

WHAT'S ON...

Professor Allan Horwitz from Rutgers University in the USA will be talking about reasons for the increase in treatment for depression on Tuesday 27 May at 5pm in the Small Lecture Theatre. He is Professor of Sociology and Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Rutgers.

June Maudsley Debate

This house believes antidepressants are no better than placebo is the motion to be discussed at the next Maudsley Debate on Wednesday 4 June in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre.

Speaking in favour are Professor Irving Kirsch and Dr Joanna Moncrieff. Professor Kirsch, a Professor of Psychology at the University of Hull, is the lead author of a paper suggesting that medication is little better than a placebo. Dr Moncrieff is Senior Lecturer in Social and Community Psychiatry at University College London and Co-chair of the Critical Psychiatry Network. She is author of *The Myth of the Chemical Cure: a Critique of Psychiatric Drug Treatment*.

Two professors are speaking against the motion: Lewis Wolpert, Professor Emeritus in Biology as Applied to Medicine at University College London, and Guy Goodwin, WA Handley Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Oxford, where he heads the Department of Psychiatry. Professor Wolpert's own depression and experience of antidepressant therapy was the basis of his book *Malignant Sadness: The Anatomy of Depression* and a BBC television series. Professor Goodwin is an international expert in the psychopharmacology of depression and bipolar disorder, and a former President of the British Association for Psychopharmacology.

The 36th Maudsley Debate is organised by KCL Psychiatry Society, the medical student interest group at King's College London, and starts at 6pm. In the chair is the IoP's Professor Tom Fahy.

● For more information about KCL Psychiatry Society, visit www.kclpsychiatricsociety.org.uk.

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Academics working at lecturer level and above are invited to attend a one day meeting (9am to 5pm) on Monday 7 July to get tips on advancing their careers from senior colleagues. The meeting takes place in the Small Lecture Theatre. To find out more, email c.prescott@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Music and photographs mark Camberwell Arts Festival

Camberwell will be the setting for a plethora of exhibitions, events, workshops, talks, walks, open studios, screenings, live art and family activities for nine days in June, during the annual Arts Festival. And this year, the IoP is getting involved and throwing open its doors to the public.

A photographic exhibition, *King's College in Camberwell* will be staged in the foyer of the main building and show pictures of King's College Hospital past and present, including staff at work and play, and Royal visits. Temporary sculptures from Walworth Road-based Cooltan Arts – which runs an arts centre and arts workshops for people with mental health problems – will be on display in the grounds of the IoP campus throughout the Festival.

And on Thursday 19 June, a concert in the *Music and The Mind*

series will take place from 12 noon to 1pm in the SGDP Centre. The lunchtime chamber recital will be the first in the series open to the public as well as IoP staff and students and will feature the South Bank Sinfonia and pianist Kate Halsall. Members of the audience will be able to join a Cooltan Arts organised walk immediately afterwards from The Maudsley Hospital to the Tate Modern. The route of the 'Largactyl Shuffle' is via sites that have played – or continue to play – a part in mental health care.

Camberwell Arts Festival takes place from Saturday 14 to Sunday 22 June. Visit www.camberwellarts.org.uk for details of all activities. You can see the *King's College in Camberwell* exhibition until Tuesday 24 June.

Joining forces to create Academic Health Sciences Centre

King's College London, King's College Hospital, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust are planning to strengthen existing links and create the UK's largest Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC).

The idea is to build on and formalise existing collaborative working to create a Centre that delivers real improvements in healthcare for 'Londoners and the world'. 'Translational research', bringing breakthroughs 'from the bench to the bedside' is at the heart of the plan to link research, teaching and clinical services more closely.

Academic Health Sciences Centres – also called Academic Medical Centres – are more common in other countries, particularly the USA. The UK's first Academic Health Sciences Centre was set up in October 2007 by Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, St Mary's NHS Trust and Imperial College London. The UK's largest NHS Trust – Imperial College Healthcare – was formed through the merger of the two NHS Trusts and integration with the university's Faculty of Medicine.

King's and the three NHS Trusts have been undertaking preliminary work for a year and have agreed that their AHSC will be a partnership of equals rather than a formal merger.

The next step is to develop proposals for governing and managing the new AHSC, and for setting up a formal structure to embrace closer working relationships and better

integration in research, clinical services and support services – including IT, human resources and estates management.

The IoP is one of five Schools at King's involved in the AHSC: the other four are Medicine, Biomedical and Health Sciences, the Dental Institute and the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery.

