



The medical school and PhD programmes

David Gordon

President, AMSE

(also, a personal perspective)



What is AMSE?

- The Association of Medical Schools in Europe
- “... a forum for European Medical Faculties...”
- First Annual Conference – Groningen, NL, 1980
- (2009 Annual Conference – Zagreb, 2010 - Berlin, 2011 - Dublin...)
- Members – medical schools “from Århus to Zagreb”
- www.amse-med.eu





- “...a medical school without a research programme (including PhD education) of good quality will not be able to offer medical education in the essential context of the discovery and development of new knowledge...”



- “...maintenance and enhancement of the quality of all suspects of a medical school’s work - teaching, research, and the interaction with health-care - is essential: see the AMSE Barcelona Declaration on the AMSE website.”
- Outcomes –
 - Support of ORPHEUS-WFME-AMSE task force
 - Quality Assurance agency workshop



- “...PhD education is not only part of the core role of the medical school; the medical school is the only academic environment where many of the most appealing and important research questions can be studied”

- Perverse incentives
 - PhD degrees taken for the student's wrong motives
 - PhD students as a source of money
 - PhD students as cheap research labour (but as good research labour may be acceptable)
 - PhD students as source of prestige or status (promotion criteria?)



- Hence the importance of this meeting
- “...knowledge is a very special commodity: the more you give, the more you have”
 - Bengali, traditional, reported by Amartya Sen