

Six new departments herald new era of working as part of King's Health Partners

Senior managers are proposing the creation of six new departments in a move towards dovetailing the structure of the IoP with the structure of King's Health Partners, the Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) set up by King's College London, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts.

The proposal is to create new Departments of Psychosis; Addictions; Old Age Psychiatry; Psychological Medicine; Imaging; and Developmental and Behavioural Disorders, and to dissolve the existing Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, the Departments of Forensic Mental Health Science and Biostatistics, and all the current Interdisciplinary Research Groups. After consultation with staff, plans are due to be finalised this month, said Dean Peter McGuffin.

The proposed new departments are compatible with the new Clinical Academic Groups (CAGs) and Basic Research Groups (BRGs) to be launched under the auspices of King's Health Partners. CAGs will bring together clinical services at SLaM with academic activities at the IoP and the work of the BRGs will be relevant to several CAGs.

Research teams will be moved from their existing departments to join colleagues conducting work in the same field. So for example, all research teams working on dementia or research for older people will join the new Department of Old Age Psychiatry. Teaching programmes will be housed logically within the relevant department.

The new stand-alone Department of Psychological

Medicine will comprise the teams of researchers currently housed in the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry whose work focuses on the interface between physical and mental disorders. It may also embrace teams who work on emotional and anxiety disorders, although the possibility of a separate new department compatible with a Mood, Anxiety and Personality Disorders CAG is still being discussed. The new Department of Developmental and Behavioural Disorders will be made up of researchers based in the current Department of Forensic Mental Health Science and the Brain Maturation team based in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry. 'These proposals for smaller, more focused departments put most of the clinically-related academics in a good position to align as part of the new CAGs,' said Peter.

The new Department of Imaging will be created from the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences, currently based within Clinical Neuroscience and led by Professor Steve Williams. Its work, and the work of the SGDP and the existing Neuroscience, Health Service and Population Research, Clinical Neuroscience and Psychology Departments, will in future fall under the remit of BRGs.

A working group is being set up to determine how best to structure a new unit to be a base for the biostatistics and clinical trials expertise currently housed in the Department of Biostatistics. The idea is that such a unit could offer statistical advice, teaching and leadership in the design, organisation and implementation of clinical trials across all departments.

The rationalisation and restructuring of departments means the existing Interdisciplinary Research Groups at the IoP will eventually be disbanded.

The re-organisation is to be achieved with no extra costs. One of the first tasks will be to appoint new heads of departments and business managers who will then be charged with defining management structures and re-organising support services. 'We want this to happen with as little disruption as possible,' said Peter. 'Key people will be appointed to lead the departments, and everything will be in place by September when Professor Robin Murray steps down as Head of the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry.'

■ The proposed CAGs to be set up between SLaM and the IoP as part of King's Health Partners are: Mental Health of Older Adults and Dementia; Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Psychosis; Mood, Anxiety and Personality Disorders; Psychological Medicine; Addictions; Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry.

The proposed BRGs are for Neuroscience; Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry; Psychology; Neuroimaging; and Health Service and Policy Research.

King's Health Partners (KHP) has not yet decided a final structure for CAGs or a schedule for setting them up. All CAGs will need to be accredited by the KHP executive after formulating a strategy embracing services, research and education. Mental Health of Older Adults and Dementia is one of three CAGs that will be set up as pilots.

■ In June, Professor Robert Lechler was appointed as the first Director of King's Health Partners. He has been interim Director of the AHSC since December 2008, leading the application to the Department of Health for accreditation. He will retain his title of Vice Principal (Health) and has been appointed to his new role for five years.

WHAT'S ON...

Professor Robin Murray retires this Autumn after 35 years working at the IoP and at The Maudsley Hospital. A Festschrift to honour his contribution to the understanding and treatment of schizophrenia is to be held on 5 and 6 November here at the IoP. *Schizophrenia: the final frontier* includes many speakers who have collaborated or trained with him as clinicians or researchers. Visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/finalfrontier or contact Caroline.Zanelli@kcl.ac.uk

£1 million cost savings this year start financial recovery

A five-year recovery plan to bring the IoP's finances back into the black by 2013-14 has been agreed with King's College London, and comprises a combination of income generating initiatives focusing on teaching – but also including research – and cuts in spending across the board. A £1 million cost savings package has been put together for 2009-10 to kick start the recovery process, and there will be 'challenging targets' for the following four years, said Director of Finance Stuart Ryland.

