Notes of a meeting of the
UK Medical Education Database Advisory Board
Friday 6 June 2025, 13:00 – 14:00
MS Teams Virtual Meeting Room

Attendees

Professor Dame Jane Dacre	Chair
Professor Peter Johnston	Research Subgroup Co-chair
Professor Colin Macdougall	Research Subgroup Co-chair
Mark Shannon	BMAT
Rachel Greatrix	UCAT
Alex Green	Jisc
Professor Colin Melville	GMC
Professor Pushpinder Mangat	GMC
Andrew Ledgard	GMC
Nathan Booth	GMC
Adam Troughton	GMC
Emma Fletcher	MSC
Dr Katie Petty-Saphon	MSC
Professor Chris McManus	Independent
Rob Tucker	BMA MSC
Catherine Parkes	ACER
Adrian Brooke	NHS England
David Tuck	MSC
Gabrielle Finn	ASME
Travis Heywood	GMC

Apologies

Tom Bandenburg	GMC
Emma Evans	GMC
Professor Bill Irish	COPMeD
Camille Harron	NIMDTA
Karen Mattick	ASME
Martin Hart	GMC
Tom Mitchell	AoMRC
Fahmida Yasmin	MSC
Mike Masding	UKFPO

A.B. Date	Action	Progress
Nov 2024	P Tiffin, C McManus, P Johnston, C Macdougall, K Mattick and Chair to meet to discuss the feasibility of putting together a bid for UKRI funding and to review if other funding streams are available.	**Completed**
Jun 2025	A Ledgard to consider whether MoUs with UKMED data providers should be reviewed and to advise the Board.	**Completed**
Jun 2025	A Ledgard to share the ethics guidance note for UKMED researchers with the Board.	**Ethics guidance published on UKMED site**
Jun 2025	K Petty-Saphon to table the UKMED ethics guidance at the MSC Research Leads meeting in June 2025 to explore whether it could be	**Completed**

	adopted by committees associated with the medical schools and to seek advice on next steps.	
Jun 2025	O Sierocinska King to invite members to join a small task group to streamline the ethics approval process, once feedback from the MSC Research Leads has been received.	**Completed**

1 Welcome and introductions   Chair

1. The Chair welcomed members to the UKMED Advisory Board. Introductions of new members were made.
2. The Chair informed Members of her plan to step down after the present meeting.
3. The Board thanked the Chair for her leadership and dedication to UKMED work.

2 Approval of minutes from 29 November 2024 and matters arising
Chair

4. The minutes of the meeting on 29 November 2024 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record.

3 Chair recruitment and proposed review of ToR   Chair

5. The Chair confirmed that recruitment of her successor has commenced with four individuals expressing interest to date. She noted that review of ToR would be part of the role.
6. There was agreement among the Members that the review of ToR should not include the MoU between the GMC and the MSC, which has not long been signed.
7. A question was raised whether the MoUs with data providers should be updated.

ACTION 1: A Ledgard to consider whether MoUs with UKMED data providers should be reviewed and to advise the Board.

4 Update on data load cycle and calendar inc. active projects   A Troughton

8. A Troughton informed the Board about the data loads: UCAS 2024 data received, being loaded, 2023 assessment data load expected to be loaded by mid-June, HESA 2022/23 received but delayed by move to a new data collection method, to be loaded in July. Recruitment data 2023-24 apart from MSRA has been loaded. The 2022-23 cycle of assessment data has been loaded. NTS is on schedule. The ARCP 2023-24 collection on track to be ready in the summer, FtP data undergoing verification.
9. He informed the Board that the coverage tool displaying available data visually is to be developed over the summer.
10. The Chair thanked the whole team, including historical contribution of Daniel Smith.
11. The operational team was invited to escalate issues to the chair in situations where data was not being provided despite repeated engagement efforts (in an ongoing case of one medical school's assessment data and the MSRA).

5 Update on active research projects and operational capacity   N Booth

12. N Booth informed Members of progress in operational capacity improvements with 15 research projects receiving data since the last Board, which included all projects from the previous application round and all bar one from June 2024.
13. He updated the Board that the review of dormant projects has been completed with many projects archived and two that might wish to resume.
14. N Booth acknowledged the work of the GMC's information security and information governance teams for their efforts to improve UKMED's capacity.

