



Interesting Information from Semester I 2008-2009

BSc Hons Clinical Physiology Course revalidation scheduled for 21st April 2009.

52 students in Year 1
28 students in Year 2
22 students in year 3
16 students in year 4

Cathal Breen and Jacqui Crawford wish to send sincere gratitude to colleagues at Altnagelvin and Craigavon Area hospitals for offering opportunities for clinical skills update and CPD through honorary contracts in the areas of cardiac and respiratory physiology.

Insight evening event into Clinical Physiology profession organised for Thursday 23rd April.

Hello and welcome to the third University of Ulster Clinical Physiology Newsletter. This publication is designed to enhance communication links between the University staff, students and our professional colleagues in ALL Clinical Physiol-

Revalidation is a process employed by the University whereby degree programme content is refreshed and updated in accordance to academic and professional body recommended standards.

The primary purpose of revalidation is the re-affirmation of the standards set for the awards and the courses within the unit and their continuing currency and relevance to the University's Mission. It aims to ensure that for each award-bearing course and undergraduate subject strand it accords with the University's purpose and core strategic aims, the academic structure and content are appropriate, the proposed award is in accordance with the University's scheme of qualifications, conforms to the modular and credit framework of the University, the standard and student workload are comparable to those of other programmes leading to the same award nationally, the available resources are sufficient to enable the stated aims and objectives to be met and there is evidence of reasonable employment and progression prospects.

Accreditation is the process whereby the relevant professional bodies are asked to give their views upon the course's suitability for its graduates to be professionally registered. This accreditation event is scheduled to run simultaneously with the university revalidation of the course on April 20-22nd. We are very grateful to colleagues employed within the Royal Victoria Hospital, Braid Valley and the Mater Hospital for facilitating this process by permitting representatives from the panel to visit departments to observe work based learning environments and their participation in preparation for these events.

Wish us all luck!

Year 1

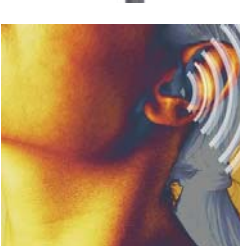
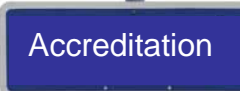
Clinical Physiology Year 1 cohort semester 1 2008 has been the largest intake to the programme to date, a total of 52 students enrolled. This number highlights the success advertising the degree programme through "Insight Nights" and the recognition of the professional role as provided through colleagues.

Division of this cohort into specialist clinical areas will be of the following ratio:

Cardiac Physiology	20 students
Respiratory Physiology	10 students
Neurophysiology	10 students
Audiology	10 students. Placement allocation locally has denoted these numbers and the lecturing team are very grateful to all colleagues in negotiating with us in providing this practice opportunity.

All year 1 students experienced clinical orientation in January 2009. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to consolidate learning and consider which clinical area is for them. Thank you all for taking students over this busy time and enlightening their knowledge regarding your professional roles. We are delighted to introduce our new colleagues in Audiology from Craigavon, South Tyrone and Altnagelvin Area Hospital who assisted with this opportunity.

Year 1 also enjoyed a team building event organised by Dr Ciara Hughes and our photos highlight the continued success of this activity.



What's your say??

**When suits you for WBA training?
Reminder training day for NEW assessors will be Wednesday 6th May 2009.**

We are always pleased to receive comments relating to the degree programme!

Have you any interesting facts for us to promote?





Undergraduate Teaching Methods

Teaching learning and assessment methods employed for undergraduate education within the BSc Hons Clinical Physiology programme have been widely commended. Drivers for alternative learning have been due to the implementation of "Audience Response Software" across the school of health sciences, a grant attained from collaborate research with art colleagues, the successful application of an in house Higher Education and Innovation Fund (HEIF) and the formation of a clinical skills laboratory.

Audience Response Software

TurningPoint software in conjunction with ResponseCard® audience response unit, create a wireless audience response and voting system that enables educators, trainers and presenters to develop and administer real-time assessments of audience participants from within Microsoft® PowerPoint®. With [Turning Technologies' PowerPoint Plug-in](#) your PowerPoint installation transforms into a wireless audience response technology that can seamlessly identify and confirm participant understanding, increase participant attentiveness, and gather, rank and report critical information simultaneously with your delivery of live face-to-face events.



