

## Green light for Academic Health Sciences Centre

King's Health Partners is one of the first five Academic Health Sciences Centres (AHSCs) accredited by the Department of Health. Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced earlier in March the names of successful applicants for AHSC status, awarded following peer review by an international panel of clinicians and researchers.

New Clinical Academic Groups (CAGs) will now be set up to bring together clinical services and academic activities within a series of single managerial units. The new structures will be introduced as part of the move towards closer integration between King's College London, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM), Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust who are working together to create King's Health Partners.

The plan includes creating eight CAGs integrating research and teaching at the IoP and clinical services at SLaM. These are: Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Behavioural and Development Psychiatry; Psychosis; Addictions; Mood, Anxiety and Personality Disorder; Psychological Medicine; Dementia and Mental Health of Older Adults; and Clinical Neuroscience.

The CAGs will be set up in 'waves' over a number of years – but among the first wave will be the Dementia and Mental Health of Older Adults CAG, due to

be operational this year. It will include SLaM inpatient and community services, and research teams based in both HSPR and Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry at the IoP.

The partner organisations describe the CAGs as the 'building blocks' of the AHSC, leading to real integration of clinical services and academic activities with joint planning and joint decision-making processes. Their creation will take 'the unique partnership between SLaM and the IoP to another level,' say Vice-Dean Shitij Kapur, SLaM's Medical Director Martin Baggaley and SLaM Chief Executive Stuart Bell, co-signatories of a letter to the SLaM Senior Leadership Group.

In addition to the CAGs, Research Groups will be set up to cover areas that do 'not fit easily with clinical specialties' – a Basic Science Institute that will embrace genetics research, neuroimaging, neuroscience and psychology; and a Health Services and Policy Research Institute. The idea is that these Research Groups will seek and maintain collaborative working with a number of CAGs across the AHSC.

Designation as an AHSC lasts for five years, after which time there will be a re-application process. The other successful centres accredited as AHSCs this month are Cambridge University Health Partners, Imperial College, Manchester AHSC and UCL Partners.

■ [www.kingshealthpartners.org](http://www.kingshealthpartners.org)

## Calculating this year's income and expenditure

Senior managers are busy 'number-crunching' in the wake of the March announcement of HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) allocations to universities and colleges for 2009-10. King's College London's share of the nearly £8 billion allocated by HEFCE is just less than £137 million, up from last year but only by 0.2 per cent.

At the time of going to press, it wasn't clear how much of that total – including amounts for both teaching and research – would be allocated to the IoP by King's. Overall, £59.4 million of the total King's award is for research.

For the teaching element of the award, the government's policy on no future funding for students who already have an equivalent level qualification (ELQ) has led to a further reduction in HEFCE money this year.

It's not yet certain how much HEFCE income will be lost to

the IoP as a result, said Institute Secretary Richard Barnard. On some taught courses at the IoP, the majority of students already hold a postgraduate qualification and senior managers are currently considering future alternatives for meeting the shortfall in teaching income.

'We will need to rethink our teaching strategy and this will include, in the longer term, the development of new programmes and the recruitment of more overseas students,' said Richard.

Hand-in-hand with the post-HEFCE announcement calculations is the process for setting the 2009-10 overall budget, with reductions in costs and increases in income from non-HEFCE sources up for discussion. Nothing will be finalised for a couple of months, but overall the IoP is likely to have a deficit for the coming year.

## Which teacher deserves to be given top marks?

Do you know an outstanding teacher? Someone who is motivating and interesting, innovative and interactive, someone who supports all their students and offers useful feedback on their progress?

Students on taught postgraduate programmes at the IoP are invited to nominate members of staff for a *King's Award for Excellence in Teaching*. There is one annual award for each of the College's nine schools and each winner will receive £1,000. All staff who teach on taught postgraduate courses and programmes are eligible to be nominated. You can download a nomination form at [www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/qaaa/tea2009.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/qaaa/tea2009.html) – the completed forms should be returned to Steve Ward, Quality Assurance and Programmes Manager by 27 March.

The winner will be chosen by a panel chaired by Dean Peter McGuffin: the panel's decision will be announced in May.

