

## Looking for new sources of funding for IOP work

Angie Garvich has been recruited to find new sources of funding – not only for individual research projects, but also for IOP-wide schemes. ‘There has never before been someone solely dedicated to fund-raising here: everything I do will directly benefit the IOP,’ she says.

Since she joined at the end of January, Angie has been meeting with researchers, finding out about the work they do, their current and future priorities – and what they would like to do if they had the money. ‘Professors and researchers get their own money for individual projects and that won’t change,’ she said. ‘What I’m trying to do is look at funding available from Trusts and Foundations and individuals that might match their venture.’

At the moment, she’s looking for financial backing for different projects about autism and is also in search of support for the third International Mental Health Conference which will be held at the IOP in August/September. Extra financial support would allow organisers to offer bursaries to delegates from countries who would otherwise not be able to afford to come, she says.

Angie, who has previously worked as a fund-raiser in the field of arts, is based at the IOP on Mondays and Fridays and at King’s College London’s Waterloo office with other fund-raisers for the rest of the week. ‘It’s very helpful to be able to discuss ideas with other fund-raisers,’ she said.

• If you’d like Angie’s help or would like to find out more about her remit, email her on [angie.garvich@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:angie.garvich@kcl.ac.uk).

## WHAT'S ON...

**Art and Autism**, an exhibition featuring work by a group of artists with autism, is on show at the SGDP Centre until 5 May. Organised by the IOP’s Centre for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) and sponsored by the Medical Research Council, the exhibition sets out to stimulate discussion between families affected by autism, scientists, clinicians and teachers. The youngest artist featured in the show is seven-year-old Laurie Mahon: the exhibition also includes artwork by students from special needs schools.

The next SGDP Centre exhibition runs from 19 May to 23 August and features art by Angela Rumble who works part-time as a dentist. Her paintings are based on images taken from medical textbooks, including an early one about psychiatry.

## Global search for new dean for 2007 and beyond

George Szmukler’s five year term of office as dean comes to an end in April. He has decided to stay at the helm of the IOP until the end of the calendar year but then wants to step down from leadership duties and concentrate on his research and clinical work. Head-hunters have been appointed by King’s College London to conduct a global search for a new dean.

George will step down as dean with the IOP in a healthy financial position. Following action to reduce costs, introduce new financial controls and fund investment, the IOP now has balanced books instead of the financial deficit of three years ago. Income from research grants has grown by more than 30 per cent over the last five years: the IOP now manages 492 research contracts valued at more than £135 million.

During his time as dean, there has been major investment in buildings and new ventures: the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences opened in 2004, the refurbishment of the main building is due to be complete by the end of this year and the new Centre for the Cellular Basis of Behaviour, though plagued by delays, will be open in the summer. Under George’s leadership, there has been investment in information services and systems, new commercial collaborations and an increase in the number of academic posts. There has been a growth in collaborative

work in the UK and internationally, and the launch of another Medical Research Council Centre – the latest for neurodegeneration research.

These achievements will be listed in a new Business Plan currently being prepared by Institute secretary Laurence Benson. The plan will review progress following the last three year Operational Plan (for August 2002 to July 2005) and propose a plan of action from now until July 2009. The change in name from ‘Operational’ to ‘Business’ is in line with policies from King’s College London.

The next Plan will set out how the IOP can best respond to challenges faced in the run up to the Research Assessment Exercise as well as those posed as a result of changes in university funding, said Laurence. ‘It will be about maintaining academic excellence at the same time as maintaining financial balance in a climate of financial uncertainty,’ he said.

Teaching currently accounts for a third of the IOP’s revenue and plans for the future will include increased student numbers and new postgraduate programmes. Knowledge transfer also has the potential to make further contributions to income, said Laurence.

When the draft Business Plan is ready, there will be a consultation period when staff will be invited to comment and put forward their own ideas.

## Get involved with SLAM’s Foundation status plans

Have your say on South London and Maudsley NHS Trust’s application for NHS Foundation Trust status. The consultation document about the application is available at [www.slam.nhs.uk](http://www.slam.nhs.uk) and you’ve got until 15 May to make your views known.

SLaM believes NHS Foundation status will give the organisation more freedom to decide how best to meet the needs of the local population, more flexibility to make the most effective use of resources and the opportunity to ‘fast track’ changes because it would be less constrained by work programmes, targets and timetables prescribed by central government.

SLaM is encouraging IOP colleagues not only to comment on the application – but also to become members of the organisation alongside service users, carers and members of the public as well as health and social care professionals. If you become a member before June, you will

be able to vote in, and stand in, the election of the Members’ Council that will be set up if the application is successful – and be consulted about future priorities. SLaM wants a large and diverse membership to help make decisions and lobby for informed public debate about mental health issues.