'It is clear that the very best health organisations in the world are adopting the AHSC model and the UK is no exception,' said College Principal Professor Rick Trainor. 'There are probably only half a dozen university and healthcare combinations in the UK that can genuinely aspire to be world class AHSCs and ours is one of these.'

● To find out more about the proposals, visit the new website set up by the partner organisations: www.londonsahsc.org.

On the telly...

TV film crews have been around and about the IoP recently. Author Terry Pratchett visited to meet Professor Simon Lovestone who explained about IoP-based research into Alzheimer's disease for a BBC2 documentary. Channel 4 visited to interview Professor Edgar Jones, an expert on the history of The Maudsley, for a documentary about Helen Duncan. She was a Scottish medium who held séances at the hospital (and elsewhere), and was tried and imprisoned under the British Witchcraft Act during World War II. Both programmes will be aired in 2009.

in brief...

Professor Simon Lovestone has become a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He is one of 40 new Fellows elected to the Academy in 2008 to recognise 'outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, innovative application of scientific knowledge and conspicuous service to healthcare.' The independent Academy's 900 Fellows are the UK's leading medical scientists working in hospitals, academia, industry and public service: this year's 40 new Fellows were chosen from 363 candidates. Professor Lovestone is Professor of Old Age Psychiatry and Director of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health, run as a partnership by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and the IoP.

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) is introducing a new brand to be used on all its publications. It is a device called *Encircle*, which, 'through its component circles, is a visual representation of SLaM as a whole and represents the unity and relationship between the organisation, staff and patients.' The new branding also includes a colour palette comprising four unique SLaM corporate colours – pink, blue, green and grey.

Professor Avshalom Caspi was awarded the *Mortimer D Sackler MD Prize for Distinguished Achievement in Developmental Psychobiology*. The Prize was presented jointly by the Sackler Institutes for Developmental Psychobiology at Columbia University Medical Center and at Weill Cornell Medical College in the USA. Avshalom is based in the SGDP Centre here at the IoP.

Comparing Care.com was the winning business idea of Tuan Nguyen-Phuong, an MSc Mental Health Studies student at the IoP and Frances Willey, a PhD student in Molecular Biology in the Department of Women's Health at St Thomas'. They scooped £5,000 in King's first Graduate Business Plan Competition (2007/08) for the best idea: a website that allows users to compare packages for health care, care of the elderly and dental care, and a company offering health care comparison services. The cash prize will help them develop and commercialise the idea. The competition was organised by King's College London Business and King's Graduate School.

Save money on a new bike

Get pedalling to work – King's College London's new *Cycle to Work Scheme* gives staff the opportunity to save money on a brand new bike. You choose the bike and accessories yourself – with a budget of £1,000 – and then effectively 'hire' them from King's for 12 months while the cost is reclaimed through a salary sacrifice scheme. You pay back the loan from gross salary and therefore save money on the bike (on average 33 per cent) through tax and National Insurance payments.

Cycle to Work has been set up in partnership with Cyclescheme Ltd, a company that works with employers to provide tax free bikes for work through a network of independent shops, using a voucher scheme.

You can apply to join the King's scheme at any time but applications will only be processed in May, June and November.

'Many IoP cyclists have been lobbying hard for this for a number of years,' said Martin Webber from the IoP Bike Users Group (BUG). 'Hopefully there will be an upsurge in interest in cycling to work as a result of this scheme. In a survey we conducted last year, more than 70 staff at the IoP indicated they would take up the scheme, so demand is likely to be high.'

'If you're interested in buying a bike through *Cycle to Work* now, make sure you get your application in by the end of June. Please let us know if there are any improvements that could be made to the cycling facilities here at the IoP so that we can put together a case for additional funding.'

● To find out more, visit www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/pertra/ and www.cyclescheme.co.uk/.

● Get in touch with the IoP BUG via martin.webber@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Raise cash for PRT each time you search the net

You can now raise money for the Psychiatry Research Trust (PRT) whenever you search the internet. All you have to do is choose *Everyclick* as your search engine and nominate the PRT as your chosen charity.

Like other search engines, *Everyclick* makes money through advertising. Unlike other search engines, *Everyclick* gives 50 per cent of its revenue to charity. The PRT is one of 170,000 UK charities you can nominate to benefit every time you search: on average each search generates approximately 1p.

● Visit www.everyclick.com to find out more and pledge your support to the PRT.

Nine academics named NIHR Senior Investigators

Nine academics at the IoP are among the first 100 'Senior Investigators' for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the Department of Health organisation responsible for NHS research strategy and funding. They are Professors David Clark; Tony David; Philippa Garety; Matthew Hotopf; Martin Knapp; Simon Lovestone; Robin Murray; Graham Thornicroft; and Simon Wessely.

