

Notes of a meeting of the UK Medical Education Database Advisory Board

Friday 30 June 2023, 11:00 – 13:30
Zoom Virtual Meeting Room

Attendees

Professor Dame Jane Dacre	Chair
Professor Peter Johnston	Research Subgroup Co-chair
Professor Colin Macdougall	Research Subgroup Co-chair
Dr Elizabeth Hughes	HEE
Jonathan Howes	HEE
Professor Bill Irish	COPMeD
Mark Shannon	BMAT
Colin Watson	GAMSAT
Richard O'Kelly	UCAS
Andrew Ledgard	GMC
Professor Colin Melville	GMC
James Apperley	GMC
Emma Fletcher	GMC
Tom Bandenburg	GMC
Christian Woodward	GMC
Dr Katie Petty-Saphon	MSC
Olga Sierocinska King	MSC
Professor Chris McManus	Independent
Robbie Bain (deputy for Lara Akinnawonu)	BMA MSC
Camille Harron	NIMDTA
Catia Nicodemo	ORCHID
Simon de Lusignan	ORCHID

Apologies

Mike Masding	UKFPO
Rachel Greatrix	UCAT
Neville Chiavaroli	GAMSAT
Dr Latifa Patel	BMA
Lara Akinnawonu	BMA
Mike McKirdy	AoMRC
Rachel Wilkes	Jisc
Sean Corrigan	GMC
Martin Hart	GMC
Daniel Smith	GMC

Action	Progress
1. P Johnston to update B Irish on UKMEDP194 feedback outside the meeting.	
2. UKMED Chairs to prepare an awayday agenda and to send to Members.	Complete
3. O Sierocinska King to confirm the awayday date.	Complete
4. UKMED Research Subgroup to provide steer on the best way to pilot UKMED-ORCHID linkage.	Pending action 5
5. A Ledgard to lead on exploring governance arrangements between UKMED and ORCHID and to report at the Advisory Board meeting in December 2023.	On the agenda

1 Welcome and introductions

Chair

1. The Chair welcomed members to the UKMED Advisory Board, and new Members and guests were introduced.

2 Approval of minutes from 25 November 2022 and matters arising

Chair

2. The minutes of the meeting on 24 November 2022 were reviewed and approved as an accurate record.
3. The Chair informed Members about NIHR Incubator meeting and progress on collaboration.

3 Update on workforce data projects

Tom Bandenburg

4. The Chair provided an update on projects funded by NHS England (formerly HEE). She mentioned the importance of UKMED for the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.
5. T Bandenburg mentioned the work to sign a data sharing agreement needed for the clinical academic staff project. The Board agreed that some challenges are anticipated with reconciling the accuracy of the data, hence the multi-source approach would be valuable.
6. T Bandenburg informed the Board of progress with the report predicting medical graduate numbers, which was at the stage of resolving queries received from medical schools.
7. There was interest in being able to distinguish graduates from overseas campuses. It was confirmed that the data will become available in HESA from 2025/26, and that the GMC investigated ways to identify those data subjects prior to that.
8. T Bandenburg informed Members that the GMC will issue the call to tender shortly for research on new medical schools' output.

4 Operational capacity review

Tom Bandenburg

9. T Bandenburg emphasised the success of UKMED in attracting a growing number of research applications. He noted that the increasing complexity of projects requires more resources to support them. He introduced the GMC capacity review as a way of understanding the resources required and to identify efficiencies.
10. He also stressed that UKMED involves a large number of GMC teams: IT, IG, analytics, Education, supported by the MSC.
11. The Chair hoped that the development of a research strategy should help in prioritising work.
12. P Johnston felt that the UKMED Research Subgroup has grown in experience and became better able to identify the signs of success in applications. He informed Members that more advice is provided to research teams, with some asked to address issues before they start. He raised the need for support structures to be appropriately resourced.
13. There was a brief discussion of the options to create a cut score or to rank applications based on quality and alignment with research strategy, so that only the strongest applications would be supported.