6   Ethics approval of UKMED projects – next steps   Chair

15. The Chair noted that the question of streamlining ethics approval for UKMED projects remains outstanding. She reminded the Board of the history of the blanket ethics exemption letter written by QMUL and work completed by the Chair since exploring a national approach.
16. The Board was informed that all new applicants are informed that they need to seek approval and that a small number of returning researchers have not realised they needed to seek it too but have received support from the UKMED Research Subgroup for a retrospective approval.
17. A Ledgard confirmed that the GMC is creating a guidance note for researchers that they could provide to their ethics committees.

ACTION 2: A Ledgard to share the ethics guidance note for UKMED researchers with the Board.
ACTION 3: K Petty-Saphon to table the UKMED ethics guidance at the MSC Research Leads meeting in June 2025 to explore whether it could be adopted by committees associated with the medical schools and to seek advice on next steps.
ACTION 4: O Sierocinska King to invite members to join a small task group to streamline the ethics approval process, once feedback from the MSC Research Leads has been received.

7   Research applications and final reports submitted by 1 May 2025 deadline
                                                                                        C Macdougall

18. C Macdougall informed Members that seven applications were received, of which six were recommended to the Advisory Board.
19. The subgroup reviewed six reports, of which it recommended four, with two required to make further changes.
20. The Board agreed with the recommendations.
21. C Macdougall flagged some projects needed reminders to include conflict of interest statements, and others were cautioned about assuming causality.
22. He informed Members that a small working group was being convened between the Research Subgroup and the MPS Foundation to explore funding.

8 AOB   Chair

23. The Chair highlighted the need for external infrastructure support and informed Members that work was in progress to approach NIHR in this regard.

Glossary

AKT	Applied Knowledge Test, part of Medical Licensing Assessment
AoMRC	Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, *www.aomrc.org.uk*

ARCP	Annual Review of Competence Progression
ASME	The Association for the Study of Medical Education *https://www.asme.org.uk/*
AWS	Amazon Web Services
BMA	British Medical Association, *www.bma.org.uk*
BMAT	BioMedical Admissions Test, *www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/about-bmat*
CASPER	Online situational judgment test https://takealtus.com/casper/
COPMeD	Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans (UK), *www.copmed.org.uk*
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care, *www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care*
DPA	Data Protection Act, *www.gov.uk/data-protection/the-data-protection-act*
DSA	Data Sharing Agreement
EDI	Equality Diversity Inclusivity
EEA	European Economic Area
EPM	Educational Performance Measure
FtP	Fitness to Practise
GAMSAT	Graduate Medical School Admissions Test, *www.gamsat.acer.edu.au*
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation, *https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/data-protection-act-2018*
GMC	General Medical Council, *www.gmc-uk.org*
HEIW	Health Education and Improvement Wales, *www.heiw.nhs.wales*
HES	Hospital Episode Statistics, *www.digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/hospital-episode-statistics*
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency, *www.hesa.ac.uk*
HIC	Health Informatics Centre, *www.medicine.dundee.ac.uk/hic*
IS	Information Services (part of GMC)
LRMP	List of Registered Medical Practitioners
MAPs	Medical Associate Professions
MSC	Medical Schools Council, *www.medschools.ac.uk*
NES	NHS Education for Scotland, *www.nes.scot.nhs.uk*
NHSE WT&E	NHS England Workforce Training and Education Directorate
NIHR	National Institute for Health Research, *www.nihr.ac.uk*
NIMDTA	Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, *www.nimdta.gov.uk*
ORCHID	Oxford Royal College of General Practitioners' database https://orchid.phc.ox.ac.uk/index.php/orchid-data/
PSA	Prescribing Safety Assessment
SEC	Socio-Economic Classification
SJT	Situational Judgement Test
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, *www.ucas.com*
UCL	University College London
UCAT	University Clinical Aptitude Test, *www.ucat.ac.uk*
UKFPO	UK Foundation Programme Office, *www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk*
WPG	Work Psychology Group, *www.workpsychologygroup.com*