

Launch of new forensic mental health research centre

A new research and teaching centre based in Northampton is a joint venture between the IoP and St Andrew's Healthcare, a not-for-profit charity which provides specialist mental health care, including secure treatment programmes for people with challenging or potentially dangerous behaviour.

The St Andrew's Academic Centre will focus on forensic mental health and be home to a team of new IoP staff and students, funded by the independent provider for the next five years: they include two senior lecturers, two post-doctoral fellows, two PhD students, a research co-ordinator and secretaries.

These new posts will enable the IoP's research and teaching portfolio in forensic psychiatry to expand at a time when mental health problems in prisons are increasing. A report from the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, published a year ago, showed the number of people detained in secure psychiatric wards in England reached a record high in July 2007:

Forensic Mental Health Services: Facts and figures on current provision, showed that the population of high and medium secure units rose by 45 per cent between 1996 and 2006.

Staff at the new Academic Centre will carry out research into treatment programmes and clinical interventions for people with mental health problems and a pattern of antisocial behaviour that may include violence, crime and substance abuse.

A ceremony took place in Northampton to launch the agreement on 10 September and was hosted by St Andrew's Healthcare Medical Director and Chief Executive Dr Philip Sugarman. Both Professor Tom Fahy, Acting Head of Forensic Mental Health Science, and Dean Professor Peter McGuffin, spoke at the event.

St Andrew's Healthcare is the third largest independent provider of medium secure forensic services in the UK and takes referrals from across the country. Its campus in Northampton also offers specialist services to people with learning disabilities and mental health problems, acquired brain injury and eating disorders.

- For more about St Andrew's Healthcare, visit www.stah.org.
- Visit www.scmh.org to download a copy of *Forensic Mental Health Services: Facts and figures on current provision*.

WHAT'S ON...

A Climbing Club organised by the Student Forum meets once a week, normally on a Tuesday, at 7pm at Mile End Climbing Wall, 10 minutes walk from Mile End tube station. To find out more, email sarah.pressey@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Find healthy volunteers through improved MindSearch

Researchers who need to recruit healthy controls can find exactly who they are looking for by signing up to MindSearch, the IoP-based database containing details of volunteers willing to participate in projects. The website, www.mindsearch.net, has now been redesigned to make it easier for researchers to use the database and find the matched controls they need.

MindSearch already has details of some 3,500 volunteers and a recruitment campaign is planned for the Autumn to boost numbers and make sure all ages and cultural backgrounds are represented.

'We are continually trying to improve the diversity of our volunteers to ensure they reflect society at large,' said Database Administrator Dianna Roberts. 'Our Autumn recruitment campaign will be particularly aimed at senior citizens and young men.'

'This is a resource for all IoP researchers who need to access a control subject pool easily and make sure their research is representative of the wider world,' said Charlie Sharp, who heads the Computing

and Knowledge Management team where MindSearch is now based. 'MindSearch involves members of the local community in research at the IoP and also helps communicate our work and mission to them.'

Two new leaflets are being produced: one as a recruitment tool to give to potential volunteers, the other for researchers, explaining the benefits of the service. To find out more, contact Dianna on 020 7848 0909 or visit www.mindsearch.net.

WHAT'S ON...

The SLaM/IoP Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) for Mental Health is holding an Autumn Seminar on Tuesday 11 November in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. *Personalising Mental Health Care Through Biomarker Research* is an afternoon event consisting of a series of presentations and posters from researchers working within the BRC. It is open to anyone interested in biomarker research: if you want to attend, email BRC Manager Saliha Afzal, brc.admin@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Get involved in the Student Forum!

by outgoing joint Forum Chair Sarah Pressey

Whether you've just arrived at the IoP or you're a final year PhD student, I hope you will agree that there is more to studying than your course or your research. This is where the Student Forum comes in: through the socials and parties we organise, students have opportunities to meet others from across the IoP. Every month we have a student social at a local pub with free drinks and snacks. These are very relaxed evenings, you can just come for one drink or stay until late and chat. At Christmas and in the Summer, we go all out for a special party. Last Christmas brought two live bands and lots of fun to the Phoenix pub! So I want to encourage you to get involved from the beginning of your time here. And, if you have ideas for a social that you would like to organise, or want to help organise the Christmas party, please get in touch!

