members of the council.

The treasurer is in charge of overseeing MSC costs. All budgets and expenditures are approved by the executive committee.

The Executive Committee

The executive committee of the council meet five times a year to steer the work of the council. The committee consists of the three officers of the council and five elected members, including one person to represent the devolved administrations.

This section details the representation on the executive committee, the election process and meeting dates.

What is the Executive Committee?

The executive committee of the council meet five times a year to steer the work of the council. The committee consists of the three officers of the council and five elected members, including one person to represent the devolved administrations. Additional members may also be co-opted to the executive committee. Meetings are held at the MSC office in Woburn House, London. Summaries of the meetings are circulated to all members.

Elections and representation

Members are elected for three years (renewable once) by and from the whole membership of MSC. Members would not normally serve for more than two consecutive terms.

The elected members of the executive committee are:

John Atherton	Co-chair; Treasurer
Malcolm Reed	Co-chair; Chair, Education Sub Committee
David Crossman	Chair, Clinical Staffing and Employment Sub Committee; Scottish Board for Academic Medicine
Una Macleod	Chair, Equality and Inclusion Alliance
Steve Thornton	Chair, UKMED
David Burn	
Patrick Maxwell	

The non-officers lead on the roles shown above.

Members of affiliate organisations are invited to attend executive committee meetings. Representatives include (though are not limited to):

Jeanette Dickson Vice President for Education,
Academy of Medical Royal
Colleges

Paul Stewart Vice President, Academy of
Medical Sciences

Robert Lechler President, Academy of Medical
Sciences

Clare Marx Chair, General Medical Council

Executive Committee meeting dates

The executive committee holds meetings five times a year. Meetings are held on a Friday usually from 10:00-12:30 with lunch served after. Executive meetings are held in the MSC office, at Woburn House, London.

Note →

Executive committee meetings are held at the Medical Schools Council office in London. The office is on the 4th floor of Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HD.

Video conferencing is available.

Meeting dates for 2020 are:

- 10 January
- 27 March
- 3 July
- 4 September
- 6 November

Please note that the dates of the year's meetings are announced on the agenda page for the first meeting of the academic year.

Sub-committees

Within the Medical Schools Council are three sub-committees which are made up of MSC members who focus their work on education, research and clinical staffing and employment issues. All MSC members are involved in one of the three sub-committees. Meetings of the sub-committees are chaired and take place as part of the main council meeting. A member of the MSC secretariat will support sub-committee members in their work.

This section includes summaries of the three sub-committees including staff that support each group.

Which sub-committee should I attend?

There are three sub-committees that meet before the full Medical Schools Council meeting, these groups are: Education, Research and Clinical Staffing & Employment. Each group will have its own set of meeting papers. The main Medical Schools Council meeting agenda will also include a list of attendees for each sub-committee should you need to remind yourself which one you are attending. The agenda will also include time and location details. If you are a new member and have not attended a Medical Schools Council meeting before, you are welcome to suggest to the MSC secretariat a group which you prefer.

Sub-committee meetings take place on the morning of full Medical Schools Council meetings and normally last one hour. The chair of each group is expected to report back updates to the council.

Which sub-committee should deputies attend?

Deputies attending a Medical Schools Council meeting are not expected to take the place of their school's representative at their sub-committee. For example if your Dean normally attends the research sub-committee but your focus leans towards Education, you are welcome to attend this group instead. If there is a particular group you would like to attend, please let the secretariat know before hand.

Clinical-Staffing and Employment

The Clinical Staffing and Employment Sub Committee (CSE) has been chaired by Professor David Crossman since May 2015. The members of the committee have particular interest or expertise in areas concerning employment and workforce for clinical academics (joint NHS and university appointments) and is the group best placed to engage with other organisations on behalf of MSC collectively, to take informed recommendations to council and to advise on information sharing.

Key priorities for 2020 include:

- Promoting clinical academia
- Advocating to protect CEA and equivalent awards; advocating for eligibility for local and national CEA payments for all specialties including General Practice and Public Health
- Amendments to the Consultant Contract
- Future of the MSC Clinical Academic Staff Survey
- Equality and inclusion

MSC staff supporting CSE: Peter Tang, Data Analyst

peter.tang@medschools.ac.uk - 020 7419 5485

Education

The Education Sub Committee (ESC) is chaired by Professor Malcolm Reed, Dean of Brighton and Sussex Medical School. The committee acts as a forum for discussing all matters relating to the education of medical students. It focuses on issues such as the undergraduate medical curriculum, student fitness to practise and the relationship between medical schools and the GMC. It is linked to the MSC's Education Leads Group which is made up of staff within medical schools responsible for designing and delivering the undergraduate medical curriculum. ESC helps to set the agenda for Education Leads meetings and the two groups share a chair.

Key areas of work in 2020 include:

- Working with the GMC on the introduction of a national licensing assessment
- Influencing the GMC in relation to any revision of the outcomes for undergraduate medical education
- Medical School selection and widening participation

MSC staff supporting ESC:

Clare Owen, Assistant Director

clare.owen@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5522

Research

The Research Sub Committee (RSC) is chaired by Professor Paul Stewart, Dean of Medicine and Health at the University of Leeds. The purpose of the committee is to advise on all matters concerning research in medical schools, to promote medical research through collaboration with other medical research organisations and serve as a sharing platform for members to discuss relevant matters.

Key priorities for 2020 include:

- Preferred outcomes for medical research in the Brexit negotiations
- Implementation of the second Research Excellence Framework
- Advising on the government's modern industrial strategy
- Supporting productivity and quality in healthcare research through funding and the supply of clinical academics at the NHS-Academia interface

MSC staff supporting RSC:

Dr Chris Fassnidge, Senior Research Officer

chris.fassnidge@medschools.ac.uk – 0207 419 5492

Meetings

The main purpose of Medical Schools Council meetings is to resolve issues medical schools have in common, particularly problems at a national level. Meetings also facilitate information sharing between schools, allowing for better collaboration. Members will decide strategies, have opportunities to engage and build a rapport with key stakeholders and work as an expert advisory group for medical education.

This section describes the structure of MSC meetings, what to expect and future meeting dates.

Frequency, format and dates

Note →

The dates of the year's meetings are always announced on the agenda page for the first meeting of the academic year.

Council meetings take place four times a year, in the spring, summer, autumn and winter. Meetings are usually held from 10am – 3pm (though this may vary slightly and does not apply to the joint or residential meetings) and includes lunch. Sub-committee meetings are held in the morning or an hour before the main Council meeting in separate rooms followed by a short break. All members then re-convene in a larger room for the main council meeting.

Joint meeting with UHA

The May meeting is held as part of a one day joint meeting with members from the University Hospital Association whose members are the Chief Executives of UK university hospitals. Usually the Medical Schools Council meeting will take place before the joint conference, however the exact structure often varies.

Residential meeting

The winter meeting, referred to as the residential meeting, will be held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, SL4 2HP. Meetings are held over two days, usually from Wednesday afternoon until Thursday evening, (accommodation and a sit down dinner is provided for both nights). Accommodation is provided at the venue and paid for by the MSC.

Dates for Medical Schools Council meetings in 2020

- Friday 7 February 10.00 – 14.30, Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Sq, London WC1H 9HD
- Wednesday 20 May 10.00 - 17.00 Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Sq, London WC1H 9HD
- Friday 2 October 10.00 – 15.00, Woburn House, 20 Tavistock Sq, London WC1H 9HD
- Wednesday 2 December – Friday 4 December,

Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, SL4 2HP

MSC Executive Committee meetings

The executive committee hold meetings five times a year to steer the work of the Council. Meetings are held on a Friday usually from 10:00 -12:30 with lunch served after. Executive meetings are held in the MSC office, at Woburn House, London and is based on the 4th floor.

