Jesus College, Oxford

Subject Notes: MEDICINE

Academic Staff

Fellows

Dr Shankar Srinivas is the Zeitlyn Fellow and Tutor in Medicine at College and Professor of Developmental Biology and Wellcome Senior Investigator in the Department of Physiology Anatomy and Genetics. He teaches Organisation of the body, Medical genetics and aspects of Biochemistry. His research group in the Department of Physiology Anatomy and Genetics works on cell movements and fate during early mammalian embryogenesis, with a particular focus on heart development and anterior patterning, the process by which the head end of the embryo is properly specified and positioned. His group employs techniques ranging from molecular genetics to imaging developing embryos with advanced microscopes.

Dr Deborah Hay is a Hugh Price Fellow of the College and Clinical Tutor for Laboratory Medicine in the Radcliffe Department of Medicine. She is a consultant haematologist who trained in Oxford, and is now based at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Her clinical interests focus on haemoglobin disorders and laboratory diagnostics but the majority of her time is spent teaching clinical medical students and coordinating teaching provision in the clinical disciplines of haematology, microbiology, immunology, biochemistry and histopathology. Deborah provides oversight for the three years of the clinical course and expects to meet with clinical students each term for review. Students are welcome to attend her clinic on a Friday morning in the Oxford Haematology and Cancer Centre, and to join her teaching sessions on Monday afternoons in the haematology laboratory.

Lecturers

Dr Gillian Douglas is a lecturer in Medicine, tutoring first and second year medical students in Physiology and Pharmacology. Her research area is cardiovascular disease, with a focus on novel therapies for the treatment of atherosclerosis.

Dr Pamela Lear is a lecturer in Medicine, tutoring first year students in aspects of Biochemistry and second year students in aspects of Neurosciences. Her research area is obesity and the involvement of channel proteins in this process.

Clinical Lecturers

Although the majority of teaching for clinical students takes place at the Medical School, the College also provides clinical tutorials with the following Lecturers:

Dr Julian Ormerod is consultant cardiologist who provides clinical teaching and tutorials for 4th final medical students at the College.

Dr Bronwen Warner is an academic foundation year doctor who provides bedside tutorials for fourth year students starting in the clinical setting of hospital medicine. She has a special interest in endocrinology, but teaches across all medical disciplines.

Mr Keaton Jones is a specialist registrar in Surgery in the Oxford Deanery who provides surgical tutorials for the final (6th Year) clinical students in preparation for the BM Final Examination and OSCEs in January.
About the Course

All medical students at Oxford simultaneously study for an Honours Degree in Medical Sciences and an Honour Degree in Medicine.

It is important to point out this requirement because it means that the course in Oxford is six years, with the extra year being designed to lay the foundations of a scientific approach to Medicine.

The first five terms of the medical course are organised into six overlapping courses:

- Organisation of the Body
- Physiology and Pharmacology
- Biochemistry and Medical Genetics
- Applied Physiology and Pharmacology
- The Nervous System
- Principles of Pathology

These involve all the pre-clinical departments and provide an integrated base of professional knowledge which is examined at the end of the third and fifth terms in the medical qualifying examination (1st BM). Informal tests during the five terms are used to ensure that any difficulties students may encounter are dealt with swiftly. During the remaining four terms of the course students choose from a wide range of topics among the scientific disciplines on which Medicine is based, and on which research is actively being carried out in the pre-clinical departments at Oxford.

There is a wide choice of subjects to suit individual students, ranging across Neuroscience, Psychology of Emotion and Motivation, Human Physiology, Immunology, and Molecular Medicine to give just a few examples. Chemical Pharmacology and the History and Philosophy of Science are also offered as supplementary options. It is possible to undertake cutting edge research by taking part in the laboratory investigations of relevant University based scientists and by preparing a project dissertation as part of the final examination. By the time the final examinations are taken, at the end of the first three years, students have an impressive grasp of the critical and imaginative mental disciplines needed to equip the future doctor in an increasingly technical and scientific world.

After obtaining an Honours Degree, medical students move on to a clinical course, and there are ample opportunities to move to London, Cambridge or any other medical school. Many students, however, choose to stay at the excellent Oxford Clinical School. Although a place is not automatically available for each Oxford graduate at this School, every student obtains a clinical place somewhere.

As with all other subjects at Oxford, teaching is based on the weekly tutorials given by the College’s medical tutors to individual students, or to small groups of students. Work must be prepared in advance, and in each tutorial students discuss their conclusions and any difficulties which have arisen. In addition, lectures and practical classes are held in the University departments for students from all colleges; these make up a large proportion of the timetable in the first five terms but diminish in importance later, as more time is devoted to private study in the University, College libraries, and scientific laboratories.

