



St John's College Information for medical students 2007-8

Clinical Students

This document provides some information of use during your clinical years, especially regarding the clinical supervision which will be available to you.

Keep this document for future reference: you will need the information in it, especially contact details.

The College

1. Financial Assistance

Equipment grants. You must obtain the correct forms from the College Office and submit them on time. Keep all your receipts for anything you buy relating to the course. This includes books, but ophthalmoscopes, stethoscopes and other equipment can also be claimed for.

Most students buy either a *3M Littman Classic SE II* or a *3M Littman Cardiology*. The more expensive one is superior, but the former will do.

Ophthalmoscopes are more difficult; a popular choice is the *Keeler Pocket model*, at about £120. In both cases, however, we would recommend waiting until you get to Oxford to buy these items, as they are often at reduced price early in the course as the manufacturers come to visit us.

Elective and travel grants. A variety of grants and funds are available from St. John's and the Medical School/University. There is money available from the college for foreign attachments (eg, 4 weeks of the Paediatrics course can be taken abroad and there is money available), and travel expenses can be reclaimed for the compulsory attachments out of Oxford such as the residential GP attachment and District General Hospital attachments in the first year. There is no fixed limit (since this funding is not a "right") but generally, travel, fees and contribution to subsistence is allowed. The range is about £200 - £900, decided by the college committee (not by the medical tutors).

Housing allowances. If you have to live out of college in your 2nd year (5th year clinical), college may provide some financial assistance for this as well: please check with MCR.

Hardship grants. College has hardship grant funds for those who find themselves in particular financial difficulty.

Medical School Prizes. There are a variety of prizes and scholarships available from the Medical School, assessed on merit. Details of these can be obtained in Oxford, as you cannot apply for them until you arrive. The details appear on the Medical School notice board in the Academic Corridor of the John Radcliffe Hospital.

2. Books and equipment

Whilst it is probably better to wait until the course has started to buy books in order to get the ones recommended by the course organisers, if you have money/book tokens/well-meaning relatives, there are some books that are likely to come in useful

- a) *The Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine*, Longmore et al. (the “yellow book”)
- b) *Clinical Medicine*, Kumar and Clark.
- c) *Clinical Examination*, Talley and O’Connor
- d) *Surgery at a Glance*, Borley and Grace

If you have a fabulously wealthy relative who wants to buy you something substantial, there is the *Oxford Textbook of Medicine*. While it is probably too big and detailed for what you will need day-to-day, it will no doubt be very useful, now and for the rest of your career. Copies are available at all the major libraries in Oxford and also at the St. John’s library if you need to consult it.

3. Domestic Arrangements

You should receive a document from the Domestic Bursar with more detailed information. A few useful pieces of information: The laundry system in college operates on a token basis, and the tokens can only be bought between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. As we are generally occupied at the hospital during the weekdays, the college allows us to buy tokens at any time from the Porters’ Lodge. Similarly, as most of the college offices are only open in the mornings during the week, one afternoon a month the office is kept open so we can have access to that facility.

4. College Dinners, Douglas Society and Torrance Society

There is usually a drinks meeting at the start of the year (October) for all undergraduate and graduate medical students and tutors to meet each other.

College will invite all clinical students to the Graduate Dinner and a separate Graduate Drinks party, both held sometime in October.

The college medical society is known as the Douglas Society, after the inventor of the Douglas bag who was a Fellow and Tutor at St. John’s. The current President is Omar Abdel-Mannan. Every term you are invited to a dinner, preceded by a talk from an invited speaker. DougSoc is funded by the entertainment grant of the college medical tutors, so you are their guests at these occasions.

The Torrance Society (named after a former St John’s medical tutor), primarily to serve the interests of the clinical students. Jamie Wilson is the outgoing President (2006-7) and Aniket Tavare the incoming President (2007-8). Its (and the Presidents’) main function is to be the channel through which you, the students, communicate with the tutors (ie, Dr Pandit). While each of you may, of course, have individual issues you may wish to discuss, the Torrance Society President is your first port-of-call for general information regarding college, clinical tutorials, funding, or issues which affect you all (such as housing, teaching, etc).

5. The tutors at the college

Professor Andrew Parker is Professor of Physiology, the Senior Medical Tutor at the college and a member of the college’s Governing Body. He is ultimately responsible for all undergraduate and graduate biomedical students, including all aspects of admissions and disciplinary matters. His research is in the neurophysiology of vision and he is based in the University Laboratory of Physiology, Parks Road. He teaches physiology to the undergraduate medical students. He is currently on sabbatical and his teaching duties are undertaken by Dr Sandra Campbell, a Pharmacologist.

Professor Zoltan Molnar is University Lecturer in Anatomy and Medical Tutor at the college and a member of the college's Governing Body. Along with Professor Parker, he is ultimately responsible for all undergraduate and graduate biomedical students, including all aspects of admissions and disciplinary matters. Professor Molnar is clinically qualified and his research is in developmental neuroanatomy. He teaches anatomy to the undergraduate medical students.

Professor Kevin Gatter is Professor of Pathology and is the senior clinician associated with the college and a member of the college's Governing Body. In the hospital, he is Head of the Department of Laboratory Medicine. He is available for any advice regarding any clinical or pastoral matter relating to clinical students.

Dr Jaideep J Pandit is a Consultant Anaesthetist and Fellow of the College. He performs two main roles; first, he is a pastoral supervisor for the clinical students (and so is the first port-of-call for guidance, advice, references and so forth). If your problem is outside his scope, then he will refer you to one of his colleagues at St John's or be able to point you in the right direction. He will sign various forms and provide references for various applications. His second key role is to teach undergraduate systems physiology. Dr Pandit may be contacted using any of the numbers below.

Professor Anthony Bailey is Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and a professorial fellow of St John's and a member of Governing Body. His special interest is autism.

In addition, there are a number of research fellows and occasionally lecturers in subjects allied to medicine whom you may meet at social and other events. They may not have a formal role in the supervision of clinical students, but they are happy to be consulted and advise on any appropriate matter, especially if their subject area coincides with a particular interest of yours.

6 College-based clinical teaching

St John's provides this in a number of ways:

- (1) Dr Pandit is available for in-theatre teaching (usually on Mondays and Wednesdays) by arrangement via the President of Torrance Soc. Topics that are covered include: pain relief, oliguria, hypo- and hypertension, ECGs, blood gas interpretation, clinical anaesthesia and critical care topics.
- (2) In Michaelmas Term there is a Torrance Soc Study Day, at which a range of clinicians offer tutorial/viva practice-type seminars. This culminates in a final clinical speaker (as part of DougSoc)
- (3) In Michaelmas Term, the College offers 6 bedside tutorials: the President of Torrance Soc is able to organise these directly with clinicians, whose teaching fees are later met by college
- (4) The College appoints a Clinical Teaching Associate (Dr Sarah Westbury for the year 2007-8) whose role is to provide some bedside clinical teaching by arrangement, and also assist with the process of job and other applications.

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