

AMEE Student Initiatives Grant Winners - Spring 2018

Empowering Education Advocates

How do we give students a voice in education? In Ireland, we elect “class representatives”. These students are invited to meet with faculty, engage in decision-making processes and represent the student body. This project aims to empower these students to become ‘Education Advocates’, enabling them to better represent their peers and strengthening the student voice.

The Association of Medical Students in Ireland (AMSI) are a national body, comprised of medical students from the seven medical schools on the island of Ireland. Working in each university, in collaboration with students and staff, we will carry out a mapping exercise to chart current processes for student representation. Using this assessment, we will create a training day, uniquely targeted at current student representatives needs. By training together, we will encourage the creation of a student network, who can work together to solve local problems. By empowering these students to advocate for their education, we aspire to improve the educational experience for the students we represent.

The Global Health Education Report Card Project

In recent years, there have been growing calls for greater inclusion of global health education (GHE) in medical curricula. However, students widely report that GHE is either completely lacking from their syllabus or falls far short. Globalisation has meant that today’s physicians must be able to treat tropical diseases, recognise emerging pandemics and understand alternate health beliefs in order to build their cross-cultural competency. Having better integrated global health education will lead to doctors that are better equipped for the challenges of our increasingly interconnected world.

The UK Global Health Report Card is an ongoing student project that measures the commitment of the UK’s top medical universities to GHE. Through this project, we hope to improve GHE in the medical curricula by analysing current practices, creating recommendations appropriately, and supporting educational reforms if necessary. To ensure sustainable improvements, this project will be repeated in a number of years to monitor and evaluate progress towards this educational goal.