UCL Medical School

Strategy 2011 – 2016

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Introduction & Background

On the 1st August 2011, the restructure of the School of Life and Medical Sciences was confirmed. The original two Faculty structure (Faculty of Life Sciences and Faculty of Biomedical Sciences) will be replaced by a four Faculty structure (Faculty of Life Sciences, Faculty of Brain Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Faculty of Population Health Sciences).

Following the Senior Executive Group’s consideration of the Education Leadership, Governance and Support Review, led by Darrell Evans, and the Administrative Support Review, led by John Lauwerys, it has been agreed that from the 1st August 2011 the Division of Medical Education (DoME) will merge with Medical Student Administration (MSA) to create a new Division named UCL Medical School. This will be in the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Professor Jane Dacre will become Director of UCL Medical School, and Professor Patrick Maxwell will be Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. UCL Medical School will be directly accountable to Professor Sir John Tooke: Vice Provost Health, Head of the School of Life Medical Sciences and, Head of the Medical School.

This restructuring gives The Medical School, a clear identity, a degree of autonomy and provides an opportunity to progress transformational change. The overall aim, the interim goals and the immediate objectives are set out below. These are intentionally ambitious.

Aim

The Aim of UCL Medical School is to become a ‘new’ medical school in a traditional research based university environment. We will build on our excellence in research and medical education to become one of the best, and most highly rated medical schools in the world, employing innovative, contemporary and evidence based teaching methods.

The Strategy should be viewed in the context of the SLMS Education Board Terms of Reference at Appendix 1.

Goals for 2011 – 2016

1. To aspire to be the best medical school in the UK, with excellent performance in a variety of available metrics e.g. the National Student Survey, GMC published data and other sources.
2. To embed transformational change to the MBBS programme, via MBBS 2012, and to publish this widely.
3. To ensure that learning at UCL Medical School is supported by world class e learning resources
4. To raise the profile of UCL Medical School as a centre of excellence in medical education scholarship and practice both internally within UCL, and externally in the UK and overseas.
5. To increase our reputation as a centre of excellence in education research, in particular in the area of assessment.
6. To establish a reputation as the UK’s best known clinical assessment centre, and run it as an income generating venture
7. To establish a Clinical Postgraduate Medical School to provide a range of professional learning for health professionals. Working closely with UCLP and other commissioning bodies, this School will provide a range of activities including short courses, core professional training and Masters level courses in a selection of medical specialties that utilise accreditation of prior learning from medical postgraduate exams.
8. To contribute actively to UCL Health CPD, in liaison with the Apollo Group.
9. To contribute to UCL’s global agenda by providing support and consultancy in Medical Education overseas.
10. To influence and provide leadership in current national debates in Medical Education via contacts in the DH, GMC and Medical Royal Colleges.
11. To maintain financial health during a period of funding upheaval.
12. To increase engagement with patients, public, NHS partners and voluntary organisations to promote a more open, accountable, patient-centred medical school

Strategic Objectives for 2012-2013

1. To merge all current MSA activities into DoME using a lift and shift approach, and then to re-orientate and reorganise staffing arrangements to create an efficient and effective Medical School.
2. To ensure that the SLMS and Medical School structural changes support an improvement in the student experience, and do not detract from the running of our MBBS and other courses.
3. To continue to quality manage our courses, and provide accurate and timely information to internal (UCL IQR) and external (GMC) regulators.
4. To implement transparent funding flows for the MBBS in collaboration with the SLMS Finance Office.
5. To successfully implement all aspects of MBBS 2012 in all six years of the course and across all venues for learning.
6. To prepare all Medical School academic staff for readiness to contribute fully to REF 2014.
7. To open and launch the UCL Assessment Centre at the Archway Campus and run external assessments for the GMC and Medical Royal Colleges.
8. To begin to establish a Postgraduate Clinical Medical School, pulling together existing postgraduate professional training activities and working with local clinical education commissioners and providers to design and deliver further educational activities.
9. To run an annual education conference, and to establish a regular medical education seminar series.
10. To transform the UCL Medical School Website and Virtual Learning Environment, providing a single, easy to use and interactive portal which fulfils the needs of our staff, students and other stakeholders.
11. To develop and evaluate an evidence based framework for public and patient engagement in line with GMC and UCL expectations, and in harmony with PPI initiatives in UCLP research and partner NHS sites.

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference SLMS Education Board (as approved by Planning and Performance Committee)

1. To oversee the development of School level education strategy.
2. To develop policy relating to resource allocation for educational activity.
3. To facilitate the creation of the optimal environment for the School’s delivery of high quality education.
4. To maximise alignment of education and research strategies to ensure the delivery of world class education, specialising in the training of clinical and non-clinical academics, whilst preserving excellence in all areas.
5. To identify appropriate and emerging (foresight) areas of teaching endeavour where potential should be explored through the development of cross-cutting themes.
6. To identify areas of course delivery which should cease, be realigned or integrated with other activity.
7. To oversee the creation of the optimal training environment from undergraduate through to senior investigator status.
8. To ensure that the development and delivery of education occurs in a cost efficient manner that supports strategic intent and enables the School to address the entirety of the healthcare education spectrum.