Who should attend?

It is expected that all members attend meetings. Telephone dial in is not possible for Council meetings (video conferencing is available for executive meetings). In the event that a member cannot attend, please inform a member of the MSC secretariat at the earliest convenience.

Deputies

Members who cannot attend council meetings may send a deputy in their place (this does not apply to executive committee meetings). It is the Dean's responsibility to brief their alternate and inform the secretariat of this change, to ensure they receive meeting details and papers on time.

Observer members from affiliate organisations are invited to attend both executive and council meetings.

Before a meeting

Meeting papers

Papers for meetings are emailed to members a week in advance by the secretariat. All documents are emailed in PDF format.

Agenda items

The agenda is set by the chair with the support of the MSC secretariat. To raise items for agendas or to alert MSC to any issues, members should contact either the chair or the chief executive.

Travel and dietary requirements

Members are asked to inform the secretariat of any dietary requirements in advance of meetings to ensure appropriate catering arrangements can be made. Lunch is provided at both council and executive committee meetings (dinner is served at the residential meeting).

The majority of MSC meetings are held at either Woburn House, London or close to this location (aside from the residential and joint meetings) however members will be notified well in advance of meeting locations to allow travel arrangements to be made. Please note that travel costs are not reimbursed for Medical Schools Council meetings.

Meeting day

Structure of meetings

Council, executive and sub-committee meetings are all chaired. Council meetings (except the residential meeting) usually involve the three sub-committee meetings in the morning, which after a short break is followed by the main council meeting. The chairs of each sub-committee will feedback from their committees in the main meeting.

Meeting culture – what to expect

The meeting room is set up Boardroom-style or hollow square. The chair, chief executive and usually the minute taker will sit together in the centre so that they can see and be seen by all attendees. The agenda is followed closely; any changes to the order in which items are discussed should be declared at the start of the meeting. Some agenda items are for information, others enable informed discussion with invited speakers, others are for open discussion to inform strategic priorities or a collective response to a policy issue.

Meetings take place face to face; they are never conducted by telephone or video-conferencing (except

for executive meetings). If you are unable to attend in person, members are invited to send a senior colleague to represent the medical school (council only). It is the Dean's responsibility to ensure that the secretariat is aware, and that the Deputy is suitably briefed to contribute. There is no seating plan. Name plates are provided. Mobile devices should be turned off and removed from the table.

Background papers are provided a week in advance to enable members to come briefed and able to contribute to discussions. It is unusual for a speaker to be interrupted. Please indicate to the chair that you wish to contribute and wait to be introduced. It is the responsibility of the chair to ensure that all views are heard during the meeting.

Minutes will usually be circulated within two weeks of the meeting. Minutes are not published, they are circulated internally only. Chatham House rules apply, and individual members' views will not be recorded within the minutes. The minutes serve as a formal record of the areas of discussion and the key action points. Decision points will be communicated by the chair in summarising the agenda item.

On arrival at meeting venue please go to the room for your sub-committee meeting. Tea and coffee is provided there; and in the main meeting room during the 15-minute break between sub-committee meetings and the main council meeting. Lunch is provided, usually with around 30 minutes allocated.

Meetings begin promptly, and usually take the full time allowed (10am-11am sub-committee meetings; 11.15am-15.00pm for council meetings; 10am – 12.30pm for executive committee meetings). Meetings are always scheduled for a Friday, except for the joint meeting which can vary. The residential meeting lasts from Wednesday until Thursday but accommodation is available until Friday morning.



A Medical Schools Council meeting being held at Ditchley Park, Oxford

Location

Executive committee meetings take place at [Woburn House](#). Council meetings may also occasionally be held at this venue too. There is wheelchair access and a hearing loop.

- UUK Boardroom (second floor meeting room and toilets same floor).
- Woburn Hall (ground floor, toilets are through the back double doors and down the stairs. There is lift access too).
- The Medical Schools Council office is based on the 4th floor in Woburn House. It is the first office on the 4th floor if accessed from the main lift (next to reception). Toilets are located opposite the MSC office.



Woburn House Conference Centre

Dress code

Council and executive committee meetings are usual office attire. The residential meeting in Windsor (November/December) is followed by a drinks reception and dinner. While there are no strict guidelines on what to wear, members are encouraged to follow a smart dress code but not black tie.

After a meeting

After a meeting, the secretariat will circulate minutes within two weeks. Members should notify the secretariat of any queries regarding the minutes.

Policy areas

The Medical Schools Council enables medical schools to work together at the national level. It has close relationships with other organisations in the health and higher education sectors, which helps it to positively influence the development of medical education and the welfare of medical students.

The collaborative nature of a representative body means that work can be produced which is authoritative, because it is made through the collaboration of experts from many institutions, and definitive, because it can represent a position which is agreed by every member.

Its work covers a number of broad areas, many of which are driven by their own groups within the organisation.

This section details the various areas of policy the Medical Schools Council is involved in, including its priorities for 2020.

Priorities for 2020

- Working to resolve the implications of leaving the European Union, particularly the impact on medical research and on EU staff and students
- Focusing on issues around the increase in medical student numbers
- Working with the General Medical Council in developing a Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)
- Supporting the transition from medical school to practice, in particular to careers in clinical academia and areas of current significance to the NHS
- Promoting clinical academic careers to both young doctors and the wider public.

Education

MSC runs bi-annual meetings for education leads of medical schools. The meetings are chaired by the chair of council's education sub-committee, currently Professor Malcolm Reed from Brighton and Sussex Medical School. At these meetings education leads discuss issues relating to curricula development and policy initiatives from organisations like HEE, NES or the GMC that are likely to impact on undergraduate medical education. The issues that have been discussed at previous meetings include; the introduction of the Medical Licensing Assessment, reasonable adjustments and encouraging students to choose careers in GP.

Education leads also have a group email that allows them to share problems and ask advice from staff who might have dealt with a similar issue at another medical school.

Research

MSC is a principal source of advice for all matters concerning research in medical schools. It promotes and influences medical research through collaboration

with other medical research organisations, such as the National Institute for Health Research, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Research Councils, and medical research charities. Representatives from a number of these organisations sit on MSC Council and MSC Executive as observers.

Current priorities include influencing outcomes for medical research in Brexit negotiations, advising on the implementation of the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy where the collaboration between the health service and Medical Schools will need to work via health research funders and a broader level. RSC also provides guidance on execution of the second Research Excellence Framework.

Clinical academia

As part of its organisational aims the Medical Schools Council is committed to promoting clinical academic careers. Three members of the CSE sub-committee are members of the UCEA Clinical Academic Staffing Advisory Group, which is the employer's representation in contract negotiations. The MSC works closely with partner organisations including the Academy of Medical Sciences to promote shared agendas, for example aligning responses to consultations and calls for evidence, and taking every opportunity to promote the value of Clinical Excellence Awards in recruiting and retaining the best doctors with the greatest impact.

The Medical Schools Council works with the Dental Schools Council to publish an annual survey of [Medical Clinical Academic Staffing Levels in UK Medical Schools](#). The first report was published with 2000 data; it has repeated annually since 2003. The full data is available via tableau on the MSC [website](#). Anonymous data are collected directly from UK medical school HR departments about employees who hold full registration with the GMC, and have a substantive university contract and honorary NHS/Public Health England contract for their clinical work. The annual report

analyses trends since 2000 by medical specialty, source of funding, region, academic grade, as well as gender, age, ethnicity and CEAs. The survey data provide an overview of the clinical academic workforce available to prosecute the UK's important research agenda, and it is highly valued by the CMO, NIHR, MRC, ACCEA, CfWI and ECU amongst other organisations.