The 2009-10 savings fall within both academic activities and administration and support services, and have been achieved without job losses for the coming year. Vacant posts have been abolished and non-pay budgets have been reduced.

There is extra income for 2009-10 that will allow existing taught courses to up their recruitment – funding for 30 full-time places on postgraduate programmes was reallocated by Professor Robert Lechler, King's College London Vice Principal (Health).

Boosting teaching income will help balance the books

The development and expansion of teaching is a key element of the strategy to help balance the IoP's books over the next five years and already there is a proposal to launch a new MSc in Psychiatry in the Autumn of 2010.

The plan is to build the new MSc as an option for students who are undertaking the MRCPsych course currently run by the IoP and SLaM. This three-year training programme gives doctors the clinical skills and experience they need to specialise in psychiatry and sit the membership exams of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, qualifications they need to forge a future career. It consists of six-month clinical placements within SLaM services and weekly talks and seminars at the IoP.

'About 50 people a year currently do the MRCPsych course and we estimate about 15 will co-register for an MSc in Psychiatry,' said Dean Peter McGuffin, who is one of the people involved in developing the programme. 'The MSc will be an extra year focusing on research methods and primarily involve a research project.'

Senior managers are hoping to significantly increase revenue from teaching through the introduction of new courses and by attracting full fee-paying students, particularly those from abroad.

Institute Secretary Richard Barnard said existing courses would be expanded to take extra numbers

In future, performance management will be introduced for academic staff, and this will include setting targets for income through research grants, teaching or clinical activities.

A revised 'resource allocation model' – where income generated by individuals and departments is measured and used to inform the allocation of resources – may also be introduced next year, said Stuart.

'For each of the next five years, we have made achievable but aggressive assumptions on income and cost savings,' he said. 'There is a lot of work to do. It is essential to deliver on the targets we have set ourselves for the next five years, otherwise we may be faced with more radical solutions.'

The IoP's deficit for 2009-10 currently stands at £2.4 million (after the £1 million savings). The IoP finds itself in dire financial times as a result of major income losses in teaching grants, research income and money reallocated internally by King's College London.

over the next 18 months at the same time as developing new programmes such as an MSc in Psychiatry. An MSc in Neuroimaging could also be in the pipeline, he said.

The possibility of developing an undergraduate course in Psychology, discussed for some months, has now been 'put on ice'. 'The IoP is primarily a postgraduate institution and it is also not feasible for the College to consider a new undergraduate course in terms of funding or student numbers,' said Richard.

■ A new position of Vice Dean for Psychiatric Education and Training will be created from January 2010. The role will be filled on a rotating basis by senior academic psychiatrists who will be responsible for strengthening psychiatric training and professional development both at the IoP and within the new AHSC structures.

WHAT'S ON...

Party with IoP colleagues on Thursday 16 July from 5pm at The Griffin Club (in King's College London's Griffin Sports Ground) in Dulwich, a short walk from North Dulwich station. The Student Forum-organised event will include a BBQ and selection of summer games. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the Education Support Team or Student Forum chairs, lorna.taylor@kcl.ac.uk or sarah.savage@kcl.ac.uk

Lack of funding closes Staff Volunteering scheme

King's Staff Volunteering scheme is closing down. Lack of funding means *Shared Communities*, which has been financially supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) since 2003, will no longer exist after July as HEFCE funding for activities of this nature has now come to an end.

A celebration event in June marked the closure of *Shared Communities*, which has involved staff in more than 600 volunteering opportunities, donating more than 3,000 hours in the areas surrounding the College's campuses.

'The most popular type of volunteering has been the 'learning partner' role, where individuals volunteer to work with individual students in local primary schools,' said Community Relations Officer

Gjoril Berg. 'Many of the 40 volunteers who regularly go into local schools will continue to do so even though the scheme has ended.'

