

## Widening Participation Conference for Medical Students

*Friday 22 November 2019*

*Ambassadors Bloomsbury Hotel, London*

**Session 1a Overview:** Establishing a WAMS society – *Hannah Delmas and Mandy Hampshire*  
The aim of this session was to provide a starting point for new universities or existing universities to have support to start their own WAM society. The session allowed there to be a comparison from the student side of WAMS and the faculty side of WAM demonstrating the independence the students have but also the relationship that is required with the university faculty. We explored difficulties some of the delegates had expressed during the session regarding starting their WAM society and we were able to provide some clarity on these during our short time.

**Session 1b Overview:** Evaluating impact – *The Brilliant Club*

The session was designed to demonstrate the importance and value of evaluating the work carried out by WAM students. The 'ingredients' for the perfect survey were discussed and the practicalities of the result collection. There was also a discussion surrounding the theory of change and the implementation of the intervention identified from the evaluation.

**Session 2 Overview:** Overcoming Barriers to WP Work – *Jo Lai, Kirsty Morrison*

In this session, we aimed to identify solutions to the main barriers affecting those working in, or attempting to work in, WP and encourage collaboration between students and staff to enact these solutions. After recapping what we learned at last year's conference on how to understand and identify barriers, we discussed in tables how we could overcome the most common barriers to working in WP. You can find the responses we received in the Mentimeter poll on the presentation slides. The main topics discussed surrounded targeting teachers to increase their knowledge on WP, the role of non-WP students and staff in initiatives, and protected time for WP.

**Session 3 Overview:** Engaging younger pupils – *Robert Cartwright- Speakman*

The engaging younger pupils workshop addressed the importance of targeting younger pupils with WP initiatives. It also highlighted barriers that WP students experience when it comes to applying to medicine and gave an example of how these barriers have been tackled before. Following on from this there was a great discussion about tackling these barriers in different ways with the focus being on students, parents or teachers. Overall the workshop produced some high quality suggestions to take forward when engaging younger WP pupils.

**Session 4a Overview:** Addressing the Challenges of your Region – *Hannah Delmas, Gabi Kopernicka and Holly Morley*

This session was aimed at identifying challenges that WAM societies may face in delivering their activities to aid students applying to medical school. We aimed to compare Plymouth to the wider group as we often overcome challenges others may not given the rural nature of our catchment area.

**Session 4b Overview:** How to approach research – *Sylva Adeeko*

This teaching session was made up of teaching via presentation and also practical activities for attendants. The workshop gave a brief overview into the basic facets of taking on research specifically within the field of WP including; developing a research question, choosing the most appropriate research method plus analysis technique and a framework for developing a conclusion. Attendees were given multiple opportunities for networking and wrote an idea for research at the beginning, which was added to throughout and then repeated at the end of the session for comparison and self-analysis.