For the sporty amongst you, there are climbing, netball, kung fu and ladies' and guys' football clubs in addition to our photography and film societies.

Information on who to contact and when and where the clubs take place can be found on our website at www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/departments/?locator=28. The funding provided by the Student Forum also allows opportunities for you to start your own society of interest. So, whatever your interest, make the most of what we have to offer and get involved! As a King's student, also remember that you have access to all the clubs and societies that the College has to offer, see www.kclsu.org.

In addition, the Student Forum plays an important role within the organisation as students sit on all the committees that make decisions about how the IoP is run. These include an Information Systems and Services Committee, a Postgraduate Research Committee, a Health and Safety Committee, and a Teaching Committee. Student representatives play an important role by feeding back issues to students and giving us a chance to voice our opinion before the decision is made. We

Meet other students at a beginning-of-term social organised by the Student Forum on Monday 22 September at 5pm in the Phoenix pub, next to Denmark Hill train station.

do this by having a Student Forum meeting every couple of months: here the student representatives feed back any issues from their committees that are important and the students discuss solutions. We meet in a seminar room and a free lunch is provided – an added bonus! In this way, we have helped to implement recycling at the IoP, pushed for better computing facilities and, new for this year, we have a designated student room with comfy seating, television and kitchen facilities – the Graduate Lounge at 4 Windsor Walk.

We are looking for some new student representatives for this year, so if you would like to get involved, please contact either sarah.savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk or lorna.taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk, joint Chairs of the Forum. Remember that this looks great on your CV! Please also get involved by coming along to the Student Forum meetings: here you can have your say, meet other students (and get that free lunch!). The first meeting of the year is Friday 17 October in Seminar Room 2 with lunch from 12.30pm. The meeting starts at 1pm.

Whether through a friendly social once a month, being part of a sports club, or being a committee representative, we hope that the Student Forum can help you to really enjoy your time as a student at the IoP.

Roll up for the unique King's course: everyone welcome

All staff and students are entitled to sign up for the Associate of King's College London (AKC) course, which gives them an opportunity to study and think about fundamental questions of theology, philosophy and ethics in a contemporary context.

The AKC is unique to King's: it is the original award of the College and was first used in 1833. It consists of a series of weekly, one-hour lectures during the Autumn and Spring semesters which take place at the Strand Campus on Mondays.

'The AKC offers a wonderful opportunity to step outside your chosen field and to gain differing perspectives, under the expert guidance of lecturers of international renown,' says Dr David Ball, Senior Lecturer in the SGDP Centre, one of four IoP staff who have completed the AKC this year.

'The lectures are chosen to be stimulating and are provided by experts in these areas, drawn from various departments in King's, with occasional guest speakers. It is a marvellous opportunity to hear these erudite scholars tackling difficult subjects and presenting to a non-expert audience. It was exciting to be introduced to different ways of viewing and understanding topics such as work, poverty, justice, compassion, racism and terrorism. This is not a course to be taken in isolation and important aspects are

the informal discussions with colleagues and the College-wide bulletin board. As one of my colleagues told me: the AKC has been one of the best influences on me of recent, only surpassed by taking up long distance running!'

The AKC takes three years to complete and includes six short courses and examinations. The courses for 2008/09 are *The Good Book: the Bible and its Impact* (Autumn semester); *Dead or Alive: the search for God inside and outside the Church* (Spring semester). Other short course topics include aspects of morality, including medical ethics, and philosophical theology.

● Visit www.kcl.ac.uk/akc to find out more information and how to enrol, or contact the Education Support Team office at the IoP.

WHAT'S ON...

