



An Evolving Journey

Transitions of the Teaching Fellow

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Senior Teaching Fellows

School of Medical Sciences

University of Aberdeen

The Teaching Fellow

- Previously considered as perhaps an “extra pair of hands” to deliver many hours of teaching with little responsibility
- Lecturers, Readers and Professorial staff have traditionally lead on teaching matters, but with increasing demands on researchers time there is a real need to perhaps split some of these responsibilities to allow the researcher to research and the teacher to teach.
- Currently within SMS, the Teaching Fellow has the freedom to pursue almost any avenue of career progression relative to the Lecturer
 - Discipline-specific research
 - Pedagogic research
 - Central and external roles

Workshop plan...

- Quick overview of John and Steve's career progression to date
- Highlights of the transition points between the various grades
- External opportunities for recognition
- Lots of discussion around issues we all face as teaching staff

John Barrow

- *1998-2002* – BSc Biochemistry
- *2002-2005* – PhD Molecular Biology
- *2005-2009* – Postdoctoral research scientist
- *2009-2013* – Teaching Fellow
- *2013-Present* – Senior Teaching Fellow

Teaching Fellow (2009-2013)

- Started CRef funded position – *Grade 6*, 2 years of money, fixed-term contract
 - Taught practical classes and lectures as the “extra pair of hands” in my discipline
- Opportunity arose to coordinate 3 courses
 - Large first year cell biology course – *SM1501* (300-450 students)
 - Large second year biochemistry course – *BI25M7* (120-250 students)
- Asked to coordinate a new first year SMS course
 - *SM1001* (~200 students) – completely new and I lead the design of course structure from the ground up
- Began to work with more central sections of the institution as part of retention policies and founded the SMS peer mentoring scheme
- *2012 – Applied for and received promotion to Grade 7 from the above and previous discipline-specific research publications*

Senior Teaching Fellow (2013-present)

- *2013 – Applied for and received promotion to Grade 8 from the previous experience and further experience below*
- Expanded the SMS peer mentoring scheme to become the institution-wide S4S scheme
- Work with central universities sections to enhance the student learning experience and retention agendas
- Coordinate Honours teaching for the Molecular Medical Sciences

Steve Tucker

- *1996-2000* – BSc Biomedical Sciences (pharmacology)
- *2000-2003* – PhD Pharmacology
- *2003-2008* – Postdoctoral research scientist
- *2008-2012* – Teaching Fellow
- *2012-Present* – Senior Teaching Fellow

Teaching Fellow (2008-2012)

- Post arose on the back of new Dental School – *to back fill teaching in SMS*
 - Began with a few sets of lectures and some practical classes
 - Developed some new practical and tutorial classes
- Began coordinating 2 *core* SMS courses
 - BI25B2 – core second year course across biomedical discipline (~250 students)
 - SM3002 – advanced course taken alongside specific discipline courses (~120 students)
 - Involvement in 6th century courses (Mind Machine, Science and the Media)
- Extended involvement into MSc programme
 - Developed and implemented a new practical skills module compulsory for all clinical pharmacology students. Collaboration with University of Lund.
- Recruited to CLSM retention and progression committee
 - Tasked with improving retention at level 3 – development of more institution-wide responsibility
- Promotion to grade 7 in 2009

Senior Teaching Fellow (2012-present)

- Promotion to grade 8 in 2012
- Degree programme coordinator for UG pharmacology degrees
- Coordinate 7 courses
- Involved in an array of University-wide working groups across areas of the student experience and widening participation strategies
- Chair of new retention *task force* aiming to deliver on the strategic plan
- Have been awarded many small grants for curricular development
- Also supervising a PhD student

Professional Development

- Teaching symposia
- Principles of Learning & Teaching in Higher Education
- PG Cert in Higher Education Learning & Teaching
 - *Fellowship of the HEA*
- HEA Senior Fellowship
 - Sustained record in leading, managing, organising programmes or discipline areas
- HEA STEM Conference
- QAA Enhancement Themes Conference
- Learned societies (e.g. BPS)