• Become a member by visiting the website, by phoning 08000 196 075 or by emailing [membership@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@slam.nhs.uk).

## Competitive colour photocopying service

You can now get documents photocopied without leaving your desk. Site Services are offering a new colour copying service here at the IOP and guarantee a price 25 per cent cheaper than any other local provider on bulk orders. Just fill in the online form and send your documents electronically. Visit [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/iopweb/departments/home/?locator=646](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/iopweb/departments/home/?locator=646) to find out more.

## Are you up to date in the website staff directory?

Are you listed in the IOP website staff directory? If just your name is there, why not add some more information – about your job or about your research? To update your entry, go to <http://internal.iop.kcl.ac.uk/> (you will need your IOP login details). If departments or sections need to remove a listing in the directory, email [i.gowrie@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:i.gowrie@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## King’s College London introduces childcare vouchers

A new childcare voucher scheme is to be introduced by King’s College London: staff who sign up to it will be able to save up to £800 a year on the cost of independently arranged childcare. The new scheme will be run by Imagine Co-Operative Childcare and be launched in the new financial year.

‘The scheme allows qualifying individuals to make savings on the cost of their childcare through salary sacrifice,’ explained Zofia Ashmore, personnel projects officer at King’s College London.

‘Salary sacrifice is a fixed arrangement between an individual employee and the College, whereby the employee agrees to “sacrifice” or exchange some of his or her taxable income for childcare credit – vouchers – with Imagine Co-Operative Childcare. As this sacrifice is from gross income, individuals pay less income tax and National Insurance contributions.’

In line with government legislation, people can opt to sacrifice up to a maximum £50

a week (£217 a month or £2,600 a year) from gross annual income. In exchange, they will receive an equivalent amount in Imagine childcare vouchers. People who decide to sacrifice the maximum amount will save at least £816.40 a year on the cost of childcare.

‘To join the scheme, an employee needs to complete an application form and return it to personnel who will verify eligibility and pass the details on to Payroll for action,’ explained Zofia. ‘An account with Imagine will be created for each individual for their childcare provider. On pay day, the nominated account will be deducted from the pre-sacrifice salary and equivalent amount be made available to the individual in Imagine childcare vouchers. An employee will be able to access his or her Imagine account 24 hours a day, seven days a week via the internet or telephone and authorise Imagine to make a direct payment to the childcare provider.’

• For more information, visit [www.kcl.ac.uk/personnel](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/personnel) or email [corporatepersonnel@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:corporatepersonnel@kcl.ac.uk).

## Nursery fees rise

Fees for a place at SLaM’s Cedar House Nursery in Mapother House will rise to £857.31 a month from 1 April.

The number of places for children of IOP staff and students has increased since the nursery has expanded in new purpose-designed premises in De Crespigny Park. Even though all the places for babies are taken, there are some places available for two to five-year-olds.

• Contact [c.murrell@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:c.murrell@iop.kcl.ac.uk) to find out more.

## New head of Psychology

Professor Elizabeth Kuipers is the new head of Psychology at the IOP. Following David Clark’s decision to step down, King’s College London’s principal Rick Trainor consulted with all staff in the department about who his successor should be. Elizabeth, who takes up her post on 1 May, acted as head of the department last year while David was a Fellow at the Centre for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences at Stanford University. She has been appointed initially for three years.

## SCMH to focus on specific challenges

The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (SCMH), which is affiliated to the IOP, is in future going to focus on two priority areas of work. The first is tackling the high rate of unemployment among people with mental health problems and the second is to work to improve the quality of mental health care in prisons and for people in custody in the UK.

‘Over the next year, SCMH will change considerably to amplify its impact in these areas,’ says an official statement from the Centre.

‘What will not change is the way we work, through high quality, independent research, analysis and development. We will continue to work to influence policy and improve practice in public services but with a renewed mission to make radical change where we believe we can make the biggest impact with the resources available to us.’

‘This will inevitably mean that we will no longer be able to work in many other areas of mental health practice.’

## Review sparks debate about Neuroscience

The future of Neuroscience across King's College London is up for discussion. A College-commissioned external review looks at scope for improving collaboration by bringing all Neuroscience activities together as a single entity in either a new or existing school. At the time of going to press, the process for consultation and timetable for decision-making were not clear.

Neuroscience activity currently exists at the IoP, at the School of Medicine and at the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences. It is spread across different departments within each school.

Plans to bring Neuroscience activities under one roof are not new: a similar plan was mooted in 1997, just before the IoP became part of King's College London. This plan was never implemented.

