INCLUSIVE PRACTICE CASE STUDY - 9

Inclusive Curricula
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM)

ADAPTIVE PRINCIPLES

- Student-led work, which foregrounds student voice and experience, and offers agency
- Highlighting existing good practice
- Providing tangible models that can be used in adapting practice
- Collaboration between staff and students to promote and share inclusive practice
- Awareness raising that also addresses obstacles faced or concerns felt by staff

OBJECTIVE(S)

Two recent research projects within CMVM aimed to: 1) explore staff attitudes towards inclusive curricula and pedagogical practice in medical education, and 2) to evaluate existing practice in the College in order to identify and share inclusive examples.

ACTION

Following completion of a Principal's Teaching Award Scheme (PTAS) funded research project, which investigated barriers and facilitators for staff regarding inclusive Medicine and Biomedical Sciences curricula and pedagogy, two paid student internships were designed, to progress this work and to identify good practice within the College. In summer 2024, two current medical school students completed internship projects, during which they consulted with staff and students, and evaluated existing practice in the Edinburgh Medical School, in order to develop good practice case studies. The interns will engage in dissemination activity and their case studies will support staff in developing more inclusive teaching practices.

LEARNING

1. Staff support needs

The initial research project found varying levels of knowledge among staff regarding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), with significant knowledge gaps identified, as well as uncertainty as to the relevance of EDI to medicine and biomedical sciences. Confidence among staff in developing inclusive curricula in practice was low.

2. Value of student engagement

The internships that were developed to continue this work were student-led, and also encouraged student-staff engagement. This collaborative approach aligns with other CMVM projects, such as Queering the Curriculum.

AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Developing inclusive curricula and pedagogy while understanding and addressing staff obstacles or concerns
- Providing practical tools and models to support development of inclusive practice

BENEFITS

- Student-led engagement work
- Identification of existing good practice
- Applicable across the College and across disciplines

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- This is a work in progress and the case studies developed will be disseminated across the College
- Follow-on projects may be designed to carry out similar development activity within other parts of the College, e.g., Biomedical Sciences and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
- The good practice case studies that have been compiled will contribute to the inclusive practice sharing arising from this secondment project, and to Curriculum Transformation work more broadly