

RAE results show international nature of research

Ninety-five per cent of the research carried out by the IoP was rated as world-leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised under the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), the results of which were published in December.

RAE2008 was a UK-wide exercise administered on behalf of the four higher education funding bodies. Researchers and experts made judgements on the quality of research submitted by 159 universities and colleges.

The research submitted was given one of four grades to reflect its quality – world-leading (4*), internationally excellent (3*), internationally recognised (2*), or nationally recognised (1*). The results show what percentage of the work reviewed fell into each category to create ‘quality profiles’ which will be used by the higher education funding bodies to determine support for research from 2009-10: the funding announcement is likely to be made in March this year.

At the IoP, the work of 225 individuals (full-time and part-time) was submitted to the Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Clinical Psychology Unit of Assessment. The quality profile given to King’s for this Unit of Assessment is for the IoP’s work alone: other neuroscience research at King’s was submitted to other assessment panels. The results grade 15 per cent of the IoP’s work at the 4* quality level, 40 per cent at the 3* level, 40 per cent at the 2* level and five per cent at the 1* level.

Can you trust researchers?

They’ll sell it, lose it or abuse it (can you trust researchers with your confidential data?) is the title of the next Maudsley Debate on Wednesday 4 February at 6pm in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. The motion to be debated is: ‘This house believes that clinical research has too few safeguards for consent and confidentiality.’ Speaking in favour of the motion are Ross Anderson, Professor of Security Engineering at Cambridge University and Dermot Ward, Chair of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists. Speaking against are Sir Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust and Charles Warlow, Professor of Medical Neurology at Edinburgh University. In the chair is the IoP’s Professor Simon Wessely. Tea and coffee will be served from 5.30pm in Seminar Room 1. For more information, email caroline.sanelli@iop.kcl.ac.uk

The quality profile replaces the single-point quality rating given to higher education institutions under the last RAE in 2001. Not only did the scoring system change, but the categories of submission are also different (in 2001, the IoP’s work was reviewed under a Psychiatry Panel), making it almost impossible to make comparisons between 2001 and 2008.

‘It is also incredibly difficult to make true comparisons of the 2008 results of different universities,’ said Director of Quality Research Gill Dale. ‘It was up to individual entrants to categorise their submitted research activity and to decide whether to submit the work of all researchers, or a select number. The IoP put forward the work of nearly 99 per cent of eligible staff – a much higher proportion than most other institutions. Ours was thus a very open, inclusive return, the results being a true assessment of all our work,’ she said.

The results are on the RAE2008 website (www.rae.ac.uk) and more information will be posted in coming months, including parts of submissions that contain factual data about research activity: names of staff and their research output, for example.

The RAE2008 was the last assessment exercise of this kind: it is due to be replaced by Research Excellence Framework, a new system for measuring the quality of research and determining funding. The new arrangements are currently being developed by the Higher Education Funding Councils.

Preview of dementia opera

Understanding dementia through opera at the Royal Institution in Piccadilly on 18 March will include a preview of *The Lion’s Face*, a newly commissioned opera from The Opera Group. The IoP’s Professor Simon Lovestone – who is working with The Opera Group – will be giving an introductory talk. To book tickets, visit www.rigb.org

The Lion’s Face describes the experiences of a patient, a carer and a research scientist and is supported by a Wellcome Trust Arts Award.

A 20-minute version of the piece has been shortlisted for the Teatro Minimo Competition at Zurich Opera, an international writing competition: the miniature version will be performed there this month. A dedicated website for the opera is being set up and was due to launch at the time of going to press. Visit www.theoperagroup.co.uk to find out about The Opera Group.

Dean Peter McGuffin: on 2008 and the future

The past year was again one of ‘firsts’ for the IoP. Thanks to the sage advice of Director of Finance Stuart Ryland and the then Institute Secretary, Laurence Benson, we managed to foresee the credit crunch many months ahead of its actual arrival and began the year 2008 with a freeze on academic recruitment. Given our financial status, this seemed to be, as Mr Brown would say, prudent, and it certainly seemed to provide an endless and popular talking point for senior staff. Indeed, almost every other day after the freeze was announced, I had someone knocking on my door, eager to have an erudite discussion and to explain to me why their particular part of the Institute should be exempt from the crunch.