Senior Investigator is the top level of membership in the NIHR Faculty: membership at lower levels comes automatically to university and NHS employees working on research which has NIHR or Department of Health funding. All members of this first cohort of Senior Investigators already had NIHR 'Investigator' status because they are involved in projects backed by NIHR/Department of Health grants.

According to the NIHR, Senior Investigators will be the 'most prominent and prestigious researchers funded by the NIHR and the most outstanding leaders of patient and people-based research.' The positions are filled competitively and selection criteria is based on 'the excellence of their research in comparison to other research in their field, and the importance of their research to patients and/or the public in the short to medium term.'

NIHR Senior Investigators will form the 'NIHR College', providing leadership, speaking at events, and offering advice to other Faculty members. Each Senior Investigator receives an award of £15,000 a year as a personal discretionary fund.

The first round of appointments took effect from 1 April this year. Other researchers with NIHR Investigator status have the chance to apply to join the ranks of Senior Investigator: a second selection process starts this summer for appointments to be made in 2009.

- To find out more about the NIHR, visit www.nihr.ac.uk.

King's long service awards

IoP staff who celebrate 25 or 40 years' working here this year have received one of the annual King's Long Service Awards.

Awards to mark 25 years' service were given to Geraldine Davis (Programme Administrator in the Psychology Department); Ivan Eisler (Reader in Family Psychology and Family Therapy in both the Psychology Department and Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry); Elizabeth Kuipers (Head of the Psychology Department); Maria Priestley (PA to Professor Pat Howlin in the Psychology Department), Charlie Sharp (Head of IT) and Gay Sutherland (Research Clinical Psychologist in the Addiction Research Unit).

Glenn Wilson (Reader in Personality in the Psychology Department) has clocked up 40 years' service, as has Norman Gregson, who came to the IoP only recently following the transfer of Clinical Neuroscience from the School of Medicine.

in brief...

Staff and students working in the Addiction Research Unit who were temporarily decanted to make way for refurbishment of the lower floors of 4 Windsor Walk should be back in their permanent home by the beginning of June. The £1 million refurbishment of the ground, first and second floors of the building has included a redesign to house an increasing number of staff and doctoral students as well as new seminar rooms, new meeting spaces and a new reception area.

Costs of the planned new Clinical Research Facility which is to be built on the King's College Hospital site have soared from an original £8.9 million to £12.5 million. The lion's share of the cost of the scheme – currently at seeking-planning permission stage – is to be footed by the Wellcome Trust, Wolfson Foundation and Department of Health. The three partners who will run and use the Facility – King's College Hospital, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, and King's College London (the IoP and School of Medicine) are sharing the remaining costs, and will have to find the extra money to fund the new estimated total. The new building is to be slotted between two of the hospital's wings and the difficulties of designing in the limited space have added to the budget. Facilities at the building – due to be complete by 2010 – will be 'bookable' by research teams within the partner organisations carrying out clinical trials and testing experimental medicine.

A conference honouring the memory of the late Professors Rob Kerwin and Lyn Pilowsky will take place at the IoP on 24-25 November. *Translating Advances in Biological Psychiatry into Therapeutics: moving from bench to bedside* will feature speakers from the UK and the USA. To find out more, visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/translating.

Want to keep up to date with what's happening at Bethlem Library? Email john.r.gale@kcl.ac.uk to receive a monthly newsletter. Librarian John Gale also produces a blog that features summaries of other organisations' research studies in mental health: visit <http://mentalhealthupdate.blogspot.com>.

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The Psychiatry Research Trust is organising a Charity Cricket Tournament between the Lashings World XI team and teams made up of mental health professionals and friends. It takes place on Sunday 20 July from 10am to 7pm at Dulwich College Cricket Ground. Tickets cost £15 for the day, or £50 for the day and a gala lunch with the Lashings team. For tickets and more information, contact Lesley Pease, 020 7703 6217, l.pease@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Clinical Neuroscience Institute moves closer to reality

The planned Clinical Neuroscience Institute, to be built next to the James Black Centre across the road from the IoP main building, is to be named the Maurice Wohl Institute. The Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation Trust has donated a substantial sum towards the costs of building and equipping the Institute which, under the directorship of Professor Chris Shaw, will become home to some 180 clinical neuroscience researchers.

Other major financial supporters of the new research centre are the Wolfson Foundation, the King's Medical Research Trust and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

Researchers based in the building will study and develop

treatments for neurodegenerative diseases such as motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and acute brain injury, including stroke. The Institute will boast state-of-the-art PET imaging facilities and radiochemistry laboratories. The aim will be to rapidly translate discoveries made in the laboratory to improve the care of patients.