At Jesus we aim to make the course interesting, enjoyable and also challenging so that our medical students develop high levels of self-motivation. The welfare of our students is paramount, and we make particular efforts to match a variety of teaching methods to individual students’ needs along with regular contact with the tutors. We encourage the arrangement of teaching by specialists outside the College when required and contacts with hospital medicine through the Clinical Fellows attached to the College.
The full range of teaching is available in the College through the Medical Fellow and associated lecturers. Unusual amongst Colleges, we have a Clinical Fellow - based at the John Radcliffe Hospital - who undertakes regular, tutorial-style meetings with students during their clinical years.

Medical students are probably required to work harder than students reading for most other degrees, largely because they have to take professional qualifying examinations as well as the Honours Degree. This does not in any way preclude participation in the usual varied activities that characterise College and University life, although it does put an extra burden on a person’s stamina and ability to organise his or her time efficiently.

**Joint Schools**

There are no Joint Schools for Medicine. Jesus College does **not** offer the Biomedical Sciences degree as a stand-alone course.

**Admissions**

Jesus College welcomes applications from anyone keen to read Medicine. Although Medicine is a competitive subject throughout the country, and all universities have many applicants for the places they have available, we do not feel that this consideration should weigh too heavily with anyone who is determined to study Medicine. The numbers of available places are limited by a University quota which applies to all Oxford colleges: competition for places at Jesus is the same as all other colleges due to a central allocation system. At present we are keeping the number of places at 4 each year (in a total College entry of about 100 undergraduates). We see this as an advantage to our students because it maximises the opportunities for individual teaching.

**The course requirements for Medicine are A*AA in three A-levels (excluding Critical Thinking and General Studies) taken in the same academic year. Candidates are required to achieve at least a grade A in both Chemistry and at least one of Biology, Physics or Mathematics.**

Please note that if Biology, Physics or Mathematics have not been taken to A-level (or equivalent), applicants will need to have received a basic education in those subjects (for example at least a grade C/4 at GCSE or equivalent).

If you have any questions about the combination of subjects you are taking or plan to take at A2 level, do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Officer via admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk for advice.

**Written test:** All applicants must take the **Biomedical Admissions Test** (BMAT) on **Wednesday 31 October 2018**. You need to register by **1 October 2018**. Late registrations are accepted up until the final deadline of 15 October 2018, but there is an additional fee for this. **Please note, the University of Oxford will not accept BMAT results from the September sitting for A100 Medicine.**

The BMAT does not require a lot of extra study as it is a test of skills and knowledge that learners are expected to already have. Further details, including a specimen paper, can be found at: [http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/](http://www.admissionstestingservice.org/for-test-takers/bmat/).

Candidates are selected on the basis of academic record (e.g. GCSEs) and potential, as shown by their UCAS reference, performance in the BMAT, and in interviews if shortlisted. Please note that **ALL** candidates for Medicine are expected to attend for interview in Oxford if invited – Skype or telephone interviews for overseas applicants are not possible. Those invited for interview will be seen by tutors in
two different colleges in order to present candidates with a variety of situations and reduce the possible arbitrariness of one single longer interview.

Offers made to pre-A level candidates will be conditional upon A level results (normally A*AA obtained in the same academic year, including Chemistry and at least one other in Biology, Physics or Mathematics). Offers made to post-A level candidates will usually be unconditional.

Deferred Entry: Applications for deferred entry to Jesus College are welcomed. You must apply for deferred entry at the time of application to Oxford: you cannot change your mind after an offer has been made. Please refer to departmental web sites for subject-specific advice. You should be aware that applicants who are offered places for deferred entry will generally be among the strongest of the cohort for their subject. We would not usually offer more than one or two deferred places per subject in order not to disadvantage the following year’s candidates. In some cases, an applicant for deferred entry may be offered a place for non-deferred entry instead. If you require any further advice, please contact the Admissions Officer via admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk

Postgraduate Studies and Careers

A medical qualification may lead to a wide range of future career paths and you will have opportunities through your training to discuss your hopes and plans with University and NHS staff.

A careers session is organised for final year students and foundation year doctors, and details of specialist postgraduate training and requirements for postgraduate qualifications are available from the Director of Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education and from the Regional Advisors of the medical Royal Colleges.

Preliminary Reading and Further Information

Further information about reading Medicine at Oxford can be found at: www.medsci.ox.ac.uk

Information about Admissions is available at: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses-listing/medicine

Contact details

If you have any questions about our entrance requirements, or about applying to study at Jesus College, please contact the Admissions Officer:

Tel: 01865 279721
Email: admissions.officer@jesus.ox.ac.uk
Web: www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/study-here

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