## Become a journalist for a month or two

Do you fancy trying your hand at being a journalist? If so, you can apply for one of the British Association for the Advancement of Science's Media Fellowships. You may find yourself working on *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph* or for the BBC, as some of last year's Media Fellows did.

The BA Media Fellowships exist to create a greater awareness and understanding of the workings of the media among scientists, social scientists and engineers. During placements of between three and eight weeks, Fellows work on a national newspaper, in broadcasting or in internet journalism.

According to the BA, the Fellowships better equip scientists to communicate their research and expertise to the public and to their colleagues. Some Fellows go on to do freelancing in addition to their normal jobs, others incorporate communication into their professional work.

The deadline for applications for the 2006 scheme is 18 April. A letter of support from your head of department must accompany your application.

- For more information, email [Alice.Taylor-Gee@the-ba.net](mailto:Alice.Taylor-Gee@the-ba.net) or visit [www.the-ba.net/mediafellows](http://www.the-ba.net/mediafellows).

## Ayse is events manager

Ayse Omer is the new events manager for Psychological Medicine. Armed with a diploma in Event Management and PR, she will be promoting the work of the department at all sorts of events.

'For us, events mean that we are able to engage not only with our peers and promote collaborations, but also to engage with the public and help them to understand the world of mental health,' she said. Ayse has worked at the IoP for almost five years, previously with Professors Robert Kerwin, Ian Everall and Lyn Pilowsky.

## Yet another delay for opening of CCBB

The opening of the brand new Centre for the Cellular Basis of Behaviour (CCBB) has once more been delayed. The Centre, within the purpose-built Centre for Cell and Integrative Biology, has pushed its launch date back until July.

The latest postponement is because paint was applied to some walls and ceilings before the plaster had dried. An area equivalent to the size of a football pitch now needs to be repaired and repainted. Tests have shown there is no fault in the paint: it simply went on too soon.

## Exodus from main building has begun

People started moving out of parts of the first, second and third floor of the main building in De Crespigny Park to new temporary or permanent homes in the middle of March.

All the moves are due to be complete mid-April to allow the next phase of building work funded by the Science Research Infrastructure Fund (SRIF) to start in May.

Refurbishment of the first floor East Wing was due to be finished by April and Forensic Mental Health will then be moving to permanent new accommodation there.

The CCBB's opening had already been postponed from January to Easter because of tardy connection to the water supply. Staff and students had originally been due to move in during December.

The new building, next to the Weston Education Centre and Rayne Institute, is a joint venture between the IoP and the School of Medicine. Some 80 IoP scientists will share three new purpose-designed laboratory floors: the CCBB will be dedicated to understanding how cells behave and will be headed by Professor Jack Price.

Other departments and sections on the move include Ethics, The Centre for Public Engagement, Eating Disorders, Knowledge Management, Public Relations and Fund-Raising, Behavioural Pharmacology, Child Psychiatry, the Education Support Team, Site Services, Epidemiology, Finance and Old Age Psychiatry. Many of them will be temporarily based in portacabins.

The next stage of work, which includes upgrading of the main lifts and the upgrading of seminar rooms, is due to be complete by Christmas 2006.

## Architect's space plans coming soon

Award-winning architect Will Alsop will be presenting ideas for a 'space' strategy for the whole IoP campus after Easter. In addition, he is drawing up specific proposals for transforming the entrance of the main building, including the Library.

The space strategy will include ideas for using buildings on the campus and the space between them to better unite different parts of the organisation.

It will emphasise the character of the eastern part of the Denmark Hill campus.

## Young Minds Award for Paola Dazzan

Paola Dazzan has been given the Young Minds in Psychiatry International Award by the American Psychiatric Association (APA). She will receive the unrestricted career development award of \$45,000 in Toronto in May during the Annual Meeting of the APA.

The Award supports promising international young psychiatrists. The title of the project Paola presented was: *Do typical and atypical antipsychotics have different effects on brain function? – A study using fMRI*.

A clinical lecturer in Psychological Medicine, Paola joined the IoP in 1999. Her work here is about the role of the brain and neurological abnormalities in psychosis, and about the effects of antipsychotic drugs on brain structure and function.

## The 6th Maudsley Forum

The 6th Maudsley Forum for European psychiatrists will take place during the week beginning 11 September 2006. If you visit [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/maudsleyforum](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/maudsleyforum), you can keep up to date with plans as they progress and also see photographs from last year's successful Forum that welcomed psychiatrists from all over Europe.

'For the first time last year, two courses were run in parallel,' says Carmine Pariante, a member of the Forum's organising committee. 'The "Core" Forum provided an opportunity to study the most recent advances in psychiatric research and the "Advanced" Forum provided an opportunity to strengthen the research and management skills required to successfully develop an academic career.' Both courses are to be repeated this year.

