

# LINK Initiative: promoting student research during medical school

## Background and rationale

The LINK initiative is a scheme set up and run by medical students *for* medical students, to encourage participation in medical research during their time in medical school. It is an excellent example of a *student-led* staff-student partnership that identified and addresses a specific need.

Academic medicine is a field which is increasingly competitive to enter, and research experience is generally limited during medical school and early training years. Knowledge and skills relating to research can be extremely valuable when selecting career options, and can help tremendously in boosting a student's Curriculum Vitae.

We have found that in the past there were few opportunities during medical training to undertake clinical or laboratory research, and many students did not know who to contact if they were interested in participating. Therefore, the aim of LINK is to match medical students with UoL/UHL/Leicester Partnership Trust researchers to make conducting research during medical school more accessible.

## Current stage of the project and planned next steps

The initiative started in December 2012, and has proved popular ever since. In the past, we have always been oversubscribed, but have managed to allocate every student a project.

We have collected a variety of projects from forensic pathology to audits in paediatrics. These topics are quite specialist and are difficult to access during standard medical training. Therefore this is a great opportunity for medical students to experience and get a taste for research.

*For more information on the LINK scheme, or if you would like to put forward a project for medical students, please contact Bhavisha Sheth at [bs150@student.le.ac.uk](mailto:bs150@student.le.ac.uk).*

*To discuss ways in which you might develop similar projects in your own department, please email Steve Rooney at [steve.rooney@le.ac.uk](mailto:steve.rooney@le.ac.uk) or telephone 0116 252 2316.*

