

BSMS hosts ESIM summer school

The European School of Internal Medicine (ESIM) held its annual summer school at BSMS in July 2010. Over 50 participants from 24 countries in Europe and some further away such as Canada and Mozambique, met and discussed both clinical and professional aspects of their work. All participants are doctors of internal medicine nearing the end of training, and so the ESIM summer school is a great opportunity to share knowledge and build professional relationships before they launch fully into their careers.

BSMS Honorary Senior Lecturer, **Dr Chris Davidson**, is also Director of ESIM and explained how the event supports the participants' development: "Presentations are from the residents themselves. There is a lot of active learning; they present to each other the work they have done with the audience commenting. We have a lot of workshop sessions focusing on the professional aspects of work, like how you organise professional care, and how you teach others. These are subjects that are more practical and don't normally take place in medical meetings."

Since attendees come from a wide range of different countries they can share their experiences: "Everyone who comes is amazed at how different the various healthcare systems are, yet when you look at how the patients are cared for, the philosophy is very similar," said Dr Davidson.



Dr Chris Davidson, above left, alongside co-ordinator Antoinette Marlene Baptista, and Arne Schneiderwind, right

ESIM is funded by national medical societies. Several students also receive bursaries which are awarded competitively by the Royal College of Physicians of London.

Professor Kevin Davies, Chair of Medicine and RCP Associate International Director for Europe commented: "It is both a pleasure and privilege for BSMS to host ESIM and we hope to do so again next year. The RCP is delighted to support delegates from different parts of Europe to attend, particularly those who might otherwise have found it difficult to fund their participation in such a prestigious and high quality meeting."

Medalina Iile from Romania who specialises in gastroenterology at the emergency hospital in Bucharest said: "The summer school was more than I expected. I liked the clinical case presentation and differential diagnosis. This conference was a really great chance for me."

Arne Schneiderwind from Regensburg in Germany said: "We all have the same goal – to become specialists for internal



medicine. There have been excellent lectures and I have been surprised by the quality of case reports by the participants themselves. It has been very interesting, meeting people who we will probably stay in contact with in the future."