Professor Barry Everitt, from the University of Cambridge's Department of Experimental Psychology, will talk about *Drug Addiction: from Impulsive Actions to Compulsive Habits* at the Psychiatry Research Trust's 18th Annual Thomas James Okey Lecture on Thursday 30 October. The lecture starts at 6pm in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. Barry Everitt is a Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience.

Support for students

Advice and guidance (including housing, finance, immigration, student support or general information regarding settling in London or the UK)

Drop-in sessions in the Student Room in the café lounge area (W2.04)

Wednesdays 11am to 3pm
Fridays 11am to 3pm
Or by appointment on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons
Email Becky Cooper, Student Support Officer, rebecca.cooper@iop.kcl.ac.uk or ring her on ext 0237.

Careers advice for graduate research students in the Student Room in the café lounge area (W2.04)
By appointment on Thursdays
Email phd-careers@kcl.ac.uk to book a time.

Academic advice from a King's College London Students' Union academic advisor
Drop-in sessions in the Student Room in the café lounge area (W2.04)
Mondays 12 noon to 4pm.

Counselling available by appointment on Mondays in the Weston Education Centre
To book a time, call ext 1731 or email counselling@kcl.ac.uk.

in brief...

The Graduate Lounge is open and ready for use by students during the day. The new facility is on the ground floor of 4 Windsor Walk, immediately to the right of the main entrance. The Lounge includes comfy seating, a flat screen TV and kitchen facilities, including kettle, fridge, microwave and dishwasher, and has been created as part of the refurbishment of the building.

The IoP Library is making all interlibrary loan requests free to readers from 1 October. There will be a few exclusions from the free service: if the fee from the other library is very high, for example. 'We will advise readers in advance if they have to pay,' said Senior Librarian Clare Martin.

Professor Simon Lovestone is appearing on the October BBC *Lifeline* programme that aims to raise money for the Alzheimer's Research Trust. *Lifeline* is the BBC's monthly television charity appeal programme and is broadcast on BBC 1 on a Sunday, then repeated on BBC 2. The October programme is presented by Sir Cliff Richard and will be shown first on Sunday 19. Simon will be talking about what Alzheimer's disease is, current research and the critical need for ongoing funding.

Sue Colwell and Stuart Ryland are acting as joint Institute Secretary until a permanent appointment is made to replace Laurence Benson, who leaves to join Oxford University Library Service this month. Sue is responsible for communications, including marketing and fundraising; teaching; IT and knowledge management; space management; health and safety. Stuart is responsible for estates, including all current capital projects; human resources; liaison with King's College London and other external partners; and business managers. Finance, including research grants, and Site Services are already within his remit in his role as Director of Finance and Deputy Secretary. Their email address is institutesecretary@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

What do you think of the food on sale in the café diner? Have your say on the menus, price, environment and service by filling in the online Catering Survey: it's at www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/departments/?locator=644.

Professor Anke Ehlers and Dr Neil Greenberg were among the speakers at *Memories in Distress*, a Wellcome Trust-sponsored event at the week-long BA Festival of Science in Liverpool, held at the beginning of this month. Professor Ehlers (Psychology Department) talked about post traumatic stress disorder, theory and therapy, and Dr Greenberg (King's Centre for Military Health Research in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry) focused on mental health in the UK armed forces. The event was part of the Festival's *What makes us human?* series.

The IoP will close at 4pm on Tuesday 23 December and re-open on Friday 2 January 2009.

Wanted: senior academics to volunteer as mentors

More senior academics are needed to act as mentors to one of the 65 women who have signed up to a pilot scheme at the IoP that sets out to help them boost their careers and gain promotion. Women who take part in the scheme will meet regularly with a mentor of their choice to get informal support and advice, and to discuss problems and career hurdles in confidence with someone more experienced and not involved in their appraisal.

Anyone who volunteers as a mentor will join some 30 people in top academic jobs who have already agreed to take part in the six month project. Ideally, each mentor will work with only one woman, hence the need for more volunteers from the senior ranks of the organisation.

The mentoring scheme at the IoP is part of King's College London's Women's Advancement Initiative (WAI), being developed to support the careers of women academics across the university. The evaluation of the IoP-based pilot project will inform plans to test the success of mentoring scientifically, through a randomised controlled trial, to be run over the next three years at another King's School.