The Medical Schools Council also hosts a free jobs listing service for advertising clinical academic and research posts in UK medical schools based on the MSC [website](#). This is free for medical schools to use to advertise.

Electives

The MSC Electives Committee is made up of elective leads from medical schools. Its current chair is Dr Maria Keerig, elective lead for Leicester Medical School. The scope of the group is to consider the wide range of undergraduate medical elective contexts both inside and outside the UK. The committee works to provide a forum and means for medical schools to share experience of and best practice in undergraduate medical electives. The group has recently published a paper in the Medical Education Journal on [*Recommendations for undergraduate medical electives*](#).

The committee meets three times a year, this includes holding an annual conference funded by the MSC. The conference invites elective leads and coordinators from across the country, students who have completed an elective and charitable and national bodies, to discuss experiences and share best practice. The MSC funds the travel expenses of one medical student per school.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak, Regius Professor of Medicine, and Vice Principal and Head of College (MVLS), University of Glasgow and Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, The Chief Executive of Medical Schools Council, are leading work to ensure that MSC has an inclusive culture within the Council, and that the MSC is leading

the sector externally towards the goals of gender equality. Both Professor Dominiczak and Dr Petty-Saphon co-chair MSC Equality & Diversity Advisory Group, which is working with Athena SWAN, Equality Challenge Unit to advise on the process through which a membership organisation can apply for recognition.

Following the 2011 announcement by the then-CMO linking future NIHR funding with Silver Athena SWAN awards, the MSC worked with the ECU to run joint workshops for medical and dental schools looking to apply for Bronze and Silver awards, and circulated bi-monthly newsletters and FAQs. More than 50% of medical school Units of Application were in receipt of a Silver award by the 2016 NIHR funding application deadline. The MSC website is a central reference point for successful bronze and silver medical school and medical department applications, as well as providing hints and tips in developing applications.

The MSC submitted written evidence to the House of Commons Inquiry outlining the issues of retention and progression of women in academic STEM careers, for example limited senior women role models, women often taking on a greater proportion of teaching/pastoral roles, limited opportunities for part-time or flexible working and women taking on the majority of caring responsibilities. The cycle is self-perpetuating. The evidence offers examples of good practice from medical and dental schools, and makes wider suggestions for the roles that universities and the Government can play to address these issues.

Student fitness to practise

MSC works closely with the GMC to develop guidance for medical schools on fitness to practise. The latest versions of these guidance documents were published in July 2016. They are [Achieving good medical practice](#) which is a new document for medical students on professional values and [Professional behaviour and fitness to practise](#) which provides guidance to medical schools on running fitness to practise processes. MSC is

working with the GMC to implement these documents through the development of resources for both medical schools and medical students.

MSC and GMC run an annual fitness to practise training conference for medical school staff.

Student engagement

The Medical Schools Council is keen to engage with medical students on how they believe medical education and their learning can be best nurtured. Students are represented on the education sub-committee by a member of the BMA Medical Students Committee.

In 2016, MSC held its first student conference, inviting three medical students from each school across the country to discuss themes and issues relating to medical education. In 2017, the MSC held two student focused conferences on student-led widening participation and on promoting general practice careers. In 2018 and 2019, MSC held a student and staff conference on widening participation to medicine.

The MSC is also working to improve its communication with students online, through increasing its presence on social media, and tailored information on the website for prospective and current students.

UKMED

The UK Medical Education Database (UKMED) is a platform for collating data on the performance of UK medical students and trainee doctors across their undergraduate and postgraduate education and future careers.

The scope of the research that can be undertaken through UKMED is potentially broad, ranging from analyses of selection tests in predicting future performance, to studying how socioeconomic background might affect an applicant's chance of acceptance to medicine and progression through their

career. Understanding individuals' performance at different points during their study and medical career is helpful to understand the factors that make doctors more or less likely to progress and succeed within the training pathways.

In 2013, the Medical Schools Council brought stakeholders together to discuss a proposal to create a data warehouse linking undergraduate and postgraduate data. The driving factor in creating it is that no single stakeholder can currently link all data on their own. The GMC decided to collaborate with the Medical Schools Council on the project.

The GMC provides staff, information governance expertise, technology resources and acts as a Data Controller holding the data in a secure safe haven. The MSC leads the communications strategy and provides secretariat for meetings.

The project is overseen by the UKMED Advisory Board where the MSC CEO is a member representing interests of medical schools as data contributors. The Research Subgroup composed of academic experts reviews all applications for research data and reports to the Advisory Board on whether the applications have met the criteria.

There are strict disclosure controls on accessing the data and rigorous procedures in place to ensure that the data available for research do not identify individuals. Data shared with researchers are de-identified. Cases are assigned their own unique Study Id in place of a GMC number. Care is taken to ensure that combinations of quasi-identifiers do not uniquely identify one case in an extract provided for research. The extract is shared via a safe haven which allows researchers to run analysis on the data provided whilst preventing export/import of data, thereby preventing the raw data being taken away or re-identified through linkage. Researchers are under contract to use the data only for the purposes of the approved research proposal. Outputs are reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to publication.

It is possible that research will identify particular medical schools and be part of the published research outputs. The Medical Schools Council considered this in signing up to support UKMED, and, like all data contributors, agrees that transparency will enable UKMED to best inform the development of medical education and assessment.

Following the successful pilot phase in 2015–2016, evaluated by all stakeholders, UKMED is planning to open for new research applications biannually.

Please visit www.ukmed.ac.uk for details, including published research.

MSC Assessment

MSC Assessment is a registered charity (charity registration no. 1153045), which is a company limited by guarantee (company no. 8578576) which began trading on 1 February 2014. MSC Assessment delivers the assessment activities of the Medical Schools Council, which has transferred to MSC Assessment its work in relation to the Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) and the Situational Judgement Test (SJT).

This section provides more detail on Prescribing Safety Assessment and historical information on the Situational Judgement Test.

MSC Assessment Board

The members of the MSC Assessment Board are Directors and Trustees of the company.

Chair Professor Tony Weetman

Treasurer Professor Ian Hall

Trustees (appointed) Professor Mark Gurnell (ex-officio)
Professor Malcom Reed
Professor Kate Thomas
Professor Val Wass

Trustee Professor John Atherton (ex-officio)

Company Secretary Dr Katie Petty-Saphon



Selection into the Foundation Programme (historical)

For FP2021 recruitment (beginning August 2020) the SJT will be delivered via an online platform and no longer delivered by MSC Assessment.

Since FP 2013, selection to the Foundation Programme has been based on a combined application score based on an Educational Performance Measure (EPM – 50%) and a Situational Judgement Test (SJT – 50%). The UK Foundation Programme Office (as part of Health Education England), which manages the recruitment rules, eligibility and application portal, has a Memorandum of Understanding with MSC Assessment to deliver SJT and EPM decile scores. The current MoU covered 2016-2019. Payment is made to each medical school for SJT test delivery and providing EPM decile scores.

