SHE network student representative

Role description June 2018

The Sustainable Healthcare Education (SHE) network is looking for medical students passionate about creating a healthcare system fit for the future to represent the network within their medical school. Future health workers need to understand the associations between planetary and human health, and to find ways of providing the best possible care without damaging the environment we depend on. That means that today’s healthcare education needs to equip them to do so. As a SHE student rep, you will be able to work with clinicians and academics in your medical school and across the country to help your peers prepare for practice in a changing climate and a low-carbon economy. It’s a great opportunity to develop new skills and experience, and you’ll have the support and guidance you need to influence medical education for good.

If you’d like to…

* Work to change your medical school’s curriculum to include more material on the links between natural systems and health
* Help develop new teaching methods and optional modules helping other medical students to explore environmental dimensions of human health and disease
* Reduce the carbon footprint of your medical school or the hospitals it works with

The SHE network can help!

As a SHE student rep you’ll be able to:

* Work with the SHE staff representative to review the medical curriculum, identifying areas in which environment and sustainable healthcare are already addressed, and potential opportunities for introducing their coverage;
* Engage with relevant student societies (*e.g.* Healthy Planet, Students for Global Health) to support their education work on related topics and organise events in which sustainable healthcare education may play a part;
* Participate in the medical school’s curriculum student feedback process, highlighting strengths, weaknesses and opportunities related to sustainable healthcare education;
* Publicise news and opportunities from the SHE network to the student body in your medical school.

In the course of the year, a SHE student rep should:

* In conjunction with the SHE staff representative, publicise the work of the SHE network to interested staff and students within the medical school, and provide further information and resources (either through a public event or individual contact) to interested individuals;
* Coordinate at least one opportunity for interested students to explore sustainable healthcare and planetary health in greater depth – this could be an SSC, an optional or core lecture, a sustainability audit within a GP practice or hospital department, or something else you find interesting;
* Assist the SHE staff representative in developing and facilitating teaching resources for the introduction of sustainable healthcare-related material into the core curriculum.

Other projects you may wish to pursue as a SHE student rep:

* Participate in medical education research on sustainable healthcare;
* Establish or get involved in a student environment and health education and advocacy society, perhaps as a branch of an existing student group (*e.g.* Healthy Planet, Students for Global Health)
* Offer peer-to-peer education sessions in climate change and health to other students or organise other events such as a talk by an external speaker or a film screening;
* Help your medical school or local Trust(s) to participate in the NHS Sustainable Health and Care Week;
* Work with your student union’s sustainability/environment and ethics officers to improve the sustainability of medical school facilities.