

PRECISION MEDICINE SSLC

6th June 2023

Attendees: Rachel Branch, Haolan Tu, Maree Hardie, Susan Mitchell

Apologies: Angelina Kancheva, Onyeka Obuaya, Stella Taso

MINUTES

1 Approval of Previous Minutes

Actions from previous minutes discussed and minutes approved.

2 Any feedback regarding programme, course or university wide issues

3rd Year

Rachel Branch

No feedback, although Rachel commented that the ceilidh sounds like a lovely idea and if we are struggling for numbers, suggested we invite other PhD programmes to come along. Rachel also suggested the cohort would like to take a trip to Firbush as a 3rd year writing retreat. We will look into this alongside the other weekend/day events we have been investigating.

ACTION: PM Admin to look into viability of writers retreat at Firbush for 3rd years.

2nd Year

Stella Taso provided written feedback from her cohort ahead of the meeting.

1. Not having access to our own grants. (This is my comment) I have never had access to my grant codes and continue not to have. I have asked multiple times but the only thing I have is a temporary code, which I only got with your intervention. It has been quite frustrating and if my PI didn't have other grants to accommodate my research it would have been very challenging. So, I don't know where else to raise this, and maybe for future students getting their grant code info could be the first thing they get that would be very helpful in my opinion.

This is very unfortunate that this is still an issue. This should not be an issue in future years as it is a hangover from the implementation of the P&M system. I agree this should have been resolved by now.

2. People are wondering if we can get transitional funding when we are close to finishing our PhDs, maybe a bit premature to ask, but would be good to know if that could be an option?

Yes, we do offer transition fellowships as part of the flexible supplement funding, we will send further details on this in your third year. This is competitive and you have to apply for these funds.

3. Are there going to be any career workshops next year? Would be good to get some help in terms of what options are there regarding different job sectors/job applications.

As part of the third year presentations, we put on talks from the Career's Service and the last couple of years have had a representative from AstraZeneca come and talk. The Career's Service is also available at any time and we have been talking with some external providers re Career's Services but, unfortunately, it has not come to anything yet.

These are from Glasgow:

1. They were wondering if they could get branded precision medicine lanyards as they feel they a bit isolated from the different year groups and they don't know which people are in their cohort.

I will pass this query on to Lexi and see what she can provide.

2. There also has been some confusion with what degree title they get, they think they will only get a degree of philosophy rather than a doctorate in precision medicine.

I will ask Lexi again. The Edinburgh degree certificates don't say the degree is in Precision Medicine, but that it is from the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

Action: PM Admin to pass comments on to Lexi

1st year

Haolan Tu

Haolan wanted to confirm that the train ticket costs are taken from the flexible supplement not the RTSG/travel grant of each student, especially since the train tickets are getting more expensive. These costs can be charged to the flexible supplement however, for anyone that is not using their RTSG or travel grant for other costs, these can also be used for this expense.

Haolan reported that there is not much support from additional supervisors on the supervisory team. We will take this back to Susan Farrington to discuss

Action: PM Team to discuss additional supervisor roles with Susan Farrington

Angelina Kancheva sent feedback via email:

Most of us (Glasgow-based students) are pretty happy with how our PhDs are going. There is an issue around budget codes though, as these are not yet available, so we feel we would benefit from both having those set up, so that we know how much we have spent and how much we have left, and learning how to navigate finances, which should also be part of our doctoral training.

We didn't manage to discuss this at the meeting as it was not received beforehand, but these issues were discussed at last week's ASC meeting and we will also pass this information on to Lexi.

Action: PM Admin to pass this feedback to Lexi.

3 Any feedback regarding courses

Haolan Tu (2nd year) fed back that the UoE courses seem generally more organised than the UoG courses. There were a few last minute cancellations which makes it difficult when you are trying to arrange travel to go to the class. Also materials seem to be made available at the very last minute and courses that you wanted to sign up for don't always appear in the system.

Action: PM Admin to feedback to Lexi.

4 Staff Communications

No comments.

5 Any other Business

Haolan asked if we could have PM branded hoodies.

Action: PM Admin to look into hoodies.

6 Date of next meeting

There was some confusion re the date for this as it is so close to the ASC which was held on the 2nd of June. The next SLCC should be held in Jan/Feb but we should make sure there is at least a month between meetings.

Doodle poll to be circulated to determine best date.