MSC Assessment receives an annual block grant from Health Education England (HEE) which it uses to cover the costs of:

- Test delivery for UK applicants; providing EPM decile scores; nominating staff for EPM and SJT verification events (MoUs with individual medical schools)
- SJT item development and review; SJT test construction, test equating, scoring and scaling; annual technical reports (contract with the Work Psychology Group)
- Secure storage of the bank of SJT items; software for creation of test papers (contract with the MSCAA)
- Printing test papers, unique bar coding, secure handling, packing and processing of all paperwork (contract with Stephen Austin & Sons); courier delivery and pick up (sub-contract with DHL)
- Scanning OMR answer sheets (contract with UCL medical school); printing of personalised OMR answer sheets (sub-contract with Speedwell)
- Test delivery for Eligibility Office applicants
- Advising on national rules for reasonable adjustments and extenuating circumstances; reviewing applicant guidance and communications; developing administrative guidance and communications
- Quality management and project management of all the above

The SJT is a paper-based assessment of the attributes of an effective FY1 doctor (eg team working, leadership, patient-centred care), comprising 70 multiple choice questions taken in 2h20mins. The national test dates are in December and January.

In 2011, the Medical Schools Council was commissioned by the Department of Health to lead a project group to review the most appropriate selection methods for selection to the Foundation Programme. It subsequently led the work to pilot and develop both the SJT and EPM (FP 2012) ahead of introduction in FP 2013. Please see the website of the Improving Selection to the

Foundation Programme (ISFP) work: www.isfp.org.uk

In 2015, the Work Psychology Group published a study into the predictive validity of the selection methods, which found that poor performance on the SJT predicted future poor performance on the Foundation Programme; and that good performance on the EPM predicted future good performance on the Foundation Programme.

Prescribing Safety Assessment

The Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) is an online assessment of competency in the safe and effective use of medicines, developed by the British Pharmacological Society and MSC Assessment. The PSA is delivered online from a 'cloud-based' server and comprises 60 question items in 8 sections containing item styles that cover different aspects of the clinical activity undertaken by prescribers. The PSA lasts for 2 hours with extra time allowed for reasonable adjustment allowances.



It was originally piloted in 2012 and 2013, before being fully implemented in 2014 with over 7,000 students sitting the assessment. For the first time in 2016, Health officials from the four UK countries stipulated that all new Foundation Year 1 doctors would be required to pass the PSA before the end of their F1 year. Any UK medical students who do not pass the PSA at medical school and overseas entrants into the Foundation Programme have an opportunity to sit the PSA at their foundation school at the start of their F1 year. Those who don't pass this sitting are expected to undergo a programme of remediation and have two further opportunities to retake the PSA in their F1 year. F1s who have not passed the PSA before their ARCP panel in June will have their F1 year extended until they pass.

The performance of the assessment is reviewed annually by an independent expert and the results presented in a psychometric report that is shared with medical schools. The organisation and delivery of the assessment has been made possible through financial

contributions and staff time from the BPS and MSC Assessment. Experts in schools have also played a significant role by authoring questions and participating in meetings. The focus for 2020 onwards will be making the assessment financially sustainable.

MSC Assessment Alliance

The MSC Assessment Alliance is a partnership to improve undergraduate assessment practice through collaboration between all undergraduate medical schools in the UK. It is an expansion of the Universities Medical Assessment Partnership, which began in January 2003 and was supported by HEFCE's Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning.

The Assessment Alliance launched in August 2010 with the aim of enhancing the quality of assessments in medical schools by sharing best practice and developing a bank of high quality examination materials that can be shared across schools.

It provides a forum for members and presents an expert position on matters relating to medical school assessment to the GMC and other relevant bodies. Overseen by an elected board that is chaired by Professor Mark Gurnell and supported by Veronica Davids, the Assessment Alliance has made significant progress in generating support and trust amongst assessment experts across schools.

The work of the Assessment Alliance is delivered through our assessment arm, MSC Assessment.

This section details the work of the Assessment Alliance.

Funding

Medical schools pay an annual fee in order to maintain their membership of the Assessment Alliance.

Item Bank

The Assessment Alliance facilitates involvement in item writing and quality assurance, resulting in improved individual and institutional skills and knowledge in the construction of assessments in medicine.

A key output of the Assessment Alliance is a question bank of high-quality items with face validity and reliability, developed by members, for use by all Assessment Alliance partners. To help ensure the quality of items contained within the bank, and thereby increase confidence in and usage of the questions by all schools, items undergo a two-stage process of quality review. Individual questions are subjected to scrutiny and revision by a panel before final revision and approval by the Final Clinical Review Group which comprises a number of clinicians from different specialties representing different medical schools/geographical areas. Items are tagged by Presentation, Skill, Specialty, and Condition, copy edited to ensure they meet an agreed common style guide, and flagged as suitable for use in graduation-level examinations.

The process is facilitated by bespoke innovative software that supports assessment experts and exam managers through the assessment cycle all completed within the security of the item bank. The ability to respond to feedback from members is one of the item bank's strengths with features continuously added and adapted to reflect the changing assessment environment. This includes a 'private pool' facility where members may author and store their own examination questions in a secure, private area allowing schools to combine their local items with items from the common bank in their examinations.



The largest proportion of items in the bank is in the Single Best Answer format, although the bank also contains a number of OSCE stations, and space for storing and sharing MMIs. An exam delivery component that will allow schools to deliver their SBA assessments online using the Assessment Alliance bank is currently being piloted.

The formation of a common bank of questions will, in the long run, reduce the cost in time and resources for individual medical schools. Through collaboration, schools have now quality-reviewed over 2,000 assessment items, all of which are available for members to use in examinations. This number continues to rise with new items being generated on a regular basis.

Reference Group

The Reference Group is comprised of two senior assessment experts from each medical school. Meetings are held twice a year and provide members with a forum for discussion and an opportunity to engage directly with the Assessment Alliance Board in order to help set the direction of travel for the Alliance.

Common content project

The GMC previously requested evidence that the standard required to pass written examinations at graduation level is comparable across all UK medical schools. In 2011 the Assessment Alliance commissioned a project to explore this issue. Two successful pilot projects were undertaken which established the acceptability, feasibility and methodology for a comparison using “Common Content” Single Best Answer items inserted into schools’ finals-level papers. The project was fully established in the 2013/14 academic year and has been run each year since.

Schools are provided with 60 items that have been through the selection process outlined in the section above and asked to include as many as possible in their

first-sit, finals-level examinations. Medical schools' standard-set these items using their own methods and return data on standards and student performance. A detailed psychometric analysis is then undertaken and a report produced and shared with participating schools.

The project has provided the Assessment Alliance with a wealth of data on knowledge based assessments and led to the group to change its approach to quality assuring items. The result has been a clear improvement in the performance of questions from the item bank. It has also generated interest in standard setting processes as evidence has shown that schools use different methods and approaches. The Assessment Alliance has commissioned two projects, a qualitative study to explore standard setting processes in detail and a Rasch analysis of the Common Content scores data, to explore this in more detail. Alongside this, the Assessment Alliance has piloted a national standard setting process by convening two panels to standard set commonly used items using the Modified Angoff method. Together these projects will provide valuable insights into standard setting and be a useful test case for how this process might work for the MLA.

MSC Selection Alliance

The Selection Alliance is responsible for the development and implementation of the Medical Schools Council's selection work. Formed in 2015, its chief role is to carry out the recommendations of the Selecting for Excellence Final Report which relate to medical schools. Drawing on the expertise of medical school admissions leads from across the UK, the Selection Alliance focuses on the following areas: selection methods, widening participation, providing better information for participants, contextual admissions and outreach.

This section details the current work of the selection alliance.

History

The MSC Selection Alliance was set up off the back of the [Selecting for Excellence project](#). The project was initiated by the Medical Schools Council in March 2013 and launched fully the following July with a view to looking at the issue of selection to medicine with particular focus on widening participation. The impetus for the project was twofold; firstly, medicine was heavily criticised for a lack of progress in widening participation for students from a lower socio-economic background by the [Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission](#). Secondly the GMC commissioned a [research report](#) on selection processes which found that these vary across medical schools and there is little evidence to show why this might be.