So successful has volunteering in primary schools been that two schools have agreed to continue to recruit and train King's volunteers themselves, including Crawford Primary School, local to the Denmark Hill campus. Anyone interested in working with primary school students in this way should contact the school directly on 020 7274 1046 and ask for the Volunteering Co-Ordinator.

Gjoril is working on a website that will list details of schools and charities that people who are keen to volunteer in future can contact directly. Visit www.kcl.ac.uk/volunteering to find the link.

Researchers scoop Awards

■ The *2009 Lifetime Achievement Award* from the British Association for Psychopharmacology has been given to Malcolm Lader, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology. The annual Award is presented in recognition of ‘outstanding work and significant contribution to the area of psychopharmacology.’

Malcolm has more than 45 years’ experience in psychiatry and clinical pharmacology under his belt. His main research interest remains the medications used in psychiatry, particularly their side effects. He has advised numerous UK government departments and committees, was an adviser to the World Health Organisation on drugs used in psychiatry, Vice President of the International College of Psychopharmacology, President of the Society for the Study of Addiction, and President of the British Association for Psychopharmacology.

■ The Academy for Eating Disorders (AED) *2009 Leadership Award for Clinical, Administrative or Educational Service* has been given to Professor Ulrike Schmidt in the eating disorders research team. The Award recognises ‘contributions to the clinical care and well-being of individuals with eating disorders.’

Ulrike’s work concentrates on developing new treatments, often delivered in innovative fashion via new communications technology and targeted towards specific traits or ways of thinking. She is the co-author of several books, most recently *The Clinician’s Guide to Collaborative Caring in Eating Disorders: The new Maudsley Method*, due to be published later in 2009.

■ Professor Terrie Moffitt has been given the *Klaus Grawe Award for the Advancement of Innovative Research in Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy* for her research that focuses on how genes and environment interact in the development of behaviour, particularly antisocial behaviour. The award is given every two years by the German Psychological Society (DGPs) Section of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy, in memory of Professor Klaus Grawe. Terrie is based in the SGDP Centre and is a Professor of Social Behaviour and Development. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

■ Dr Carmine Pariante has been given the *2009 Wyeth Clinical Psychopharmacology Award* by the British Association for Psychopharmacology, which recognises ‘outstanding research in the field’. Carmine heads the Laboratory of Stress, Psychiatry and Immunology, and also the Section of Perinatal Psychiatry, both in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry. His research focuses on factors involved in response to stress and their role in the development of mental health problems. This includes the role of stress hormones and the part played by the inflammatory response of the immune system, psychological coping skills, events, genetic factors and early life experiences.

in brief...

You will soon be able to sell stuff on eBay and donate some of – or all – the proceeds to the Psychiatry Research Trust. The PRT is in the process of setting up a charitable site on eBay where people can sell their personal wares or buy items that have been donated to the PRT over the years. A new, redesigned PRT website is currently in preparation and will be launched by the end of the year: it will include news of PRT activities and fund-raising events and initiatives like this.

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust will be planting up to a 1,000 trees in public places: the Trust has pledged to plant a tree for every questionnaire returned by service users for this year’s Patient Survey, carried out by the Care Quality Commission, the independent regulator of health and social care in England. 1,000 copies of the questionnaire have been sent to a randomised sample of people who have recently used SLAM’s services, asking about their experiences of receiving care and treatment. SLAM will be working with local councils to identify sites for new trees – parks as well as hospitals and community sites.

You can find out what’s happening in King’s five Health Schools (including the IoP) – by joining King’s Health Twitter: visit <https://twitter.com/kingshealth> to become a follower. The School of Medicine is also using Twitter – <https://twitter.com/kingsmedicine>

This year’s Maudsley Forum takes place from Monday 7 to Friday 11 September here at the IoP. Organised by Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, the week-long course about current research is for psychiatrists from all over Europe. For more information visit www.maudsleyforum.iop.kcl.ac.uk

The Graduate Lounge at 4 Windsor Walk was officially opened last month. The lounge offers students a place to relax and socialise, is open 24 hours a day and accessible by swipe card. It has a kitchen, computers with internet access, leather sofas and a plasma screen. There is also a permanent display of works by artist David Beales. The Graduate Lounge was created with funding from the IoP, the Graduate School and from King’s Annual Fund.