The late Maurice Wohl supported research at King's for some 20 years. He was a successful London property developer and generous philanthropist in Israel as well as Britain.

Building work on the new Institute is due to start in 2009, with a completion date scheduled for 2011.

Finding and seeking volunteers to participate in research

MindSearch – the database of healthy volunteers who are willing to act as control participants in IoP research projects – will in future be charging researchers a flat fee per project per year to cover administration costs. Originally set up with funding from the Psychiatry Research Trust, the idea is to make the database self-financing in future.

'*MindSearch* holds the details of nearly 3,000 people and substantially reduces the amount of time and effort researchers need to spend finding volunteers,' said new Database Administrator Dianna Roberts. 'Once registered, researchers can specify their volunteer selection criteria, such as age range, gender, academic attainment, or even being right-handed.'

- To register as either a user or volunteer, visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/mindsearch, or email mindsearch@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Pay and Modernisation continues to cause concern

Some 70 people at the IoP have still not heard where their jobs sit in King's College London's new unified grade and pay structure, introduced under 'Pay and Modernisation'. They are still waiting for new contracts even though all staff affected (everyone bar psychiatrists and neurologists) were supposed to hear the results of their job evaluation in March.

'We can't get to the bottom of the delays,' said Institute Secretary Laurence Benson. 'I apologise to people who are still waiting and understand completely why they are losing patience.'

- The Junior Academic Staff Committee (JASC) wants to hear the Pay and Modernisation experience of research staff.

'It has come to our attention that some research staff may have fared badly in the recent Pay and Modernisation restructuring,' said Paul Allen from the JASC which represents the interests of junior research staff.

'I think it is fair to say that the general perception throughout the IoP is that whilst academic staff have benefited from Pay and Modernisation, administrative

and support staff have had pay frozen or have been downgraded.

'However, the outcome for what King's College London likes to call "contract research staff" seems less clear cut. We therefore would really like to hear from people about their experiences.'

- Find out who your departmental JASC representative is by visiting www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/departments/?locator=11&context=main.

Merging IT and Knowledge

The team in Computing are merging with colleagues in Knowledge Management to become a new Department of Computing and Knowledge Management, responsible for all IT and information services, including centrally-managed websites, records and archives, and the Library. The Department of Biostatistics will become a purely academic department: Computing was previously housed there. The new arrangements take effect from 1 June and Charlie Sharp, Head of IT, will be at the helm of the new merged department. Sue Colwell, previously Director of Knowledge Management, is now Director of Projects.

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The next Student Forum meeting takes place on Wednesday 18 June at 1pm in Seminar Room 4 in the main building. A free lunch will be provided at 12.30pm. For more information about the Student Forum, email its chairs: sarah.savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk, lorna.taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk and sarah.pressey@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Online MSc is one of two brand new programmes

Two new MSc programmes have been launched at the IoP. The first is an *International Programme for Addiction Studies*, to be taught completely online. The unique 12-month intensive course has been designed – and is being led – by academic staff here at the IoP, at the University of Adelaide, Australia, and Virginia Commonwealth University in the USA.

The programme will feature pre-recorded lectures audio-streamed or sent via CD ROM to students, who will participate in online discussions. Students from across the world will be able to participate – but online lectures, assignments and correspondence will be in English only.

The second new taught programme is the *MSc in Clinical Neuroscience*, which allows students to translate detailed scientific understanding into effective clinical practice. It is designed primarily for clinical trainees in neurology, neurosurgery, neurophysiology, psychiatry, professions allied to medicine including nurses and therapists, GPs with a special interest in neurology and psychologists.

- For more information about both of the new taught programmes, visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/courses.

Cash awards to help 'translate research'

Two of the four winners of the first King's College London Translational Research Grant Awards are based at the IoP. The Awards aim to help develop research into either diagnostic or prognostic tests, or take studies to a stage where they could be of interest to pharmaceutical companies. Paola Dazzan, Senior Lecturer in the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, was awarded £87,132 for the project: *Establishing early neuroimaging biomarkers to predict treatment response in schizophrenia*. And Professor Mark Richardson in the Department of Clinical Neuroscience has been awarded £36,154 for the project: *Use of a cortical excitability tracking device for the prediction and treatment of epilepsy*. The idea is to develop an implanted device to detect and prevent the onset of a seizure. Funding for the awards comes from the Medical Research Council (MRC), Guy's and St Thomas' Charity and King's College London. The winners were chosen from 22 applications evaluated by a panel of experts from academia, the pharmaceutical industry and the MRC.