

Student-staff partnership case study

Case study title: **Clinical skills drop in for pharmacy students**

School: **School of Life and Medical Sciences**

Who was in the partnership? The partnership is being run by Ms Nina Walker (Student experience lead for PPP) and Mrs Marianne Rial (Departmental AQ lead PPP). The students involved in the partnership are from Level 6 and 7 of the Master of Pharmacy programme.

What was the purpose? To enhance confidence and competence in clinical skills both for academic and employability gains.

How long did it last? Is it ongoing? The partnership has been running since October 2016 on an ad hoc basis. It is scheduled to continue into next academic year with an increased number of sessions due to successful attainment of an internal grant to support creation of resources.

What was done/what happened? This partnership was designed to create a relaxed welcoming environment where students could practice clinical ward skills such as prescription chart review in a simulated ward setting. As clinical pharmacists, the staff members created a variety of exercises where they could work with the students to hone effective clinical skills. The partnership also offered the opportunity for level 6 and 7 students to work together, allowing the level 7 students to clarify issues that they were confident with and also so highlight to level 6 students where future learning will take place. The partnership offers an open approach to key clinical skills, allowing students to question processes that they do not understand and work with staff to build confidence and competence. The students were asked to input into the design of the scenarios to best fit their needs and to build a sense of community and inclusivity. The selection process for pharmacy pre-registration places now involves the use of clinical simulation scenarios, so this partnership also allows us to help promote the employability of our students. It is offered as a voluntary drop in session, on a Wednesday afternoon and is very well attended. No credit award is offered for attendance.

***What were the benefits?** The partnership has been very successful. The staff members enjoy interacting with students as a part of this as it gives scope to explore concepts in detail and outside the remit of a set curriculum. Students equally value the partnership noting

“Very helpful, it has given us experience in a real-life scenario”

“Good way to apply our knowledge to cases. Very entertaining and fun too!”

“Has really helped me to think on my feet”

“Allowed me to think critically and increased my understanding”

“Makes you aware of things you wouldn’t necessary learn in lectures”

***What were the challenges?** The challenges in the partnership project were small but included things like:



- Timetabling issues (booking rooms and working round teaching for levels 6 and 7)
- Funding for the creation of resources

The timetable issue was overcome by using Wednesday afternoons alternating with additional sessions for those involved in sports activities

The acquisition of a learning and teaching grant has provided funding to increase the provision of this project.

Students would like more sessions, which is very positive but dependent on time and funds.

***Further information/contact details**

Ms Nina Walker MRPharmS, 01707 284986, c.2.walker@herts.ac.uk

Mrs Marianne Rial, MRPharmS, 01707 285279, m.rial@herts.ac.uk