Professor Simon Wessely has been shortlisted for the *Psychiatric Academic of the Year 2009 Award* to be made by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in October. He is Professor of Epidemiological and Liaison Psychiatry and Director of the King’s Centre for Military Health Research, a joint venture with the Department of War Studies in the School of Social Science and Public Policy. Two teams running services at SLAM have also made the *Psychiatric Team of the Year 2009 Award* shortlist.

IoP researchers were at The Cheltenham Science Festival in June to debate various topics with peers, science ‘personalities’ and members of the public. Professor Simon Lovestone was at an event about Alzheimer’s disease, Professor Paul Salkovskis led a discussion about obsessive compulsive disorder and neuroscientist Professor Steve Williams took part in the closing event of the festival, *The Science of Drumming*, sponsored by King’s College London, and including a live performance by Primal Scream drummer Darrin Mooney. www.cheltenhamfestivals.com

Solving email problems

Problems caused by the migration to the King’s College London email system are slowly being resolved. The process of transferring email accounts to a new server and @kcl.ac.uk address started in May and is due to be finished by the end of this month. ‘For most, the process of transfer was automatic and caused little disruption,’ said Institute Information Officer and Head of Computing and Knowledge Management Charlie Sharp. ‘Sadly, for a significant minority, the process was disruptive and led to problems that have taken a long time to correct.’ Some staff were unable to send messages from their new accounts, for example, and problems such as these were due to system errors, he said.

‘We apologise to those who encountered problems and realise how frustrating it was for them. It was also difficult for the small team on the IoP Computing Helpdesk to deal effectively with complaints about a new system outside their control. Inevitably, some individuals received a worse service than we aspire to.’ Meetings continue to take place regularly with the King’s College London Information Services & Systems Project Team to resolve ongoing problems. ‘We aim to make sure that future services do meet IoP staff needs, as far as that is possible within the College context.’

Kate is best teacher

Dr Kate Tchanturia has won a *2009 King’s Award for Excellence in Teaching*. Kate leads the Women’s Mental Health module on the Mental Health Studies MSc programme, which helps students develop their knowledge about psychiatric problems predominantly found among women. She is also part of the eating disorders research team in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, and a Consultant Clinical Psychologist in the eating disorders service run by SLAM.

There is one Award for each of the Schools within King’s and they are made annually: winners are nominated by students and given £1,000. ‘I am absolutely honoured,’ said Kate, ‘and want to thank the students who nominated me. They are a very diverse group and each one brings different strengths to the module. I love teaching and it was fabulous to receive the Award.’

The MSc in Mental Health Studies is moving to the IoP this September. It was previously based at Guy’s Hospital.

Lunchtime lectures

Professor Dinesh Bhugra is talking about the portrayal of mental illness in Bollywood films at the first of a new season of lunchtime lectures for the public, organised by the IoP’s Mental Health Knowledge Centre and Gresham College in central London. The opening lecture is on Wednesday 16 September at 1pm at the Museum of London. Other IoP lecturers in the new series are Professor Janet Treasure on eating disorders (January 2010); Professor Emeritus Eric Taylor talking about child psychiatry (March 2010); and Vice Dean Professor Shitij Kapur on schizophrenia, imaging and therapeutics (May 2010). www.gresham.ac.uk

School students visit

About 60 Year 11 and 12 school students will visit the IoP in September to find out more about mental health research and careers in science. The annual visit from pupils at schools in Southwark and Lambeth is this year being organised by the Mental Health Knowledge Centre: previously a team led by Professor Iain Campbell and Helen Davies from the eating disorders research team took the lead.

The two-day event takes place on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September and the programme includes sessions about current research, specific careers in mental health, life at university and a visit to an MRI scanner in the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences. There will also be talks from IoP scientists. For more information, contact antonina.surdi@kcl.ac.uk

Science and opera

IoP scientists were explaining and demonstrating the symptoms and process of Alzheimer’s disease to school students this month to help develop an educational package to complement *The Lion’s Face*, a new opera about dementia being created by The Opera Group in collaboration with Professor Simon Lovestone and his research team.