The Selecting for Excellence project was chaired by Professor Tony Weetman, a former Chair of MSC and a Pro-Vice Chancellor at Sheffield University. After 18 months the project concluded with a final report that was launched at the House of Lords in December 2014. Some of the key recommendations in the report include:

- Applicants need clearer advice on medical school admissions criteria and processes to ensure that they can make informed decisions.
- There is a need to establish a data monitoring system so that progress in widening participation can be tracked.
- More work is needed to establish how schools can utilise contextual admissions.
- Whilst there currently is not enough data to establish a framework for medical school selection processes more research should be undertaken to build the evidence base as to what methods work best.

The final report also set some targets for medical schools to reach by 2023 which challenged them to double the number of medical students coming from areas with the lowest participation rates in

higher education. The report also recommended that admissions deans should be responsible for implementing the recommendations in the report and that this was best done through the setting up a formal governance structure.

Board

The Selection Alliance board is an elected board comprising the following ten admissions deans from a variety of medical schools within the UK:

Paul Garrud - Chair	University of Nottingham
Darren Beaney	Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Julian Burton	Univeristy of Sheffield
Sally Curtis	University of Southampton
Gordon Dent	Keele University
Jonathan Dowell	University of Dundee
Angela Kubacki	St George's, UoL
Paul Lambe	Plymouth University
Gail Nicholls	University of Leeds
Heidi Phillips	Swansea University
Nana Sartania	Glasgow University

The board is responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Selecting for Excellence Final Report (published in 2014) and for setting the strategic decision of the Selection Alliance's work.

In addition to this, the Selection Alliance Reference Group consists of two admissions deans from each medical school within the UK and meets biannually. The group acts as a platform to:

- Discuss questions which require discussion and buy in from all medical schools

- Discuss the work being undertaken and obtain feedback
- Share information between medical schools and discuss issues relating to widening participation and selection to medicine

The work undertaken by the Selection Alliance covers the following areas:

- **Contextual Admissions:** Research was commissioned into contextual admissions in 2015 which considers the contextual admissions markers which are the most important to take into account during selection. The report indicates that an individual's performance relative to the average performance of other pupils attending the same school might be the best way of carry out contextual admissions
- **Selection methods:** An MMI Expert group has been established to discuss the use of MMIs and the utility of sharing resources between medical schools. Shared items have been developed with the aim that medical schools use these in their selection processes. An online training tool has been developed for interviewers and there is a similar tool for candidates that aims to familiarise them with interviews and MMIs.
- **Providing better information for applicants:** MSC has worked with all of the medical schools in order to collate admissions criteria and produce the tool '[Entry Requirements for UK medical schools](#)' which aims to provide prospective students with clear information regarding all of the courses available in one place. There are also a series of [information sheets](#) for applicants covering different areas of the admissions process and [guidance on work experience](#).
- **National outreach:** Following the recommendations from the National Outreach Report, MSC has worked closely with Nursaw Associates to organise regional teacher conferences and meetings with medical

schools in areas considered 'cold spots' in regards to outreach. In addition to this [guidance for teachers and careers advisers](#) has been developed.

- **MSC Summer Schools:** In 2019 the Medical Schools Council worked with four medical schools to offer a series of free summer schools, as well as offering funding for students to gain places at a number of other pre-existing medical summer schools. The initiative has been funded by Health Education England and is aimed at young people from areas of England where few students apply to study medicine. In 2020, five summer schools across the country are being held.

How we support you

This section describes the support available for members including from Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, Chief Executive of the Medical Schools Council, and the additional twelve members of staff that form the secretariat. It also includes information sharing personal data, bullying and harassment policies and unconscious bias.

Deans' peer mentoring

MSC facilitates peer mentoring within council, specifically targeting new deans. MSC maintains a profile of all MSC members willing to act as a mentor, and makes the updated profiles available at the start of the calendar year, and available to new deans on appointment. Members select their own mentor(s). The mentor-mentee relationship may be ad-hoc or regular, by agreement between both deans. Uptake is not monitored by the MSC.

Sharing of personal information

The Medical Schools Council may share your contact details with other MSC members. Your email address may also be shared with other stakeholders in the sector if deemed appropriate. Appropriate requests (such as funding opportunities for medical students and staff, useful conferences, promotion of medical school run events) are sent to medical secretaries via a newsletter every term. You will not be routinely surveyed, and any surveys must be proposed and agreed at council meetings or approved by the chair.

Bullying/harassment information

The Medical Schools Council aims to encourage an environment in which every member and employee of MSC is entitled to join in activities and work without harassment, victimisation or bullying, due to their disability, race, gender, health, social class, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, religion, employment status, age or membership or non-membership of a trade union or staff association.

Bullying and harassment is not tolerated. The Medical Schools Council's bullying and harassment policy can be found at the end of this document (Appendix 1: Bullying and Harassment policy – members and employees). A code of conduct for Medical Schools Council members and staff can be found in appendix 2.

Unconscious bias

Adapted by the Medical Schools Council from guidance issued by the Royal Society

We all hold unconscious biases based on our experience, deep-seated thought patterns and assumptions or interpretations, which can affect our judgments and decisions without us being aware of it. The Medical Schools Council aims to support its members in minimising unconscious bias to help ensure that decisions are made fairly and to help foster an equal and inclusive environment.

To combat unconscious bias, we endorse the following action points:

- When preparing for a committee meeting or interview, try to slow down the speed of your decision making.
- Reconsider the reasons for your decision, recognising that they may be post-hoc justifications
- Question cultural stereotypes that seem truthful. Be open to seeing what is new and unfamiliar and increase your knowledge of other groups.
- Remember you are unlikely to be more fair and less prejudiced than the average person.
- You can detect unconscious bias more easily in others than in yourself so be prepared to call out bias when you see it.

The Royal Society has developed a short video about understanding unconscious bias that we encourage members to watch. The video can be accessed [here](#).

Further guidance issued by the Royal Society on unconscious bias can be found [here](#).



Relationship with the CEO, Dr Katie Petty-Saphon

Katie has been in post since 2003 and sees her role as ‘problem-solver in chief’. Deans are encouraged to phone or email Katie whenever an issue arises which might have occurred previously elsewhere, which might have national impact, or where it might simply be helpful to have an external view. Her door is wide open to both secretariat and medical school staff.

MSC office

Including the CEO, there are thirteen full time members of staff who support the work of the Medical Schools Council and MSC Assessment. Eleven staff are based in the MSC office in London and a further two staff members are based in Dundee and Manchester. In addition to work for medical schools the secretariat supports the:

- Dental Schools Council
- Pharmacy Schools Council
- Veterinary Schools Council
- Association of Dental Hospitals
- University Hospital Association – with separate groups for the CEOs, Chairs, Directors of Finance, HR Directors, Medical Directors, Nursing Directors and R&D Directors
- UK Clinical Research Collaboration



Veronica Davids – Assistant Director

veronica.davids@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5497

Areas of expertise: assessment, Prescribing Safety Assessment, online item banking and exam delivery

Veronica is an Assistant Director at the Medical Schools Council and is based at the office in Woburn House. Her focus is on assessment and she is the lead for the Medical Schools Council Assessment Alliance and Prescribing Safety Assessment, managing the teams and providing support to the Assessment Alliance Board and PSA Executive. Veronica holds a BSc in Sociology.



