

Publication of an edited textbook by collaborative staff-student author teams at Warwick Medical School

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Interim report by Professor David Davies

Ours is a student-led project, to publish a compilation book of some of the best undergraduate assignments produced in the module for which I am the lead, the Clinical Applications Special Study Module (CASSM). Student work comprises a dissertation of 10,000 words. Each year a number of these dissertations are of publishable quality, and certainly in terms of a bound textbook informing students of current best practice in a given clinical field, and from an undergraduate medical education standpoint.

The first task was to recruit a small editorial team comprising undergraduate medical students, led by Mr David Metcalfe, a then 2nd now 3rd year medical student. David is one of our brightest and most able students.

I have asked David for an update of where his small team are in relation to this project's activities. So far they have worked their way through the CASSM titles from 2005 and 2006 cohort and concluded that the most coherently viable book topic was on the subject of cancer. Their proposal is to structure the book around each body system (e.g. skin, respiratory) cancer. The plan is to identify a dissertation as an exemplar to illustrate how each particular system is affected by cancer. Remembering all the time that the target audience of this work is undergraduate medical students.

Eight students have agreed to participate. We have "chapters" on a pre-malignant state (Barrett's oesophagus), breast, cervical, blood (chronic myeloid leukaemia), colorectal, lung, oropharyngeal, and skin. These are all topics relevant to the MBChB course.

The students have organised and convened a peer review team. The chapters were each sent to a different author to be "reviewed" last term with a deadline of the first week in January. The review team have also written to leading clinical teachers in each area with an affiliation to Warwick Medical School to act as 'expert' reviewers, and to ensure accuracy and patient safety.