30 Year 9 students at Graveney secondary school in Tooting were taking part in the eight-day off-timetable programme which included a trip to the IoP labs, and sessions in school led by Simon – Professor of Old Age Psychiatry – and his colleagues. Students were to learn about behaviour and brain chemistry, and study brain scans and slides. The idea was that the knowledge and insight they gained would inspire them to create an opera piece themselves (with the help of The Opera Group and their own science, music and drama teachers) – and to perform it at the end of the project to fellow pupils.

‘We will use the experience of this pilot project to develop an educational package that we can offer to schools in different neighbourhoods to coincide with tour performances of *The Lion’s Face*,’ said Music Education Project Manager Nina Swann. ‘We’re hoping to find local partner scientists who will work with us in the same way as the IoP.’ *The Lion’s Face* is due to be complete next year, starting its tour of the UK in May. www.thelionsface.com www.theoperagroup.co.uk

HSPR anniversary conference

The Health Service and Population Research Department (HSPR) celebrates its 10th year anniversary later this year. A conference to commemorate a decade of research and teaching is being staged at the IoP on 12 November. Members of the HSPR team will be presenting their work, with an emphasis on translating evidence into practice. The conference is free to everyone at the IoP and SLAM: for more information or to register, contact Liam Morton, centreiemh@kcl.ac.uk ■ The Estia Centre, part of HSPR and SLAM’s Mental Health in Learning Disabilities Service also celebrates its 10th year anniversary later this year with a conference and publication. www.estiacentre.org

in brief...

Researchers can find out more about getting their work in the news if they sign up to a November workshop led by Angela Hodges in Old Age Psychiatry. Angela was a 2008 British Science Association Media Fellow and will share some of the insight she gained about science reporting during her work placement with the BBC News Channel. The workshop – on Tuesday 10 November, 10am-12.30pm – will look at what makes a science news story and how best to communicate research findings. Contact angela.k.hodges@kcl.ac.uk or antonina.surdi@kcl.ac.uk

School Matters – Battling Anorexia is a 45-minute documentary made as a resource for secondary school teachers and featuring Professor Janet Treasure from the eating disorders research team at the IoP. The film features teenagers who have anorexia, school staff and health professionals. A 15-minute version for students is also available. The films were shown on *Teachers’ TV* throughout June and will be repeated in the Autumn. They are also at www.teachers.tv/video/34822 and www.teachers.tv/video/34814

King’s Annual Fund has awarded £1,215 to the alcohol research team in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry to allow them to purchase the latest upgrade of a data acquisition and analysis software system, Spike2. ‘The updated software will be advantageous for many future projects by providing the most advanced equipment available,’ said Abi Rose from the Alcohol Research Section. The next opportunity to apply to the Annual Fund will be in early 2010. www.kcl.ac.uk/support/fund

A new DVD created by the NIHR Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) aims to encourage service users and carers to get involved in research. *One in Four* highlights the importance of research in developing new treatments. The MHRN is jointly managed by the IoP and the University of Manchester. Contact mhrm@kcl.ac.uk or visit www.mhrn.info

Four IoP PhD students will be presenting their research projects at the first ever King’s Health Schools Graduate Research Showcase on 23 and 24 July at New Hunt’s House on the Guy’s campus. They are Helen Fisher from Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, Michelle Lupton from Neuroscience, Oliver Suendermann from Psychology and Andrew Ternouth from the SGDP. As well as presentations from students in all the Health Schools, there will be posters, careers talks for graduate students, and the chance to network with other staff, students and representatives from funding bodies and industry. For more information, visit www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/health/showcase

Andrea Danese in the SGDP Centre has received a NARSAD *Young Investigator Award*. The USA-based charity gives support to the ‘most promising young scientists conducting neurobiological research’ under its *Young Investigator Award* programme.

WHAT’S ON...

This House... showcases work of artists who have previously exhibited at the IoP and is on display in the main building art gallery (by the entrance to the Wolfson Lecture Theatre) until Friday 4 September.