Clare Owen – Assistant Director

clare.owen@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5522

Areas of expertise: fitness to practise, selection and widening participation, regulatory issues, health and disability

Clare is an Assistant Director at the Medical Schools Council, and is based in Woburn House. Her particular focus is on selection and widening participation and she led the Selecting for Excellence project which concluded with a final report which was launched in December 2015. Clare also does extensive work on student fitness to practice and student support and has recently been involved in the review of the joint GMC and MSC guidance on professional behaviour and good medical practise for medical students.

Prior to starting at the MSC in 2013 Clare worked as an Education Policy Manager at the General Medical Council where she led on the development of the joint GMC and MSC guidance on supporting students with mental health conditions. During her time at the GMC Clare worked on numerous policy projects including the review of Tomorrow's Doctors 2009 and the review of the routes to GP and specialist registration.

Clare also provides policy support to the Veterinary

Schools Council. Clare holds an LLB in Law.



Gareth Booth – Senior Project Officer

gareth.booth@medschools.ac.uk – 0161 275 5579

Areas of expertise: assessment, online item banking and exam delivery

Gareth is Senior Project Officer for the Assessment Alliance and is based in Manchester. He plays a key role in developing the Assessment Alliance Item Bank and provides support to users of the bank with training, donating questions to the bank, constructing exams and uploading performance data. Gareth is also first point of contact for schools taking part in the Common Content project and prepares data for the annual project's psychometric report.



Dr Rachel Chall – Senior Policy Officer

rachel.chall@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5496

Areas of expertise: selection and widening participation, education, health and disability

Rachel is a Senior Policy Officer at the Medical Schools Council and is based at Woburn House, London. Rachel supports the MSC Selection Alliance on matters such as selection, outreach, and widening participation. She also provides secretariat support to the Education Leads group. Rachel has a MB BCh BAO (Medicine) from University College Dublin and a Graduate Diploma in Law from BPP.



Olga Sierocińska King – Senior Policy & Project Officer

olga.sierocinskaking@medschools.ac.uk – 01382 383 266

Areas of expertise: recruitment into Foundation Programme, online item banking and exam delivery, assessment cycle, UKMED research

Olga is based at the medical school in Dundee and supports MSC Assessment projects including FP recruitment and the PSA. She also works within a team operating the MSC Assessment Alliance. Olga provides secretariat for the UKMED Research Subgroup. Olga holds a BA in French and International Politics and an MA in Comparative International Studies.



Rosie Pearce – Senior Policy Officer

rosie.pearce@medschools.ac.uk – 020 5419 5566

Areas of expertise: veterinary, medical and dental education and regulation, higher education policy and stakeholder engagement

Rosie is part of the team based in Woburn House, London. She provides support to the Association of Dental Hospitals and the Veterinary and Dental Schools Councils. Rosie has a BA in Politics and International Relations and an MSc in Politics, Philosophy and Economics.



Peter Tang – Data Analyst

peter.tang@medschools.ac.uk – 020 5419 5485

Areas of expertise: UKMED, staff survey, data analysis and visualisation, data governance, business improvement

Peter is a Data Analyst based in Woburn House, London. His role is to maintain the data functions by ensuring that analysis and evidence is effectively integrated within the work of the MSC. He provides analyses and data reporting functions for the MSC and other affiliated organisations including the MSC Selection Alliance and the Association of UK University Hospitals (AUKUH).

He also supports multiple projects at the Medical Schools Council including the UK Medical Education Database (UKMED) and he is responsible for dealing with ad hoc data queries from internal and external organisations. Peter has completed an MSc in Research Methods in Psychology.



Fahmida Yasmin – Senior Communications and Projects Officer

fahmida.yasmin@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5494

Areas of expertise: promoting projects and campaigns through external communications, working with press to represent MSC in public matters, writing, editing and designing print publications and digital materials, delivery of PSA.

Fahmida is part of the team based in Woburn House, London. She works across all of MSC's projects and is responsible for its public-facing materials. This includes publications, websites and press matters, which involves organising public statements and press releases, and working with journalists to build the reputation of MSC. Part of her role is to correspond with communications and media staff at partner organisations for both the promotion of relevant initiatives and for coordinating on matters of mutual interest. She also supports delivery of the PSA. Fahmida has completed a BA in English Literature.



Lucy Chislett – Communications Officer

lucy.chislett@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5427

Areas of expertise: external communications, liaising with the press and stakeholders to represent MSC in public matters, writing, editing and designing print publications and digital materials, supporting the MSC Electives Committee.

Lucy is part of the team at Woburn House, London. She works across all of MSC's projects and supports the Senior Communications Officer in delivering its public facing materials. This includes writing, editing and designing print publications and digital materials across all organisations. Part of her role is to represent MSC in public matters by corresponding with journalists and media staff at partner organisations. She also provides secretariat support to the Electives Committee. Lucy has completed an MA in History.



Colin Cable - Senior Policy Officer

colin.cable@medschools.ac.uk – 020 7419 5494

Areas of expertise: pharmacy education and regulation, higher education policy and stakeholder engagement.

Colin is a Senior Policy Officer at the Medical Schools Council and is based in Edinburgh. He provides the secretariat for the Pharmacy Schools Council and is part of the team that delivers the Prescribing Safety Assessment.

Colin has a broad knowledge and understanding of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical sciences having worked for 30 years at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, several years in hospital pharmacy and a short time in the pharmaceutical industry. He has a BSc (Hons) in Pharmacy from Heriot Watt University and a PhD in Drug Delivery from the University of Strathclyde.



Dr Chris Fassnidge – Senior Research Officer

chris.fassnidge@medschools.ac.uk – 0207 419 5492

Areas of expertise: research, clinical academic careers, communications, mental health.

Chris is a Senior Research Officer at the Medical Schools Council and is based at Woburn House, London. Chris supports the MSC Research Subcommittee on matters such as sharing best practice regarding medical research and education and on promoting clinical academic careers. He also leads on the Clinical Academic Training Forum (CATF) communications strategy to attract trainee doctors and dentists to clinical academic careers. Part of his role includes providing secretariat support to the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) and to the University Hospital Association's Research and Development Directors. Chris has an MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience from University College London and a PhD in Psychology from City, University of London.

Relationships with other organisations

Including the Medical Schools Council, there are five other organisations that are run from the Woburn House office and are supported by staff who also work for MSC. These organisations include: Veterinary Schools Council, Dental Schools Council, Pharmacy Schools Council, University Hospital Association and the Association of Dental Hospitals.

In addition, the MSC has close relationships with other organisations in the sector. This section briefly summarises the relationship the Medical Schools Council has with both internal and external organisations.

Affiliated organisations

Within the MSC office in Woburn House, are four other organisations which members of the MSC secretariat work part time on. The structure of these organisations, though sometimes smaller, are very similar to that of the Medical Schools Council. All organisations have the same Chief Executive as the Medical Schools Council, Dr Katie Petty-Saphon.