Art Collaboration

Flex & Ply is a research collaboration between Radiography, Clinical Physiology and Art within the University of Ulster. This project has offered a new means of teaching and learning anatomy and applying theory to practical clinical techniques. Student feedback to this approach has been phenomenal, students report to remembering anatomy detail readily and benefit when approaching patients to perform diagnostic procedures. Findings from this methodology will contribute to published findings.



Year 2

The second year cohort are now preparing for the part I professional examinations within Cardiology, Respiratory and Neurophysiology. Logbook completion deadlines will be e mailed to Practice Educators and clinical departments soon. IV requirements should be forwarded to Jacqui Crawford, j.crawford@ulster.ac.uk



Year 3

Students in Year 3 are now consolidating academic theory delivered by the University into competent clinical practice through experiential placement within local hospital trusts. Assessments within each specialist area of Clinical Physiology will provide a professional portfolio mapping the students preparation for autonomous practice.

Following a University staff student consultative meeting the need to regularly meet and update students on placement was raised. A placement forum has been organised for Wednesday 1st April. The aims of the forum would be to act as an opportunity for students on placement through ALL years to feedback on placement issues and also meet up with their peers and share their clinical placement

Student Voice

Hi, my name is Peter Bradley, i am a third year Applied Physiology student with a stammer/stutter/ speech impediment, whatever you want to call it. I have recently attended an intensive adult speech therapy course for a week in the South of Ireland. My expectations going into the course were high as my speech had been fairly good in class and in general. To be honest I was expecting a cure, an end to this affliction, I had joked that the therapy would involve a priest and the phrase "the power of Christ compiles you". The initial phase of the therapy involved a lot of delving into the past, times at school or college when my speech was at its worst. This was a hard but important phase, before I had preferred avoiding the topic as this proved easier than facing it. Looking back at my years at school I felt fortunate to have a broad spectrum of friends. The fact was that my stammer didn't really bother anyone...except me. I tried hiding my stammer and developed a blockage, finding it harder and harder to get words out. The next phase of the course involved a process called "voluntary stammering". This involved going into shops, asking for directions on the street, carrying out questionnaires whilst stammering on purpose. This was very challenging as I had previously went to all lengths to avoid stammering, but it proved invaluable in grasping a control of my speech. I found the more I stammered on purpose the more I could play with my speech, allowing me to be in complete control of what was coming out of my mouth. The questionnaire involved asking people what they thought of stammering and I was pleasantly surprised that no-one really had a problem with it. I found this amazing as all my life I felt that stammering was seen as a weakness or a flaw. Bruce Willis, Marilyn Monroe, Winston Churchill and the current Vice-President of America would immediately disagree as stammering has not held them back in the slightest.

Overall I feel really lucky to have attended the course and would highly recommend it. I found that dealing with certain problems in a group is a lot easier than dealing with problems by yourself, especially in a situation in which people have been through similar experiences. I feel that my speech has improved and although I may never be a fluent speaker it really doesn't bother me any more. For more information into stammering please visit the Irish stammering association website at <http://www.stammeringireland.ie>. Thanks for taking the time to read, Peter Bradley.

Clinical Skills Laboratory

The competent clinical physiologist expertly collaborates elements of science, clinical knowledge and technology to diagnose ailments of organ function. To consolidate student clinical learning the University has committed to the provision of a clinical skills laboratory. This learning environment will bridge the gap between academic learning and clinical practice to all specialist areas within the degree programme. We look forward to inviting you to view our suite soon. This facility has benefited immensely from HEIF funding success and the generous donation of equipment leagues



Year 4

The final year cohort are now on the countdown to sitting their part 2 professional body examinations within cardiac, respiratory and neurophysiology. The deadline for cardiology logbook submission is Monday 20th April 2009. All cardiology logbooks are scheduled to arrive to the examination area in Ashton University Birmingham via courier from the University of Ulster. We wish all our students the best of luck and we wish to acknowledge the efforts of ALL clinical colleagues at facilitating their training. We are indebted to your continuous support, thank you all.