Student Selected Components in General Practice

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Dr Tanya Blumenfeld
By the end of this session you will:

- Know the what, when, why and how of SSCs
- Have an idea of the types of SSCs currently on offer
- Have explored some topics that you can offer
- Know who to contact for advice

Intended learning outcomes
The GMC envisages that SSCs would allow students:

- An opportunity to study in greater depth an area of their choosing that is outside but which complements the core curriculum.

- A greater control over learning and the development of self-directed learning skills including critical thinking and reasoning which would engender an approach to medicine that is questioning and self-critical.

- To develop greater confidence in their own skills and abilities.

- To present the results of their work verbally, visually, in writing or a combination of these.

- To develop and recognise the value of transferable skills.

- To consider potential career paths.
• A project, devised by you and the student(s) jointly, overseen by you.

• May involve qualitative or quantitative research.

• Outcome: a presentation, a poster, a publication (more about this later).
Topics can be broadly divided into:

- An extension of the core curriculum e.g. an SSC in sports medicine as a logical development of an attachment in orthopaedics or rheumatology.

- An area related to medicine but not included in any detail in the core curriculum e.g. history of medicine, information technology, forensic pathology, medicine in the classical world.

- A topic that can be applied to medicine. e.g. management skills, journalism, a foreign language.
After undertaking a research based SSC students may be able to:

- Retrieve information
- Evaluate and critically appraise scientific literature
- Demonstrate proficiency in written communication
- Demonstrate proficiency in oral communication
- Demonstrate proficiency in self-directed learning
- Demonstrate an ability to manage time effectively
- Partake in teamwork

Skills, skills, skills
Year 4:
• 6 week block. 4 blocks per year January - June:
• 2017 dates:
  2/1/17-11/2/17
  13/2/17-25/2/17
  10/4/17-20/5/17
  22/5/17-1/7/17
• 2018 dates:
  1/1/18-10/2/18
  12/2/18-24/3/18
  9/4/18-19/5/18
  21/5/18-29/6/18
Your motivation
Why?

- Different to the day job
- Exploration of an area which interests you
- Enables a focus on your population
- Involvement in research
- Opportunity for posters, presentations & publications
- Fosters the idea of GP as an attractive career destination
- Student enthusiasm
Student visits PCU or MedEd SSC page:

Keen to explore SSC opportunities with the Primary Care Unit?

This page brings together key sources of information for student doctors at Cambridge who are looking at their SSC options, with several examples of how recent projects have been disseminated (scroll down to see Examples). Please contact Francis Cater if you have specific queries about selecting your SSC project in general practice or primary care research: fc.upa@medschl.cam.ac.uk.

"Doing your SSC in the Primary Care Unit, or in a General Practice, opens up a wide range of challenging opportunities and a wealth of experience for you. Possibilities range from research to underpin early diagnosis of cancer in primary care to tackling health inequalities through pro-active work with traveller communities. You will be working with some of our most dynamic GP teachers and primary care researchers, possibly leading to a first author publication."

Dr John Benson, Senior Lecturer in General Practice, Director of GPEG, September 2016

1. Current projects
2. Using CPRD
3. Disseminating your findings
4. About recent SSC projects – list of past assignments plus examples
5. Message to Cambridge medical students from Professor Jonathan Mant
How?

• First contact: can be telephone or e-mail contact

• Find out: Name, year, dates of SSC block, more than one student?

• Then...open dialogue regarding interests to enable decision on specific content of SSC

• Confirm commitment to working together

• Work out rough plan and timetable for the project
Advise student to complete and submit SSC proposal proforma to MedEd

Identify and arrange resources necessary: access to computer, log-in, presentation equipment

Frequency of contact depends on project: suggested average of one GP session per week

Payment:
Calculated on basis of one GP session per week
6 sessions @ £210 = £1260

Student can claim up to £100 for travel expenses
Kathryn Dixon audited GP records to examine vaccine uptake in a traveller community, with Dr Tanya Blumenfeld publication in the Journal of Public Health.

Examples

For full details see the PCU site SSC page

- 1) To understand fully the process of clinical commissioning, including the commissioning cycle. 2) To understand the advantages of clinical commissioning over other commissioning models and the barriers and pitfalls there-in. 3) To be aware of dementia services in the community setting in Huntingdonshire and the dementia pathway as it stands. 4) To audit at a practice level, the clinical outcomes from the national Dementia Direct Enhanced Service. 5) To undertake work on a new dementia strategy for Huntingdonshire, incorporating objectives 1-4. Dr Malav Bhimpuria
• The student will be involved in the development of educational resources utilising multimedia and educational principles. *Dr Jon Ferdinand*

• The student will work with a GP with a specialist interest in Care of the Elderly to do some work at local nursing homes looking at repeat prescribing, care planning or falls management. *Dr Megan Phillimore-Brown*
Your ideas
The successful completion of the SSC programme will be demonstrated by a satisfactory SSC portfolio:

- Satisfactory supervisor report for Year 4 SSC block
- Satisfactory student report of Year 4 SSC

- Demonstration of key skills:
  a. Writing of a manuscript or abstract
  b. Presentation of material
  c. A described literature search
  d. A literature review or manuscript introduction or case report
  e. Production of a poster or power point presentation of SSC findings
  f. Use of statistical methods to inform understanding of data
• Meet up with student in final week for evaluation and feedback

• Submit report via MedEd

• You will receive an evaluation of the SSC from the student via MedEd

• Can students fail an SSC?
• SSC prize awarded at end of Year 6 to student whose SSC portfolio is considered outstanding.

• Cuthbert Prize For Humanities awarded for essay concerning interaction of humanities with clinical medicine.

• Students may apply for a grant from GPEG for up to £300 to cover expenses related to presenting at conference.
1. NRES ethics approval: even setting up a small research project involving sending questionnaires to a small group of patients or setting up a focus group with patients or their carers will require NRES ethics approval.

2. Questionnaires for NHS staff, but not for patients: no NRES ethics approval needed, but you would require R&D approval, insurance and ethics approval from one of the internal ethics committees unless the R&D office consider the work to constitute service evaluation, rather than research.

3. If you want to do a small research project on healthy volunteers you will still need ethics approval from one of the University ethics committees and you will also need insurance.
• SSC programme managed by Dr Jonathan Fuld
  ssc@medschl.cam.ac.uk

• General enquiries: Dr Kinnary Martin
  km673@medschl.cam.ac.uk

• Research & ethics: Clinical School Research
  Governance Officer (cad50@medschl.cam.ac.uk)
  01223 769291

• Literature searches: Isla Kuhn, Clinical School Library

Resources & contacts
Burning questions