Association of Dental Hospitals

The Association of Dental Hospitals (ADH) has been supported by Woburn House staff since 2016. Its members are the clinical directors of dental hospitals. ADH works to improve service, research and training in dentistry. www.dentalhospitals.org.uk



University Hospital Association

The University Hospital Association (UHA) represents university hospitals across the UK. Its members are the Chief Executives of the hospitals. UHA also incorporates five affiliate groups: Directors of Finance, Directors of Nursing, R&D Directors and Medical Directors. Its role is to represent university hospital Trusts' unique interests in partnership with other national bodies. The Medical Schools Council holds an annual joint meeting with UHA members in May. www.universityhospitals.org.uk



Dental Schools Council

The Dental Schools Council (DSC) represents UK and Irish dental schools. Its members are the deans of these organisations. The Council engages in representative and policy work on matters relating to dental education as a whole. It is the authoritative voice of UK dental education. www.dentalschoolscouncil.ac.uk



Pharmacy Schools Council

The Pharmacy Schools Council (PhSC) represents the collective interests of 27 UK schools of pharmacy by providing a source of expert opinion and advice on

matters concerning pharmacy education from the perspective of UK schools. Until October 2011, the Pharmacy Schools Council was known as the Council of University Heads of Pharmacy Schools (CUHOP). www.pharmacyschoolscouncil.ac.uk



Veterinary Schools Council

The Veterinary Schools Council (VSC) was created in 2014, continuing the work of the Heads of Veterinary Schools. The membership is made of the heads of seven UK veterinary schools offering degrees accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. VSC also represents two non-UK associate members: The School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Dublin; and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University. VSC works to promote international recognition of the UK veterinary schools for their excellence in education, research and clinical service. www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk

Relationship with Universities UK

Universities UK (UUK) works as the national voice of universities, helping to maintain the world-leading strength of the UK university sector. Its members are the vice-chancellors or principals of universities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Medical Schools Council is an associated organisation of UUK, which is also based in Woburn House. Policy staff between both organisations will often hold meetings together to update and share the work they have been doing. The chief executive of MSC sits on the Universities UK Health Board, along with other members of the council.

UUK manages the financial records of MSC and reports on the financial performance of the Medical Schools Council in its Statutory Report and Accounts. The Report and Accounts are presented to the UUK Board and the members of Universities UK at the Annual General Meeting. This is reported back to the executive

committee of the Medical Schools Council.

MSC staff are employed by UUK who recharge salary and facilities costs back to the Medical Schools Council. UUK operates a restricted fund for the Medical Schools Council.

Relationship with external organisations

MSC works closely with other external organisations in the health, education and research sector. Often, representatives of these organisations are invited to attend meetings.

Examples include:

- Health Education England and the devolved administrations in relation to the transition from undergraduate education to postgraduate training and career choice.
- The General Medical Council on fitness to practise and professional behaviour guidance.
- Collaboration with NIHR, the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and other major funders to drive research in the medical, biomedical and life sciences.
- The Academy of Medical Sciences and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to ensure issues relating to undergraduate education are integrated with wider medical and health policy.

The Medical Schools Council Secretariat has representation on the following organisations:

- **CASAG** – Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, Medical Schools Council
- **Health and Education National Strategic Exchange (HENSE)** – Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, Medical Schools Council

- **Health Careers Website Steering Group** – Fahmida Yasmin, Senior Communications Officer, Medical Schools Council
- **HEE Widening Participation Strategic Oversight Board** - Clare Owen, Associate Director, Medical Schools Council
- **Clinical Academic Training Forum** - Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, Medical Schools Council
- **Scottish Board for Academic Medicine** – Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, Medical Schools Council
- **The Deech Group on Gender Issues in Medicine** - Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, Medical Schools Council
- **UCEA, Clinical Academic and Staffing Advisory Group**, Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, Medical Schools Council
- **UKFPO Foundation Schools Directors Group** – Clare Owen, Associate Director, Medical Schools Council
- **UKFPO Rules Group** - Dr Katie Petty-Saphon, CEO, and Olga Sierocinska King, Senior Policy Officer, MSC Assessment
- **UKMED Advisory Board** – Peter Tang, Data Analyst, Medical Schools Council
- **UKMED Research Sub Group** – Peter Tang, Data Analyst, Medical Schools Council
- **UUK Health Policy Research Network** – Medical Schools Council

Contact Us

Includes office hours, how to get here and nearby transport links.

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London
WC1H 9HD

Telephone: +44(0)20 7419 5494
Email: admin@medschools.ac.uk
www.medschools.ac.uk

Office hours: 9:00am - 5:30pm

Getting to Woburn House

Woburn House is based in Bloomsbury, south of Euston Road. There are a number of nearby transport links:

- Euston train and underground station, Russell Square and Euston Square Stations, 5-minute walk
- St Pancras International and Eurostar terminals, 15-minute walk
- King's Cross underground and train station, 15-minute walk

A number of buses also stop on Tavistock square including the 59, 68, 168 and 91. For more information on transport, please visit the [Transport for London](http://www.tfl.gov.uk) website.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Bullying and Harassment policy – members and employees

Appendix 2: Medical Schools Council Code of Conduct

Appendix 3: Medical Schools Council Articles of Association

Appendix 1: Bullying and Harassment policy – members and employees

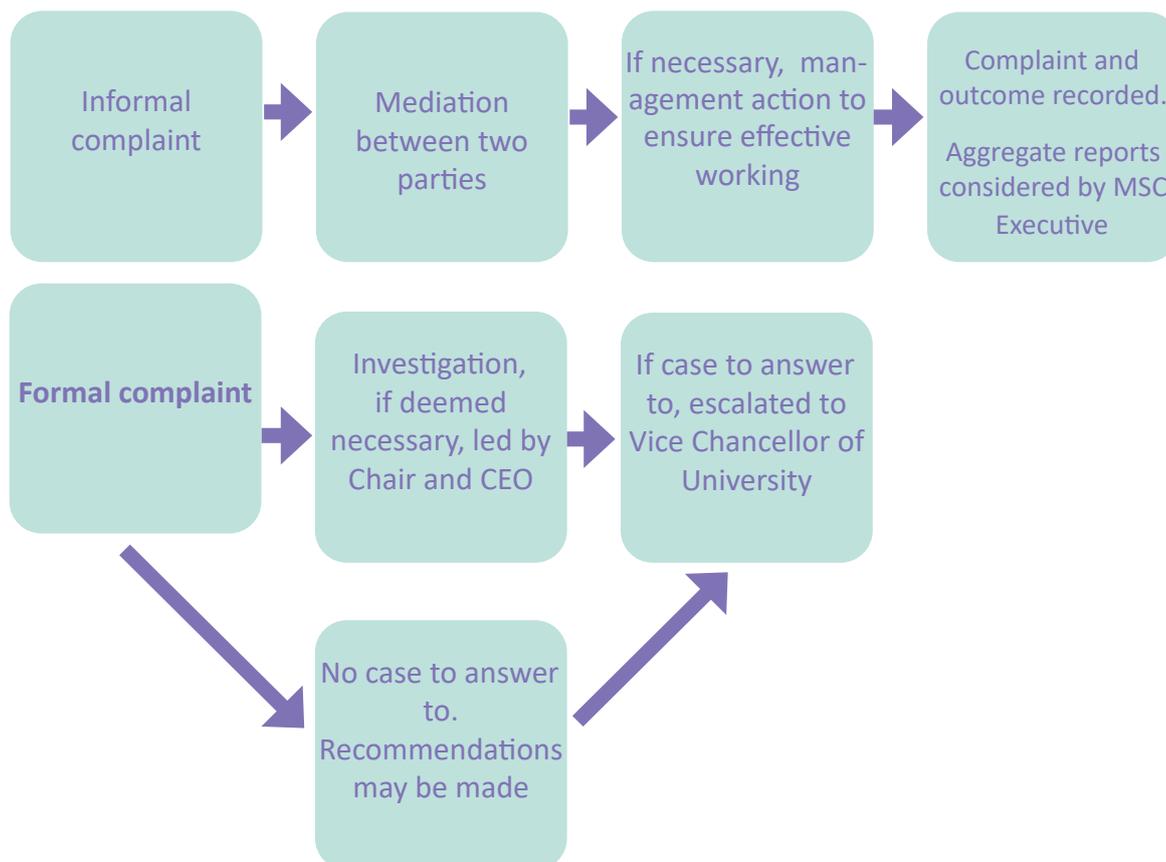
1. Purpose

To encourage an environment in which every member of the Medical Schools Council (MSC) and every employee of MSC is entitled to join in activities and work without harassment, victimisation or bullying, due to their disability, race, gender, health, social class, sexual orientation, marital status, nationality, religion, employment status, age or membership or non-membership of a trade union or staff association.