I’m sure that it was entirely unconnected with this whole process, but before the year was out, Laurence Benson had accepted a prestigious post at another university. After six plus years of much appreciated endeavour here, Laurence left us to become Director of Administration of the Bodleian Library in Oxford. One of his principal challenges there will be to amalgamate and unite the College libraries, a task which has only been going on for a few hundred years, but which I’m sure will be as nothing to a man who managed to emerge more or less unscathed and largely on top of the Institute’s politics after half a dozen years. Laurence’s successor is Richard Barnard whom we warmly welcome this month.

One of the tips that Laurence gave me early on in my Deanship was that in order to get the best out of staff, I should do my best to ensure that everyone felt that things were in a constant state of flux. In my first year I tried hard to do this, albeit in a somewhat modest sort of way,

by reforms such as abolishing some committees and setting up some others. However in my second year, just gone, I thought I should try harder, and, emboldened and encouraged by the arrival of our new Vice-Dean for Research, Shitij Kapur, we together set up a number of radical review committees to look at areas such as our neuroimaging strategy and our largest department, the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry. We convened a distinguished panel of external experts who produced an excellent document highlighting the many strengths and some, mainly organisational, weaknesses of the Division, and proposing a number of possible options for the future.

This, however, turned out to be mere tinkering compared to what was soon to come upon us from elsewhere in King’s, the proposal to set up an Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC). Such centres were proposed in Lord Darzi’s report on organisation of health services in England and envisage that a small number of universities will have a much closer working relationship with their associated health trusts. 2009 promises to be crammed full of interesting AHSC activity, starting with application for ‘accreditation’ to join the select band of designated centres. We will be in such a state of flux that any parts of the Institute that are not already truly world-leading will become so by the year’s end.

2008 saw our excellence actually measured by the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The results were published on December 18 and they will determine our level of research funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) at least for a couple of years.

Those of you who have seen the results will know that the IoP fared very well indeed. There is however a small ‘but’. Most people who have really

obsessed about the RAE agree with the article by Jonathan Adams in The Times Higher Education Supplement (THE) January 1-7, 2009, that the overall effect of profiles of scores replacing a single number quality rating (which for the IoP was 5* in 2001) has made the results fiendishly difficult to interpret. Some, such as the THE itself, have (in the year of the crunch) attempted a profile crunch, converting the profile into a grade point average. This would put the Institute in fourth place in its Unit of Assessment (Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Clinical Psychology) rather than top. But in terms of ‘research power’ (another THE term), where profile scores are multiplied by actual numbers of staff returned, the Institute comes top in the UK by a long way. Another way of looking at it devised by our colleagues at UCL is to take an Olympic analogy and equate the top end of the profile (4* and 3*) with gold and silver medals. Here again the Institute comes top by a long way (UCL comes second). However the Olympic analogy breaks down in places: RAE tactics are complicated by the fact that the team captain (yours truly) gets to choose not just who gets into the team but what proportion of those available for selection get into the team. In RAE2008, the Institute went for inclusivity and returned very nearly 99 per cent of eligible staff. Since there is bound to be a head count component to the funding formula, this should work to our advantage, and when HEFCE announce what the formula actually is in March, we hope to do well. If so, we will of course switch from freeze to thaw and commence to spend, spend, spend. This, as Mr Brown and all good Keynesians know, is the way out of recession, so in 2009 we can look forward to the Institute of Psychiatry not just leading the way in academia, but actually helping save world finance.

New awards from Royal College of Psychiatrists

Could you be *Psychiatric Academic of the Year*? The title will be awarded in 2009 by the Royal College of Psychiatrists: the first ever RCPsych Awards also include categories for *Psychiatric Team of the Year*, *Core Psychiatric Trainee of the Year*, *Advanced Psychiatric Trainee of the Year*, *Medical Manager/Leader of the Year*, *Public Educator of the Year*, *Mental Health Services Provider of the Year* and a *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Nominations can be made by individuals and teams themselves, their colleagues, their academic departments or service provider, voluntary organisations, service users and carers, though the criteria for each category varies slightly. The Awards cover both mental health and learning disability

services, and entries must relate to work undertaken between January 2007 and December 2008. The deadline for nominations is Monday 16 February.