5 Research applications and final reports submitted by 15 May 2023 deadline

P Johnston

14. P Johnston flagged the application proposing linking UKMED data to clinical outcomes and explained the UKMED Research Subgroup's recommendation. It was noted that this would be the first study of this kind for UKMED.
15. A Ledgard informed Members that an additional layer of privacy protection has been made available for this project in that a third party (HIC) would complete the linkage. A potential risk was raised in that funding would need to be confirmed in a short timeframe.
16. The Board agreed that linkage to care and care outcomes would be an important goal and wished to proceed with caution.
17. The Research Subgroup's recommendations for the remaining applications were outlined by P Johnston.
18. R Bain and C Nicodemo recused themselves during the discussion of their applications.
19. P Johnston explained the Research Subgroup's recommendations regarding findings of final reports.
20. All of the Research Subgroup's recommendations were approved.

ACTION 1: P Johnston to update B Irish on UKMEDP194 feedback outside the meeting.

6 Research strategy

P Johnston

21. Chair explained that the UKMED Research Subgroup was tasked with developing a strategy, with the draft one presented to the Board for feedback, and with more opportunities to refine it planned in the future.
22. P Johnston introduced the ambition for the strategy to stand the test of time.
23. The Board agreed that developing the research strategy was a worthwhile endeavour.
24. A discussion of the UKMED awayday took place. Members agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting in the London GMC office and to aim for under 50 attendees, including funders, data contributors and stakeholders. It was suggested that a questionnaire is shared in advance to capture views of those not able to attend.
25. It was noted that BMA would like to contribute to the awayday, and to facilitate the development of a coordinated response, it would value an early sight of proposed topics.
26. Chair introduced the proposed topics of facilitated discussions: research strategy, stakeholder engagement group, how to prioritise projects 4) measures of success.

ACTION 2: UKMED Chairs to prepare an awayday agenda and to send to Members.

ACTION 3: O Sierocinska King to confirm the awayday date.

7 UKMED data load cycle and calendar inc. active projects O Sierocinska King

27. O Sierocinska King informed the Board that loading of UCAS 2022 and HESA 2021/22 data was on track, with the admission test provider data to follow.

8 The Oxford-Royal College of GP Research and Surveillance Centre database presentation and discussion

Simon de Lusignan

28. Chair stressed the group's intention to proceed in a measured way, and with acknowledgement of the project's complexity.

29. S de Lusignan introduced the proposed project. He outlined the background, the scope of the data held, the completed projects and the governance and data protection arrangements.
30. A Ledgard informed Members that the proposal has been evaluated from the data protection perspective and found to be lawful.
31. S de Lusignan proposed that the future governance between UKMED and ORCHID could be modelled on the collaboration between RCGP and Oxford University.
32. He clarified that RCGP research is UK-wide, with more practices being recruited in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
33. It was noted that coverage and overlap of cases between UKMED and ORCHID would need to be established. S de Lusignan explained that ORCHID has been used only for practice-level research so far, therefore person-level research would need to proceed cautiously.
34. The step change has been underlined in that UKMED would export data for the first time, which would require engagement of data contributors.
35. It was suggested to start with a pilot exporting and matching a subset of data. The use of a third-part trusted environment has been considered. It was agreed that this could be beneficial in the future, but the cost might be prohibitive for the pilot.
36. The Board agreed to continue collaboration with ORCHID and felt a proposal of governance arrangements would be helpful.
37. The BMA MSC representative expressed support with the proviso of secure governance arrangements.

ACTION 4: UKMED Research Subgroup to provide steer on the best way to pilot UKMED-ORCHID linkage.

ACTION 5: A Ledgard to lead on exploring governance arrangements between UKMED and ORCHID and to report at the Advisory Board meeting in December 2023.

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.admissionstesting.com/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
HEE	Health Education England, www.hee.nhs.uk
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
NIHR	National Institute for Health Research, www.nihr.ac.uk
NIMDTA	Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, www.nimdtta.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