2. Scope

This policy applies to personal harassment in relation to all MSC members, deputies, staff and visitors in the course of their duties for the MSC and related organisations.

3. Summary of process



4. Definitions

Harassment includes:

- Unwanted conduct affecting the dignity of persons. It includes unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct and it could amount to unlawful discrimination. It can involve a single incident or may be persistent and may be directed towards one or more individuals. In addition to racial and sexual harassment, for the purposes of the policy, harassment on the basis of age, disability, health, social class, membership or non-membership of a trade union, religion, sexual preferences, nationality or employment status are also included.
- Unwanted physical contact such as unnecessary touching, patting, pinching, brushing against another individual's body, insulting or abusive behaviour or gestures, physical threats, assault, coerced sexual intercourse or rape.
- Unwanted verbal conduct such as unwelcome advances, patronising titles or nicknames, propositions or remarks, innuendo, lewd comments, jokes, banter or abusive language, which refer to an individual or a group's gender, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, disability, sexual preferences or repeated suggestions for unwanted social activities inside or outside the workplace.
- Unwanted non-verbal conduct such as racially or sexually based graffiti referring to an individual's characteristics or private life, abusive or offensive gestures, leering, whistling, display of pornographic or suggestive literature or other items, pictures or films/videos or inappropriate use of visual display units or network systems for this purpose.
- Treating an individual less favourably than others are, or would be treated in the same or similar circumstances, because they have made a complaint or allegation of discrimination or have acted as a witness or informant in connection with proceedings under the equality legislation.
- Bullying, including persistent criticism and personal abuse and/or ridicule, either in public or private, which humiliates or demeans the individuals involved, gradually eroding their self-confidence, the setting of impossible tasks or deadlines, and picking on people unfairly.
- Other unwanted conduct which denigrates, ridicules, intimidates or is physically abusive of an individual or group.

It is of note that many forms of harassment may be considered to be criminal. Where MSC believes this to be the case, it will not hesitate to involve the police. It may be appropriate for the victim to contact the police immediately.

5. Responsibilities

It is the duty of every MSC member to take responsibility for their behaviour and modify it, if necessary, so as to avoid harassment from taking place.

6. Procedures for dealing with harassment

If an MSC member, or an MSC employee, considers that they have been subject to harassment by an MSC member, then MSC's primary concern is that they should receive appropriate support, assistance and confidential advice.

There are various ways that they may wish to take the matter forward ranging from asking the person to stop, to taking up a formal complaint.

If it is an MSC employee who considers that they have been subject to harassment by an MSC member, then they should at first instance raise the matter with their line manager.

If an MSC member considers that they have been subject to harassment by another MSC member, or MSC member of staff, then they should raise the matter with the MSC Chair or Chief Executive in the first instance, or with any other member of MSC Executive Committee if more appropriate.

The complaint will then be dealt with either informally or formally, depending on the circumstances and the wishes of the person who has made the complaint.

7. Informal

If it is decided that the matter be dealt with informally, then it is likely that the person concerned will be informed that the behaviour is unacceptable, and must not be repeated. Mediation may be required.

If, despite having taken informal action, the harassment continues, or is of a more serious nature, then the matter may be dealt with formally.

No action will be taken at any stage without the consent of the person making the complaint.

8. Formal

If the harassment is serious or has not been resolved informally, then the MSC member or employee has the right to make a formal written complaint to the MSC Chair or Chief Executive, or another member of MSC Executive Committee.

In these circumstances, the complaint will be investigated by a person appointed by the MSC Executive Committee and/or a trained staff representative, who will form an investigative panel. If the complaint is against a member of the Executive Committee then that person will be excluded from any discussion or involvement regarding the

matter. All complaints will be investigated impartially with due respect to the rights of the complainant and alleged harasser. Both the complainant and the alleged harasser will be told that they have the right to be represented.

If the panel concludes that, on the balance of probabilities, the complaint is substantiated, they may recommend action against the harasser up to and including notification to the member's governing body and exclusion from MSC member meetings and other activities (if a member), or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment in accordance with the disciplinary procedure (if a member of staff).

If the panel concludes that, on the balance of probabilities, the complaint is not substantiated, no further action will be taken against the alleged harasser.

If the panel concludes that the allegations are either false or malicious, they may recommend action against the complainant up to and including notification to the member's governing body and exclusion from MSC member meetings and other activities (if a member), or disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from employment in accordance with the disciplinary procedure (if a member of staff).

Anyone experiencing harassment has the right to avail themselves of the right which may exist to pursue a grievance through an employment tribunal or a court of law.

MSC will ensure that this policy is widely publicised and its contents made known to all MSC members and members of staff.

9. Harassment and Bullying involving external parties

Where the alleged harassment or bullying involves an external party, the Chair and Chief Executive will take all reasonable steps to address the complaint in line with the principles of this policy, in consultation with the person making the complaint. These steps may include reporting the incident to the individual's manager, reviewing or terminating a contract with the external organisation, or assigning the work to another member of the team.

10. Review

This policy will be subject to a planned review every 3 years. It is recognised however that there may be updates required in the interim, arising from amendments or release of new regulations, Codes of Practice or statutory provisions or guidance from professional bodies. These updates will be made as soon as practicable to reflect and inform revised policy and practice.

Appendix 2: Medical Schools Council Code of Conduct



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Code of Conduct for MSC members

- Treat all people with respect and without discrimination
- Act in a fair and responsible way to fellow delegates, staff and volunteers
- Endeavour to attend all meetings, sending apologies to the chair and/or chief executive for necessary absences
- Endeavour to send, in your absence, an alternate who will fairly represent the school's views and whose career development will benefit from attendance
- Ensure that alternates are fully briefed on issues and discussions on the agenda
- Endeavour to arrive at meetings on time and be present for the whole of it
- Put mobile phones on silent during meeting and take urgent calls only outside of the meeting room.
- Raise points and matters for discussion through the chair
- Participate fully in the meeting, assisted by the papers circulated in advance, by:
 - Listening to others with an open mind
 - Contributing positively to discussions
 - Challenging ideas rather than individuals
 - Endeavouring to communicate clearly and concisely
- Be willing to mentor or buddy new members or alternates
- Have the best interests of the organisation in mind at all times

Code of Conduct for MSC staff

- Have the best interests of the organisation in mind at all times
- Treat all people with respect and without discrimination

- Act in a fair and responsible way to fellow staff, delegates and volunteers
- Work with commitment, honesty and integrity
- Ensure that meeting papers are informative and present balanced arguments
- Send meeting papers out a week in advance
- Prepare for the meeting by reading the papers in advance
- Endeavour to arrive at meetings on time and be present for the whole of it
- Put mobile phones on silent during meeting and take urgent calls only outside of the meeting room.
- Raise points and matters for discussion through the chair
- Facilitate actions from previous meetings in a timely manner
- Keep the chair and members informed of relevant updates and developments in between meetings
- Keep members' contact details confidential
- Have the best interests of the organisation in mind at all times

Appendix 3: Medical Schools Council Articles of Association