Mentors need to commit time not only to meeting with their 'mentee' for at least six months, but also to training in core mentoring and coaching skills – an initial two-hour introductory session followed by two half-day sessions.

'The success of the scheme will depend on the training and the matching of pairs,' said WAI Project Co-ordinator Sarah Hawkes, who will act as a central point of information and support for mentors. 'The way the pairs work together is very much up to them,

Three IoP winners of this year's King's Awards

Dr Jonathan Mill in the SGBP Centre has been named *Young Researcher of the Year* by King's College London. He is one of three IoP winners in the College's Annual Award scheme: Professor Chris Shaw won the Award for *Research Project of the Year* and Professor Robin Murray was given a *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Jonathan, a Lecturer in Psychiatric Epigenetics, started a laboratory dedicated to epigenomic studies of psychiatric illness at the IoP in September 2007. This new area of research explores controlling mechanisms 'above the genome' called epigenetic factors, which determine the function and expression of the genes – what makes them switch on and off.

WHAT'S ON...

An exhibition by King's College London Leverhulme Artist in Residence Elpida Georgiou starts on 20 November in the James Black Centre. To coincide with the exhibition, two seminars will be held in the same building in collaboration with the English Department in the IoP's sister School of Humanities. One will be about *Shakespeare and Art*; the other will discuss *Shakespeare and Psychoanalysis*. Visit the IoP website www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/whatson pages to find out more.

they will agree the individual terms of the partnerships between themselves – how often they meet, whether they meet face to face or talk by telephone or email, for example.' If individuals agree, they can extend the period of mentoring for up to a year, she said.

At the IoP, women academics are under-represented on the higher rungs of the career progression ladder in most departments. Only 24 per cent of professors are women, compared to 48 per cent of lecturers. Sarah said there were 182 female academics, from post-doctoral level upwards, eligible to take part in the mentoring scheme, funded jointly by the IoP and King's Equality and Diversity team.

As part of the WAI, King's has signed up to the Athena SWAN Charter for Women in Science: any university or research institution committed to the advancement and promotion of the careers of women in science, engineering and technology (SET) can apply for membership. King's has been given a Bronze Award by Athena SWAN in recognition of its plans in this field. Another strand of the WAI will be a series of focus groups across the College to gather information about issues that affect the career and promotion prospects of women academics – including maternity leave and career breaks – and to investigate support that can be offered to make a difference.

- For more information about becoming a mentor, email Sarah on sarah.hawkes@iop.kcl.ac.uk.
- To find out more about the mentoring scheme and the WAI, visit www.kcl.ac.uk/equal-ops/wai.
- To find out more about the Athena SWAN Charter, visit www.athenaswan.org.uk.

The *Research Project of the Year Award* was given for work published in February that showed the role of 'TDP-43' protein in the degeneration of motor neurones in the brain and spinal cord, heralding a significant advance in the study of motor neurone disease. Chris Shaw is Head of the Department of Clinical Neuroscience.

Robin Murray, Head of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, is known across the world for this research into psychosis. He is due to retire next year after some 30 years at the IoP.

He and Chris Shaw will now be entered for similar award categories in the prestigious *Times Higher Awards* competition that will be judged in November.

WHAT'S ON...

Translating advances in biological psychiatry into therapeutics: Moving from bench to bedside is a two-day conference organised by Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry in memory of Professors Robert Kerwin and Lyn Pilowsky. The conference takes place on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 November in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. To find out more and book a place, visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/translating.

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day 2008 is on Friday 10 October. At the IoP, the day will be marked by the opening of a new art exhibition and a *Music and the Mind* concert, both in the main building. The exhibition, in the IoP Gallery downstairs from the foyer, will feature work by artist and mental health campaigner Errol Francis. *Gaze: countergaze* focuses on the history of psychiatry in England and be on show until 10 December.

