

# Getting started in medical education research

Professor Tim Dornan

Centre for Medical Education, SMDBS



Queen's University  
Belfast

*Master class* SEMINAR

11<sup>th</sup> November 2014

9.30 – 12.30

# Getting Started in Educational Research

The workshop has two main goals: 1) to make education research seem accessible, even attractive; and 2) to introduce a simple, "how to get started approach". Famously, Mrs Beeton's recipe for jugged hare began "first catch your hare". Someone starting out on education research has, first, to catch their topic. Then, using a term borrowed from sociology, they have to "problematise" the topic. A troublesome question they have to answer at this stage is "if I didn't care about your topic, why should I be interested in it?" Then define a gap in the literature, which research could fill. Then decide on the purpose of the research, by answering the question "who would I like to influence in what ways?". They need to think what research methodology might fulfil that purpose and, only then, frame one or more research questions. Of course, there is lots still to do: choose a methodology, design the study, obtain ethics approval, analyse the data and so on. But all that is wasted if you don't go through those early stages thoughtfully. We will go through those stages together, using participants' own interests to provide the material for our discussion. I hope the session will be instructive, and I would certainly like it to be fun!

## Professor Tim Dornan



Tim Dornan's background is as a general physician and endocrinologist. He was a consultant physician in Salford for 20 years, during which time he was bitten by the education bug. He was first a sub-dean and curriculum leader. He celebrated turning 50 by doing a Masters in medical education, and then a PhD, both in Maastricht University. He led a medical education research group in the University of Manchester and was Director of Medical Education in Salford Royal Trust.

He celebrated turning 60 by moving to Maastricht University as a Professor of Medical Education research, where he currently supervises some 15 PhD and Masters students from all over the world. Taking up his post in QUB in 2014 gave him a welcome opportunity to connect with his Irish roots, return to the UK healthcare system, and try to narrow the gap between education research and practice.

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| <b>DATE</b>   | 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2014                        |
| <b>TIME</b>   | 9.00 – 12.30  |
| <b>VENUE</b>  | Seminar Room6, Whitla Medical Building                |
| <b>SPACES</b> | Limited to 30 places on first come first served basis |

Refreshments provided

If interested please email Mrs Karen Murphy at [karen.murphy@qub.ac.uk](mailto:karen.murphy@qub.ac.uk) (Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November by 5.00pm)