‘The RCPsych Awards have been designed to identify the very best practice and bring national recognition to the unsung heroes of psychiatry. We aim to reward the very best academics, the most talented trainees, the hardest-working psychiatrists, the most innovative teams and services, and the most influential public educators,’ said Professor Dinesh Bhugra, President of the College, who also leads the Cultural Psychiatry team here at the IoP in Health Service and Population Research. To find out more, visit www.rcpsych.ac.uk

Modelling for Esquire

Pick up a copy of the March issue of *Esquire* magazine (out second week in February)... it features Ricardo Sainz-Fuertes, an MRC Clinical Research Training Fellow in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, in an article about young academics from a variety of universities. All of them were styled by *Esquire* and the feature also includes information about their work. The Wolfson Lecture Theatre was turned into a fashion studio for the photo shoot, organised before the Christmas break. *Esquire*, according to its subscription website, ‘is the magazine for the intelligent, sophisticated man-on-the-move.’ Each issue includes fashion and grooming tips, features and fiction. To find out more, visit www.esquire-magazine.co.uk

in brief...

A campaign to encourage staff and students to take the stairs instead of the lift is to be launched this month. Stair walking will help reduce the IoP's carbon footprint (lifts use a large amount of energy) and help people stay fit, said Dilip Chakravarti, Site Services Manager. Campaign posters will be put up on noticeboards and by the lifts.

Help produce *Viewpoint!* The editorial group is recruiting new members for 2009: it meets once every two months before each issue to suggest and discuss content. If you're interested in getting involved, contact antonella.surdi@iop.kcl.ac.uk

The Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health based at the IoP and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust will launch <http://brc.iop.kcl.ac.uk> at the end of January, a new website highlighting the Centre's purpose and activities.

King's Graduate School has a package of more than 100 new postgraduate funding awards across all disciplines for both research and taught Masters programmes. Details of the awards are posted, as they become available, on the Graduate Funding database at www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/funding/database or visit www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/newfunding

Dr Paul Moran and Professor Nick Bouras from Health Service and Population Research have been involved in drawing up new NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) *Guidelines on the treatment and management of Borderline Personality Disorder*, due to be published this month.

The deadline for paperwork to support an application for a PhD starting in April this year is Wednesday 11 February. For more information about the application process, visit the IoP website (admissions and student info: research) or email michaela.litchmore-dunbar@iop.kcl.ac.uk

BBC shows to watch out for early in 2009 include a *Who Do You Think You Are?* about TV presenter Fiona Bruce, featuring an interview with the IoP's Professor Edgar Jones about shell shock, and Terry Pratchett's two-part documentary about dementia, showing some of the work at the IoP. The latter is provisionally scheduled to be aired over two nights on BBC2 during February.

From Arts to Big Pharma – Translating your research is a new course from King's Business Researcher Development Programme for people interested in developing collaborative relationships with external businesses and public sector organisations. The next half-day course runs on Thursday 5 February. Visit <http://training.kcl.ac.uk> or email gradtrain@kcl.ac.uk, referencing course code RS129.

ICE – in case of emergency – numbers stored in your mobile phone enable your family and next-of-kin to be contacted quickly in an emergency, says IoP Health & Safety Advisor David Mullen. Store the word ICE in your phone's address book, followed by the name and number of the person

Introducing Richard Barnard ... the new Institute Secretary

New Institute Secretary Richard Barnard started work this month. Originally training in biochemistry, his career has embraced all aspects of academic administration – people management, leadership, relocation, re-organisation, estate management, curriculum development, finance and budgeting, refurbishment, research management, student welfare and more.

He chose to follow the path of administration after starting his career as a research assistant at the Royal London Hospital. 'I was doing research, but more and more admin came my way – and I rather enjoyed it, felt I had a flair for it,' he says. He moved to Imperial College, then to Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School (which in 1997 merged with Imperial), then came to the IoP as Business Manager for the then Neuroscience, Neurology and Neuropathology research departments, did a stint at King's

in the Graduate School for Health Sciences (the precursor for the Graduate School) before returning to Imperial. He has been working there for the past four years.

