Unconfirmed Minutes of NST 1B Pharmacology Curriculum Consultative Committee
A meeting was held at 10.00 am on 16 May 2014
in the Seminar Room, Department of Pharmacology

Present: Dr Robert Henderson (Chair), Dr Lesley MacVinish (Teaching Committee Secretary), Dr Rik van Veen (Course organiser), Prof. Michael Edwardson, Dr Ruth Murrell-Lagnado, Dr Siolian Ball (Supervisor), Anna Osipova (Notes).

1. Apologies: Dr Brian Billups, Dr Robin Hiley, Dr Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. Colin Taylor, Prof. Dermot Cooper, Prof. Robin Irvine.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2013: Approved

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 Monoclonal antibody research and design incorporated into Eddie Stevens Drug Discovery lectures.
It was commonly agreed that the course cannot be expanded. Therefore, going forward, the ET lectures on Antimicrobial, antiviral & anticancer drugs will be split as 6 (Dr Rik van Veen) + 3 (Dr Walid Khaled) to ensure wider coverage of monoclonal antibodies.
**Action:** Prof. Edwardson to discuss with Dr Fan his every lecture to guarantee Dr Fan covers monoclonal antibodies in his lectures as well.

3.2 Dr Tai-Ping Fan increased lecture series by one lecture to incorporate steroids.
Noted by the Committee - no issues for discussion

3.3 Prof. Colin Taylor increased lecture series by one lecture to incorporate diabetes.
Noted by the Committee - no issues for discussion

3.4 Dr Rik van Veen as Course Organiser delivered the introductory lecture.
Neither Prof. Taylor nor Dr van Veen will be able to deliver the introductory lecture in 2014-15. Prof. Edwardson volunteered.
**Action:** Prof. Edwardson to deliver the introductory lecture in 2014-15.

4. Replacement of BJB lectures: 7 CNS lectures will be delivered by Dr David Belin going forward. Noted by the Committee - no issues for discussion

5. Replacement of CRH lectures: Cardiovascular and renal lectures will be delivered by Dr Henderson in 2014-15. Noted by the Committee - no issues for discussion

6. Pharmacokinetics lectures: Dr Steve Hladky has agreed to deliver them for another year.
Noted by the Committee - no issues for discussion

7. Review course content to ensure that we cover all the important areas.
Dr Henderson observed that the current layout of the course in MT is less logical than it used to be when the structure was first set up in the early 1990s. In particular, it is less friendly to the supervisors and students due to amendments in the order and content of lectures caused by, for example, Prof. Taylor’s travel during the Michaelmas term. Dr Ball supported this observation.
Dr Murrell-Lagnado suggested drawing Prof. Taylor’s attention to this feedback.

Dr Henderson proposed that in 2014-15, with Dr Hiley and Prof. Cooper retiring, there should be a good chance to review the course and come up with an efficient course structure for 2015-16.
that will (a) attempt to re-introduce lectures on contraceptives (an item brought to Committee’s attention by Dr van Veen) by paring down the existing lectures on Cardiovascular and Renal Pharmacology, and (b) contextualise monoclonals in the introductory lecture.

Dr Ball noted that ET lectures and handouts on Antimicrobial, antiviral & anticancer drugs had an overwhelming amount of information considering that a substantial part of ET is exam time. 

**Action:** From 2014-15, Dr van Veen to deliver his lectures in MT (with the practical also moved to MT), whereas Dr Fan to give his lectures on Inflammation, Pain & Immunopharmacology (including monoclonals and steroids) in ET. Similarly, the CNS seminar held by Dr Glynn to be moved to MT.

8. **AOB**
Taking into account that Prof. Copper is to retire in 2014-2015, it was suggested that UTO Dr Walid Khaled should take over radioligand binding practicals from Prof. Cooper and Dr Mike Young, who are currently running them for NST 1B and MoDA courses. Dr Murrell-Lagnado suggested that Senior Research Associate Dr Andrew Thompson be nominated to assist Dr Khaled in this as he is very keen on traditional core pharmacology and analysis.

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 15th May 2015 at 10am.
Unconfirmed Minutes of MoDA Curriculum Consultative Committee
A meeting was held at 11.00 am on 16 May 2014
in the Seminar Room, Department of Pharmacology

Present: Dr Robert Henderson (Chair), Dr Lesley MacVinish (Teaching Committee Secretary), Prof. Michael Edwardson, Dr Rik van Veen, Dr Ruth Murrell-Lagnado, Dr Gavin Jarvis (PDN), Prof. Mike Herrtage (Vet School), Prof. Alun Williams (Vet school), Anna Osipova (Notes).

1. Apologies: Dr David Bainbridge (PDN), Dr Kevin O'Shaughnessy (Clinical School), Dr Diana Wood (Clinical School), Dr Fraz Mir (Clinical School), Dr Martin Hughes (Supervisor rep), Dr Robin Hiley.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2013: Approved

3. Matters arising: None

Dr MacVinish updated the Committee on recent developments. None of the course organisers has seen the complete timetable yet. From what is currently available (but not necessarily definitive), in 2014-15 MoDA will continue to be taught over MT and LT rather than spread over all the three academic terms as was anticipated following the decision to cancel options within the course. Vets’ lectures will remain essentially unchanged, whereas Medics will experience a compression of lectures in MT and LT due to shift of Head & Neck to Part 1B.

6. Proposed clinical review lectures
Dr Henderson informed the Committee about an attempt to introduce a series of joint lectures between the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical School in 2015-16. He stressed that the project is still in its infancy and a lot of blanks need filling: e.g. in which academic term to fit the lectures and whether a similar series should be organised for Vets.

From a summary of clinical study and therapeutics within the Vets’ programme given by Prof. Williams it was clear that Vets have ample exposure to the above. At the same time Dr Jarvis noted that with this joint series there may be a danger of contaminating pharmacology (the study of what drugs do) with therapeutics (the study of how drugs are used in a particular case), with the former normally appreciated only years after graduation.

Dr Henderson underlined in response that this series will not be a therapeutics course but rather a range of contextualised case studies. Taking into account that this will be difficult to examine, Dr MacVinish added that it might be beneficial to integrate single revision-type lectures throughout the course rather than have a block of joint lectures to finalise the course. To this end, we could look at the similar experience in the Department of Pathology and/or take on board the format of tag questions practised by Dr Bainbridge.

7. AOB
- To alleviate the students’ worry about what 2 types of questions out of possible 3 they are likely to get in the exam, Dr Jarvis suggested returning to the old format of the exam when every student got all the 3 types of questions in their paper. In response, GMC requirements and potential tweaking of the examination format were discussed. **Action: Dr Henderson to raise this issue at the Teaching Committee meeting.**
Prof. Williams shared the results of a Vet students survey conducted every 4 years at all levels of study: Pharmacology was one of the subjects that students found not well covered. Consequently, he suggested considering the introduction of more Vet examples and drugs in Pharmacology lectures.

**Action: Dr MacVinish and Prof. Williams to negotiate how to tailor the existing lectures to better meet Vet students’ expectations.**

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 15th May 2015 at 11.00 am