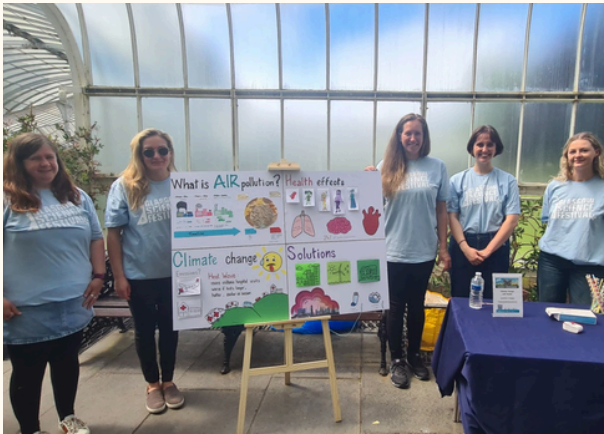


**DR CAMILLE HUSER**

## Collaborations on education for sustainable healthcare



Collaboration between staff and students at the Glasgow Science Fair in June

Sustainable healthcare is a hot topic, and not just because of its relationship to a warming planet. In the last two editions of Surgo, the topic of sustainable health care, and of the impact of climate change on health has been introduced by the Head of Undergraduate School of Medicine Professor Malcolm Shepherd and by the Surgo Editor Anna Bradford.

Education for Sustainable Healthcare (ESH) to call it by one of its accepted names (the other being SHE – Sustainable Healthcare Education), has become crucially important for medical schools globally since the introduction of the Planetary Health Report Card, which ranks medical schools based on their engagement with planetary health. Glasgow has received a C- this year – whilst it is an improvement on our previous score, clearly more work is needed.

So how can we educate our students on the importance of sustainable healthcare, and of the recognised interplay between health and climate change? Dr Noy Basu, our

vertical theme lead for global and planetary health has energetically implemented planetary health into the teaching and assessment of the Glasgow MBChB, but this can be challenging. Whilst most, if not all, faculty members are enthusiastic, it can be daunting for any lecturer accustomed to delivering teaching on a subject they have in-depth expertise in, to add in content on the impact of climate change – a topic scarcely any of our faculty were themselves taught as students. To further our efforts to include ESH into the MBChB curriculum, faculty development is therefore required – a challenge encountered by most medical schools in the UK and globally.

The solution is collaboration. In 2022, the Medical Schools Council published an ESH curriculum, and to support its implementation, the University of Glasgow Medical School, together with a national task force, has set up an MSC supported ESH network, with representatives from every established medical school in the UK. The aims of this group will include: to provide support in implementing ESH, to collaborate in faculty development initiatives and to share resources freely which can be adapted for each of our varied curricula.

A first meeting in March served as an introduction, and we are looking forward to getting started with faculty support at the next meeting taking place in June.

This network follows in the footsteps of the Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group Sustainable Development Goals network, an

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international and interprofessional partnership which the University of Glasgow Medical School has been a part of since 2017. The network has established a Global Learning Partnership, which takes place in Nepal, and at which University of Glasgow students have had a transformative experience every year, as a self-proposed SSC. The network also organises an annual student workshop weekend – it takes place in June in Nottingham, and this year looks at big data and sustainability. The University of Glasgow is taking five students across the schools of medicine, dentistry and nursing. The network has also created teaching resources in the form of case studies, which are freely available, and which we use in our “Introduction to sustainable healthcare” SSC.

Collaboration, under the guise of partnerships, is one of the SDGs itself (number 17), and it is so important and key to delivering the other SDGs that it is the only mandatory SDG reported in the Times Higher Education (THE) IMPACT awards, ranking universities globally based on their impact on the SDGs.

So let’s celebrate collaboration nationally and internationally to empower our faculty to deliver ESH, and hope to see the fruits of these collaborations in a curriculum near you soon!