'I'm very excited about returning to the IoP,' he says. 'Some of you may remember me from when I worked here previously (2001-03) and I'm looking forward to rekindling relationships with former colleagues and meeting new people. I was surprised on a recent visit at how much the campus has changed. I was involved in the initial planning for the construction of the James Black Centre, and much of the refurbishment work that has taken place in the main building. I'd like to pay tribute to the commitment and vision of my predecessor Laurence Benson, which has paid dividends, and left the IoP in very good shape.

'2009 will be an interesting year, with many new opportunities and challenges ahead, including progressing the project to build

the King's Clinical Neuroscience Institute next to the James Black Centre – and the creation of the Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC). I'll be working with the Dean to ensure the IoP is integral to the AHSC, and developing closer working relationships with colleagues in the partner organisations involved.

'I have a strong commitment to customer services and the development of professional services that support research. The development of campus-wide initiatives really interests me.

'I think the IoP is a fantastic place to work. It's internationally famous but small enough to know most people. It's a friendly and happy place.

'Meeting as many of you as possible is very high on my list of priorities. I like to be out and about, talking, doing business over a cup of coffee. So if you see me wandering around – come and say hello.'

Resource for researchers

CRIS – Case Register Interactive Search – is a new resource for researchers. The computer system allows them to securely search and analyse South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust's clinical records database: this contains records of everyone who has been in contact with both specialist and general mental health services over the past decade. Initially, some 130,000 existing records have been uploaded, and CRIS has been designed to update itself every 24 hours by linking with the existing system that keeps case records electronically.

The development of CRIS has been financially supported by the SLAM/IoP Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health, using the expertise of management and technology consultants BearingPoint, and led by Rob Stewart in the IoP's Health Service and Population Research Department. All the information has been – and will continue to be – made anonymous to protect patient privacy, and the database will be held within the secure SLAM network. To use CRIS, you need to have a SLAM contract (honorary or substantive). Email Matthew.Broadbent@iop.kcl.ac.uk

New 'head office' for BRC

The Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health (BRC) run by the IoP and SLAM will soon have a new headquarters. A suite of offices is being created on the ground floor of Mapother House thanks to £3 million from SLAM's Trustees and Guy's and St Thomas' Charity. CRIS will be based there, as will some of the studies being run under the auspices of the BRC. An official opening is planned for Wednesday 25 March, after a second BRC seminar, which will highlight work in genetics. Representatives from the National Institute for Health Research – which conferred the BRC status – are being invited to see research in progress and meet researchers. Up until now, the BRC has operated as a 'virtual' centre. Email brc.admin@iop.kcl.ac.uk

Name chosen for AHSC

King's Health Partners is to be the name of the new Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC), the venture planned by King's College London, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. The name was announced in December, along with the appointment of King's Vice-Principal (Health) Robert Lechler as Interim Director.

The final structure of the organisation is still to be agreed, but each of the partners will retain their separate identities and authority. *King's Health Partners* will be used in conjunction with individual names and logos.

The Centre needs formal accreditation by the Department of Health (DoH). That process starts this month with a first submission to the DoH, and a second probably due in February. A decision from the DoH is likely to be announced in the Spring. Visit www.londonisahsc.org

Learn about the media

If you would like to learn more about the media and their coverage of science... apply now to become a 2009 BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) Media Fellow. The Fellowships provide three to eight week placements on a national newspaper, broadcaster or news website, to give scientists, clinicians and engineers the chance to find out more about the workings and priorities of the media. The placements happen between July to October and give Fellows the skills to communicate their research and expertise to members of the public: some go on to incorporate science communication into their work. The application process for this year's Fellowships opened mid-January and the closing date is 10 March. Visit www.the-ba.net to find out more and how to apply.

Angela Hodges, a Lecturer in Old Age Psychiatry in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, was a BA Media Fellow last year. She worked with Nick Higham on the BBC News Channel: read about her experiences at www.the-ba.net/mediafellows

Publicise your work...

Do you have a story for the front page of the IoP website? Will your research results interest a diverse audience? Are you involved in national policy or strategy? Have you won an award? If so, contact Public Relations Manager Camilla Palmer (Camilla.Palmer@iop.kcl.ac.uk, ext 0483) – as far in advance as possible. Around 120,000 people visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk each month, including members of the public: news stories must therefore be relevant and interesting to an external audience, said Camilla. 'If possible, stories should be topical and timely, reflecting mental health issues currently being discussed in the public domain.