Music and the Mind 5 will take place in Seminar Room 1 from 6pm to 9pm: composer Colin Riley and his ensemble MooV will be performing contemporary new music inspired by the exhibition.

The theme of this year's World Mental Health Day, organised by the World Federation for Mental Health, is 'making mental health a global priority: scaling up services through citizen advocacy and action.'

Meet Bishop Tom...

The Bishop of Southwark Tom Butler will be visiting the IoP at the end of October to lead a short service in the James Black Centre foyer to welcome the new Chaplain to the King's College London Denmark Hill Campus. Patrick Morrow joined this month and will work half-time at nearby St Matthew Church. 'We hope people from all the different parts of the Denmark Hill Campus will come together to celebrate this new venture and welcome Patrick into our midst,' said College Chaplain Tim Ditchfield. Bishop Tom, a regular contributor to Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, is a member of the College Council, responsible for the management of King's College London. Everyone is welcome to attend the service on Thursday 30 October at 1pm. ● To contact Patrick Morrow, email Patrick.Morrow@kcl.ac.uk.

Paranoia book and event

A new book written for the public about paranoia will be published next month. *Paranoia: The 21st Century Fear* is co-authored by Dr Daniel Freeman, a Wellcome Trust Fellow in the Psychology Department. Published by Oxford University Press on 23 October, the book describes new scientific understanding of suspicious thoughts and highlights the prominence of paranoia in the modern world: Daniel's research has shown one in four people has regular paranoid thoughts.

To tie in with the publication, Daniel is one of the speakers at a public event organised jointly by the European Dana Alliance for the Brain and the Mental Health Knowledge Centre here at the IoP.

The evening event – *Paranoia* – takes place on Wednesday 29 October, at 7pm at the Dana Centre, next to the Science Museum in South Kensington. For details, visit www.danacentre.org.uk.

Daniel will also be talking at Café Scientifique meetings in cafés, bars and restaurants to promote the book. Visit www.cafescientifique.org.

in brief...

A new boiler in the main building will help the IoP become more energy efficient – and reduce costs. Replacement of the 40-year-old steam boiler – which runs at 60 per cent efficiency – is one of a series of green initiatives being spearheaded by senior managers to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint and save money as energy costs soar. A campaign for individual action that can make a real difference – including turning out lights and turning off computers; printing on both sides of the paper; not using screen savers; taking the stairs instead of the lift – will be launched, using the internal website pages and posters to highlight energy saving tips. Security staff are now checking lights are switched off during their evening and morning patrols.

Professor Simon Wessely will kick off a Wednesday lunchtime lecture series at Gresham College in Holborn, organised in association with the IoP's Mental Health Knowledge Centre on 1 October. Gresham College's lectures are aimed at the general public and are accessed across the world online. The lecture's title is *Shell Shock or cowardice? – The case of Harry Farr*. The series continues on 10 December with Professor Graham Thornicroft talking about stigma, then into 2009. The lectures are free and start at 1pm in Barnard's Inn Hall at the College. To find out more, visit www.gresham.ac.uk.

The structure and research strategy of the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry is currently under review. External experts have been hired to make recommendations for the future that make academic sense: the Division is the largest department within the IoP and includes many psychosis-focused researchers as well as teams working in disparate areas. The recommendations will include priorities for future investment.

A review of the work of research teams using imaging is also now underway. Vice-Dean Professor Shitij Kapur is leading a working group and seeking external advice in order to come up with a strategy for research being carried out with the use of the IoP's state-of-the-art scanning facilities, due soon to be expanded. At the moment, separate groups based in different departments carry out their own strands of imaging-based research without reference to a central academic strategy.

An across-the-board vacancy freeze will help the IoP balance its books. Only posts critical for day-to-day functioning and research grant-funded positions will be filled, said Institute Secretary Laurence Benson. Senior managers hope to be able to meet forecast financial deficits of £800,000 for 2008/09 and £1.2 million for 2009/10 by reducing costs and boosting income. And this year's loss could be higher than anticipated because the formula used to set the October pay increase will lead to greater costs, said Laurence.