

National Medical Research Month

Following changes to the Foundation Programme Application, it has become increasingly important for medical students to be involved in research. As Academic Foundation Posts (AFPs) are becoming increasingly competitive, students need to show interest in research from an early stage during their medical studies. NSAMR as a research organisation is in a unique position to provide further local and national research opportunities to medical students in the UK. Through our collaboration with affiliated medical schools, we aim to foster interdisciplinary medical research through a range of exciting formats and create opportunities for medical students to support their pursuit in academic medicine.

National Medical Research Month is a single or multiple days event held during November 2016, where students visit a research group to see what it is like to work in academia. The event is targeted for Year 1 and Year 2 medical students with little to no previous experience in research, and aims to break down the barrier of access to researchers and knowledge of opportunities. The relationship developed during these taster sessions would ideally lead to funded vacation studentship or summer studentship.

NSAMR is collaborating with universities and affiliated medical research societies to put together a “Taster Session Booklet”, detailing each research group’s research interest and techniques. The booklet will be published on the NSAMR website for greater access and students can then apply through NSAMR, which will match each student’s research or medical interest with the relevant research group.

NSAMR is currently recruiting research groups across the UK to participate in this national event. If your group is interested in hosting student(s), please kindly apply via this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/xRzkbVUuAcswqoYQ2>

The application deadline is **October 15th, 2016 at 5pm.**

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact: research@nsamr.org

We hope to work with you together on this exciting project!



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FAQ

Who would the students shadow and what should we do on a taster day?

This is up to the research group's decision. For suggestion, medical students could shadow a graduate student or post-doctoral fellow for an afternoon, where research techniques and/or analysis are performed. A student could also participate in a research group meeting or presentation to understand research reasoning and discussion.

How long will the students visit?

This is decided by your research group and depending on availability. Ideally, students would like to visit for at least half a day and to be exposed to different research activities i.e experiments, data analysis, group meeting/discussion, etc

What sort of information will my group need to provide?

Below is an example of a brief write-up from a participating research group:

<i>Research Group Name</i>	MRC Centre for Medical Mycology
<i>Principal Investigator (PI)</i>	Gordon Brown
<i>Contact</i>	gordon.brown@abdn.ac.uk
<i>Location</i>	MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, University of Aberdeen
<i>Area of Research</i>	My area of expertise is in Immunology and focuses on understanding how our immune system recognizes and controls microbial infections. I am particularly interested in sensors, called receptors, that are found on immune cells and that are able to detect microbes and trigger immune responses. These sensors are critical components of immunity, and defects in these molecules result in higher susceptibility to infection. My laboratory is working on a specific group of these sensors that are called C-type lectins, which we discovered to be essential for protection against fungal infection. Our research is therefore focused on identifying all of the C-type lectin sensors that contribute to anti-fungal immunity and on understanding how these sensors are employed by immune cells during infection with fungi and other pathogens. We have made many important discoveries in this area, for example we found that C-type lectins are able to mediate the uptake and killing of fungi by immune cells. Our research is important because it provides us with an understanding of why certain people show increased susceptibility to fungal disease. It also provides crucial information that is required for the development of new therapies for treating fungal diseases.
<i>Special Research Techniques</i>	Flow cytometry, in vivo models, tissue culture, confocal microscopy, genetic manipulations (molecular biology), immunohistochemistry
<i>Number of students and dates available</i>	2 students on Wednesday 2 nd or 9 th of December

What is the timeline for the event?

Research group Application	August – October 15 th
Taster Days Booklet Released	October 18 th
Students Application	October 18 th – 27 th
Notification on Allocations	November 5 th
Taster Day Dates	November to Early December

How are students allocated?

Students who are interested in participating are required to submit an application, where they indicate their interests and rank their choices of research group they wish to shadow. According to availability of research group and student's interest, the two parties will be matched accordingly. After allocation, student will contact the group directly to arrange for a specific time and meeting place to begin their visit.

Timeline