'The Forums combine excellent training with a social atmosphere,' said Carmine. 'Maudsley Forum delegates tend to return to visit the IoP and some of them have established collaborations with researchers here.'

## WHAT'S ON...

Matthew Hotopf, professor of general hospital psychiatry, delivers his inaugural lecture on Tuesday 9 May at 5.30pm in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. The title of the lecture is: *Decisions, decisions, decisions: mental capacity in medicine and psychiatry*. Admission is free without a ticket. For more information, email [Hilary.Payne@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Hilary.Payne@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## Are you in the closing stages of your PhD?

*Finishing your PhD* is a new one day course designed for people who are at the writing-up stage of their research degrees. The session – on Thursday 25 May – will help you understand the processes involved in completing a PhD, help you identify and overcome problems and help you write up your research and present it as a thesis.

- For more information, email the Education Support Team at [educationsupport@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:educationsupport@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## Volunteers ready to take part in research

There are currently 200 healthy volunteers signed up to *PsychPop* ready and waiting to take part in your research study, says Paul Wicks, one of the team responsible for launching the new resource which has the financial backing of the Psychiatry Research Trust.

'We are ready to fulfil requests for participants as we have recently completed recruiting a team of volunteers to administer the database,' said Paul.

To gain access to the resource, researchers initially need to submit five volunteers from previous studies. 'Simply get in touch with five or more participants from your old studies and have them mention your name when they sign up to the database,' he said.

In the summer, the *PsychPop* team is planning a marketing campaign targeted at people from ethnic minority groups to make sure IoP researchers have access to a truly representative sample of volunteers for research.

- To sign up to *PsychPop*, volunteers should visit [www.psychpop.net](http://www.psychpop.net) or ring 020-7848 0909. IoP researchers wanting to submit requests for participants in research should visit [www.psychpop.net/iop.html](http://www.psychpop.net/iop.html).

## Psych Med staff gain computer licence

Twenty administrative staff from the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry signed up to a European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) course.

ECDL is the fastest growing computer qualification. Especially designed for IT users who want to gain a benchmark qualification, the course is divided into seven modules: basic concepts of IT, using the computer and managing files, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation, information and communication.

'I've learnt lots that's proving to be helpful – from overall principles to many small, but useful details of operation that I wish I'd known ages ago,' said Lee Wilding who attended the weekly half-day sessions.

King's College London has recently been designated as an accredited ECDL testing centre. For more information visit [www.kcl.ac.uk/ecdl/](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ecdl/).

## WHAT'S ON...

Portraits of psychiatric patients at Bethlem Royal Hospital from the earliest days of photography are now on show at the main IoP building gallery until 5 May. They are part of a new exhibition – *Insanity in Focus* – which compares photographs taken 150 years ago with modern camera studies of patients in a Cuban psychiatric hospital. The exhibition is sponsored by the European Culture 2000 programme and supported by United Colors of Benetton.

## Main building evacuated for 'noxious vapours'

An investigation is taking place following the evacuation of the main building on Monday 13 March. The building was cleared because there was concern about a possible chemical spillage when 'noxious vapours' were reported in a laboratory. 'We believe this was a small quantity of chlorine, possibly from cleaning or decontaminating fluids,' said Institute secretary Laurence Benson.

The emergency services came in force because they believed at first it was a major incident. One person who attended hospital for precautionary tests was discharged after an hour. 'Initial reports suggest that planned responses to a potential emergency worked well,' said Laurence. 'The investigation is likely to indicate any areas where we can improve our handling of such incidents and take any further steps to reduce or eliminate risk.'

## How to make wards better places

Wards in mental health hospitals can become better places to stay and work if staff and service users are given more opportunities to make changes they know are needed. That's the conclusion of a report published by the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (SCMH) based on three years' work in four acute psychiatric units across England. At each site, staff and service users worked with a team from SCMH to change the way wards were organised, the care they offered and the activities available. You can read about the results and the improvements to the quality of care in *The Search for Acute Solutions*.

- Visit [www.scmh.org.uk](http://www.scmh.org.uk) to find out more.

## All change?

Network Rail are considering diverting trains on the shuttle between London Bridge and Victoria to Clapham Junction. The consultation period about this proposal finished in February but you can view the plans at [www.networkrail.co.uk/Documents/CrosslondonRusConsultation.pdf](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/Documents/CrosslondonRusConsultation.pdf). Ian Caldwell, director of estates for King's College London responded, calling for improvements to Denmark Hill station and to the frequency and reliability of trains stopping there, used by hundreds of staff and students each day. The College took no view on the proposal to terminate at Clapham Junction instead of Victoria.