



EXTERNAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT FORM

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	For completion by External Examiner:		
Name of External Examiner:	Dr Nick Toms		
Home Institution / Employer of External Examiner:	Plymouth University Peninsula School of Medicine		
Programme and / or Subjects Covered by this Report:	BSc Medical Pharmacology BSc Pharmacology (Intercalated)		
Academic Year / Period Covered by this Report:	2014/15	Date of Report:	15/06/15

For completion by External Examiner in the spaces provided. Please extend spaces where necessary. **Please note this Form will be published online.**

1. Programme Structure

Overall, both programmes' learning opportunities and associated content are contemporary, appear to be stage-appropriate and achieve their stated intended aims and learning outcomes.

In Yr1, Medical Pharmacology students encounter a relatively broad training programme, whilst in Years 2 and 3, the syllabus shifts to a more intense pharmacology focus. The one year intercalated programme (for Yr3 medical students) offers a range of advanced modules, covering cutting-edge pharmacology topics.

For both degree routes, final year projects offer a broad range of possible research areas for students to explore, working within internationally-competitive research teams. Within the Medical Pharmacology stream during 2014/15, final year students who wish to apply to study medicine at Cardiff, were also offered a chance to undertake the Clinical Anatomy module (BI3328) prerequisite.

2. Academic Standards

Both programmes are of a comparable standard to other similar UK HEI programmes that I have experience of.

3. The Assessment Process

Assessments appear to map well to course intended learning outcomes. Exam marking appeared consistent between assessors and followed set marking criteria. Suggested revisions to amend a small number of exam questions were considered and adopted. Final year projects sampled were of an appropriate standard.

In Spring 2015, pharmacology staff identified an issue within the final year Clinical Anatomy module with an incorrectly set pass score. When this error was recognised, the programme team sought appropriate advice, resulting in a carefully-considered, student-sensitive resolution.

4. Year-on-Year Comments

Exit Interview students from both programmes again gave positive feedback re: pharmacology modules, both programmes' efficient organisation and its approachable pharmacology team. This finding has been consistent year on year and is to be commended.

5. Preparation / Induction Activity (for new External Examiners only)

Not applicable.

6. Noteworthy Practice and Enhancement

Staff handling of the Clinical Anatomy module pass mark issue (see Section 3). I would also like to draw attention to the Exit Interview student feedback for consideration:

- Medical Pharmacology students, undertaking the Clinical Anatomy module, cited being relatively unfamiliar with the module's summative assessment format. They highlighted a need for enhanced anatomy summative assessment format information and/or a formative test opportunity (e.g. formative Spotter test).
- Intercalated Pharmacology students suggested that some additional laboratory skill training would be beneficial prior to their project commencing.

Finally, it is perhaps noteworthy that the intercalating medical students that follow laboratory-based programmes (including Intercalated Pharmacology), appear to have won the Dean's Intercalated Degree prize relatively less frequently over recent years.

7. Appointment Overview (for retiring External Examiners only)

n/a.

8. Annual Report Checklist

Please include appropriate comments within Sections 1-7 above for any answer of 'No'.

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
Programme/Course Information				
8.1	Did you receive sufficient information about the Programme and its contents, learning outcomes and assessments?	Y		
8.2	Were you asked to comment on any changes to the assessment of the Programme?	Y		
Draft Examination Question Papers				
8.3	Were you asked to approve all examination papers contributing to the final award?	Y		
8.4	Were the nature, spread and level of the questions appropriate?	Y		
8.5	Were suitable arrangements made to consider your comments?	Y		
Marking Examination Scripts				
8.6	Did you receive a sufficient number of scripts to be able to assess whether the internal marking and classifications were appropriate and consistent?	Y		
8.7	Was the general standard and consistency of marking appropriate?	Y		
8.8	Were the scripts marked in such a way as to enable you to see the reasons for the award of given marks?	Y		
8.9	Were you satisfied with the standard and consistency of marking applied by the internal examiners?	Y		
8.10	In your judgement, did you have the opportunity to examine a sufficient cross-section of candidates' work contributing to the final assessment?	Y		
Coursework and Practical Assessments				
8.11	Was the choice of subjects for coursework and / or practical assessments appropriate?	Y		
8.12	Were you afforded access to an appropriate sample of coursework and / or practical assessments?	Y		
8.13	Was the method and general standard of assessment appropriate?	Y		
8.14	Is sufficient feedback provided to students on their assessed work?	Y		
Clinical Examinations (if applicable)				
8.15	Were satisfactory arrangements made for the conduct of clinical assessments?			N/A
Sampling of Work				
8.16	Were you afforded sufficient time to consider samples of assessed work?	Y		
Examining Board Meeting				

		Yes (Y)	No (N)	N/A (N/A)
8.17	Were you able to attend the Examining Board meeting?	Y		
8.18	Was the Examining Board conducted properly, in accordance with established procedures and to your satisfaction?	Y		
8.19	Cardiff University recognises the productive contribution of External Examiners to the assessment process and, in particular, to the work of the Examining Board. Have you had adequate opportunities to discuss the Programme and any outstanding concerns with the Examining Board or its officers?	Y		
Joint Examining Board Meeting (if applicable)				
8.20	Did you attend a Composite Examining Board, i.e. one convened to consider the award of Joint Honours degrees?			N/A
8.21	If so, were you made aware of the procedures and conventions for the award of Joint Honours degrees?			
8.22	Was the Composite Examining Board conducted according to its rules?			

Please return this Report, preferably in a Microsoft Word format, by email to:

ExternalExaminers@cf.ac.uk

Your fee and expenses claim form and receipts, should be sent electronically to the above email address or in hard copy to:

Clive Brown, Registry Officer, Registry & Academic Services, Cardiff University,
McKenzie House, 30-36 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DE