

# NDS OUTREACH COMMITTEE

## Minutes | 3pm Thursday 25 November 2021

Attendees: Louise King (LK), Jane Niederer (JN), Hannah McGivern (HM), Anette Magnussen (AM), Oliver McCallion (OM), Letizia Lo Faro (LLF), Dimitrios Doultinos (DD), Daisy Ryan (DR)

Apologies: Simon Knight (SK), Regent Lee (RL), Clare Dunston (CD), Jo Cook (JC), Matthew Brook (MB)

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

<b>Agenda Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>
	LK welcomed the committee and introductions were made.
<b>Agenda Item 2</b>	<b>Previous meeting minutes</b>
	N/A for the first meeting of the newly re-formed committee.
<b>Agenda Item 3</b>	
Remit	We approved the draft remit.
<b>Agenda Item 4</b>	
Outreach updates	<p><b>NDS Work Experience Programme 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application process is now open and will close at the end of February.</li> <li>• We aim to hold the programme in-person, but if we are unable to, we will run the programme online.</li> <li>• JC will liaise with LK and NDORMS about the joint SITU session.</li> <li>• HM is happy to run her science communications session again.</li> <li>• The 2022 programme will again include open sessions, which are open to those students who were not selected for the core group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Have you thought of a career in medical research? webinars</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These Zoom webinars are a series of online talks/conversations with researchers from NDORMS, NDS and other MSD departments for Y12 students, usually taking place on a Wednesday or Thursday from 4pm to 5pm. Participants can ask questions and the webinars are recorded.</li> <li>• NDS speakers so far have been HM, DD, SK, Helen Stark and Martin Gillies.</li> <li>• More speakers are needed for early 2022.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JN commented that it's hard for the surgeons to commit and suggested that their talks are pre-recorded. HM suggested that we ask participants to send in their questions in advance for the speakers enabling the pre-recorded talks to remain interactive.</li> </ul> <p><b>Evidence-based medicine (EBM) sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selena Ryan-Vig (Knowledge Broker, Cochrane UK) and Lynda Ware (a former GP) deliver free interactive sessions online to teach secondary school pupils about evidence-based medicine and critical thinking. They are very happy to run a session at any upcoming online events or run a one-off session.</li> <li>• More info: <a href="https://uk.cochrane.org/news/teaching-evidence-based-medicine-ebm-schools">https://uk.cochrane.org/news/teaching-evidence-based-medicine-ebm-schools</a></li> <li>• OM commented that it is a great idea for prospective medical students and EBM is a favourite topic at interviews. Therefore, it is a useful topic to be introduced to. EBM sessions could be integrated into the UNIQ summer school programme. Unless we have a pre-existing captive audience, we might struggle to get participants for a stand-alone EBM event.</li> <li>• HM commented that critical thinking isn't taught early enough, therefore to give students awareness of the idea of critical thinking is really important, whether they are pursuing a medical degree or not.</li> <li>• An EBM session would be ideal for the NDS Work Experience Programme.</li> <li>• LLF commented about one of the questions these sessions explore - how to go beyond the headlines and how to interpret what is (mis)portrayed in the media. Can this be extended to patient groups / patient and public involvement (PPI) as it's an important topic in general to read through the headlines. Science isn't always well represented in the media. Is there scope to do something around this topic for the general public or in collaboration with patient groups within the NDS research groups? DD suggested contacting the patient leads for the PROMOTE trial. JN suggested using the case of Sarah Gilbert and the AstraZeneca vaccine and how research can be fast-tracked as most people would be interested in this. DD suggested an activity with a guest from the Jenner Institute, using his contacts from when he undertook COVID work in one of the research groups for the vaccine development. We could also introduce industry collaboration with the University, such Oxford Biomedica who made the vaccine in collaboration with the Jenner Institute. We will explore this idea further and discuss at future meetings.</li> </ul>
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Agenda Item 5	
Next steps	<p><b>Current outreach and public engagement activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These include; the work experience programme, careers webinars, science festivals, school visits, such as science sessions in primary schools and sixth form careers evenings, patient and public events, and other activities such as a drawing competition and the recent QUOD video (PER Seed Fund).</li> </ul> <p><b>What other things could we do?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering more outreach activities/events with secondary schools, such as connecting students with researchers who are working on an art project for example.</li> <li>• Developing more hands-on activities for science festivals, public events and school visits.</li> <li>• JN suggested reaching out to a wider audience in order to be more diverse and inclusive; look at researchers that fit that profile - visible role models are very important - and focus on those groups that are currently under-represented.</li> <li>• LLF asked, apart from the UNIQ programme, are there any other initiatives targeting students from disadvantaged backgrounds? OM commented that STEP inTO OxMed specifically targets prospective medical students from under-represented backgrounds. It's always over-subscribed so there is definitely a market for it.</li> <li>• HM commented that she has independently visited disadvantaged schools as a STEM ambassador and the schools do want researchers to engage with the school. Usually, the</li> </ul>

visits have been on an allocated careers day for years 10, 11 and 12, for example, talking as an expert in her field during a themed assembly. There is scope to have a more scheduled plan to visit disadvantaged schools within the NDS outreach programme.

- AM commented that conveying the beauty of science and education is a powerful tool, and that our outreach activity should convey more science in the broader sense. A discussion followed around doing more outreach on the science side and expanding the number of young people visiting the department in order to show them the range of cool things that we do. We have a lot of basic science in the department and it's all linked to clinical work. It is important to show visitors something that is tangible, tactile, that they can hold or see, such as a piece of machinery, 3D printing, bio-engineering and histology. We need to remove the stigma of university and the gravitas of Oxford, as it doesn't relate to a lot of people's backgrounds. It's about our connection with the students and making us more relatable and approachable.
- HM suggested creating a document that lists all of the volunteers and what they do, which we can present to schools to show what we can offer. We can then design new activities and bring different volunteers together from this foundation. OM commented that we need to have a clear reason why we are offering each activity to ensure we don't end up having a negative impact. An idea is to have themed days based on the school's science curriculum, which will give the activity a purpose.

**Our priorities**

- We agreed that our priority is supporting disadvantaged students through outreach.

Agenda Item 7	Actions for Committees / Management Board	Decision / Outcome
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALL – send work experience session ideas to LK</li> <li>2. LK to speak to Natalie Ford (NDORMS) about our career webinar ideas</li> <li>3. LK to invite Selena Ryan-Vig and Lynda Ware to run EBM session for the work experience programme</li> <li>4. DD to send LK contact details of the patient leads for the PROMOTE trial</li> <li>5. LK to begin creating a document listing volunteers and resources</li> <li>6. HM to find out the logistics about contacting schools</li> <li>7. LK to create a YouTube archive/playlist of external presentations by NDS staff and promote the ATOM Society</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> </ol>	

Agenda Item 8	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>ATOM</u>, a science society in Abingdon, is always looking for speakers to talk about their work in very lay terms. A few of the talks are also online. DD has given a talk (<a href="#">view on YouTube</a>) and suggested we have an archive on the NDS YouTube of presentations from NDS staff that are in the public domain.</li> <li>• DD suggested working together with other committees in the department. For example, the Outreach Committee could help the Green Impact Committee to showcase what they do and therefore through our outreach we are saying we are a green department. We will discuss further at our next meeting.</li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item 9</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	Arrange for Hilary term 2022.