'We try to publish summaries of new research to coincide with publication in an academic journal – but we can only do this if people give us notice and time to get all the information we need to write and agree the story,' she said.

A new Steering Group, set up to advise on and prioritise communications and marketing work, meets for the first time in February. Made up of department heads, the Group will be chaired by Vice-Dean Shitij Kapur.

Station and street changes

Denmark Hill station is being made accessible to passengers with disabilities with funding from the government's *Access for All Programme*. To complement this work, Southwark Council has cash from Transport for London to encourage walking and cycling to and from the station and improve nearby streets. Plans could include widening pavements, improved lighting, better pedestrian crossings, better signage and work to make the street scene more pleasant. Champion Park and Windsor Walk are likely to be included in the scheme, as well as Denmark Hill itself. One possibility on the drawing board is to create a public route through the grounds of The Maudsley to link Windsor Walk with Denmark Hill. A public consultation will be held in 2009 to seek views and comments.

in brief...

A new e-learning short course for social workers launches this month. *Research methods and critical appraisal* is based on a module of the MSc in Mental Health Social Work with Children and Adults. Programme Leader Martin Webber has developed and piloted both this 16-week stand-alone course and a second one – *Research protocol writing for social workers* – which will go online later in 2009. Visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/sites/rmca

Philip McGuire, Professor of Psychiatry and Cognitive Neuroscience, is the winner of the European Prevention Award in Psychiatry 2009, given by the European Psychiatric Association. The award recognises his research about factors that predict the onset of psychosis in people with prodromal symptoms, carried out at the IoP and in the OASIS service run by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. Philip is the Director of OASIS.

Staff can support the Psychiatry Research Trust (PRT) by *Giving As You Earn*. Payroll Giving is a simple and tax-effective way of supporting the IoP-based charity that funds research here. You decide how much you want to give each month and your donation comes out of your salary before the taxman touches it. To start *Giving As You Earn*, contact the PRT on ext 0107, or go to www.cafonline.org

Optimising Patient Centred Care: Focus on Early Onset Schizophrenia is a two-day event in April (Monday 27 and Tuesday 28) organised jointly by Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry here at the IoP and the University of Oxford. Presentations include normal and abnormal brain development, genetic risk, diagnosis and management of schizophrenia in childhood, adolescence and young adulthood. The event takes place in the Franklin-Wilkins Building on King's College London's Waterloo campus. To find out more, email optimisingpatientcare@iop.kcl.ac.uk

Volunteer Sri Lanka is a new scheme brokered by *Maudsley International* between South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM) and VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas). Under the scheme, SLAM staff are eligible to apply for a career break if they volunteer to help improve mental health services in Sri Lanka. After two decades of civil war and the tsunami of 2004, between five and 10 per cent of Sri Lankans are estimated to have mental health problems. *Maudsley International* is based within Health Service and Population Research. To find out more, visit www.maudsleyinternational.com

The First Maudsley Masterclass takes place on Thursday 5 February. This one day educational event offers 'cutting edge updates for clinicians from leaders in the fields' of bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia and personality disorder and is organised by Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry. For more information or to book a place, visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/masterclass or email caroline.zannelli@iop.kcl.ac.uk

The first Student Forum meeting of the year is on Wednesday 11 February in Seminar Room 3 in the main building, starting at 1pm (with a free lunch at 12.30pm). All students are welcome.

The next issue of *Viewpoint* is due out on **Monday 23 March 2009**. Email news stories to Jane Smith at janeesmith@madasafish.com or call her on 07710 202 065 or 020 7655 0885 by Friday 6 March 2009.

Viewpoint is published by the Institute of Psychiatry. Editorial group: Anna Plodowski, Antonella Surdi, Camilla Palmer, Dilip Chakravarti, Eva Langan, Harriet Meteyard, Lorna Taylor, Louise Pratt, Sarah Savage. Written and designed by Inside Out, 020 7655 0885. Printed by Calverts. *Viewpoint* is available online at www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/iopweb/virtual/?path=/viewpoint/