## ...and searching for an outstanding supervisor

Does your supervisor deserve a prize for their encouragement and support of your research degree? If so, nominate them as a candidate for the *Supervisory Excellence Award 2009*, organised by King's Graduate School.

The Award scheme 'recognises the important role that supervisors play' in the success of postgraduate research students. Both students and managers can nominate academics who are currently supervising students registered for research degrees. A candidate should previously have supervised at least two students who have completed their studies.

The judges are looking for a history of past supervisory success, a commitment to pastoral care and personal and professional development of students as well as innovative supervisory practice.

Nominations should be submitted by 30 April using an online form ([www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/school/nomination-form.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/school/nomination-form.html)) and winners – up to one for each School – will be announced by the end of May. The School winners will each be awarded £1,000 for their personal research account. One of them will then be chosen to receive the College's *Supervisory Excellence Award*, to be presented at a ceremony in September.

■ [www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/school/staff/sea2009.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/graduate/school/staff/sea2009.html)

## WHAT'S ON...

A new art exhibition opened in the gallery in the IoP's main building earlier this month. *Old Asylums: The New Dispossessed* features work by service user David Beales. It runs until Friday 22 May.

## Email difficulties

The introduction of the new email system has been delayed. Originally planned to be complete by the end of 2008, the migration to King's College London's servers has been put back because of technical difficulties. 'We deeply regret the inconvenience to users, but it is still not clear when the migration will be complete,' said Charlie Sharp, Institute Information Officer and Head of Computing and Knowledge Management. A few newly-appointed people have gone straight on to the new system and now have an [@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:@kcl.ac.uk) email address. The majority of staff and students are still operating email within the old IoP system, however.

■ [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/mailmigration](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/mailmigration)

## Wohl Institute update

Design work for the new clinical neuroscience institute that will be built next to the James Black Centre continues. The organisation of the space – that will become home to more than 200 clinical neuroscience researchers – is being reviewed following a decision to omit the originally planned radiochemistry laboratories, cyclotron and PET camera from the building.

Feasibility reports are being produced and decisions are likely to be taken in April, said Alan Hardie, King's Research Facilities Manager at Denmark Hill. Once the revised plans are finalised, planning permission will be sought.

The building is to be called the Maurice Wohl Institute: the Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation donated a substantial sum towards the cost of building and equipping this new state-of-the-art research centre. Other major financial supporters are the Wolfson Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the King's Medical Research Trust, King's College Hospital and SLaM.

## WHAT'S ON...

The next Student Forum meeting takes place on Wednesday 15 April in Seminar Room 3 at 1pm. A free lunch will be provided from 12.30pm. All students are welcome – for more information, email the Student Forum chairs [Sarah.Savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk) or [Lorna.Taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Lorna.Taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk)

## in brief...

Calling keen runners: The Psychiatry Research Trust (PRT) has a number of places for the London 10k run on Sunday 12 July. If you would like to run in aid of the IoP-based charity, contact Lesley Pease, [l.pease@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:l.pease@iop.kcl.ac.uk), or ext 0107. Entrants will be asked to pay £35 to reserve a place and cover the fee the PRT has already paid.

Party with the Student Forum this summer! Volunteers are needed to help organise the July event – to help with a barbecue, organise music or cocktail-making, for example. If you can lend a hand, contact the Forum chairs [Sarah.Savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk) or [Lorna.Taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Lorna.Taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk)

The deadline for applications to King's College London's Annual Fund is 27 March. All departments can apply for cash from the Fund for any initiative that will enhance student life or be of benefit to students and/or the department. Last year, grants made under the Annual Fund helped pay for an Open Day for the local community run by the Old Age Psychiatry research team and provide furnishing and equipment for the Graduate Student Lounge at 4 Windsor Walk. [www.kcl.ac.uk/support/fund/applying.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/support/fund/applying.html)

Anyone who teaches on a programme at the IoP that culminates in an award must take part in the new Peer Support Scheme, which gives them the opportunity to develop their teaching practice with a colleague, in confidence. The Scheme has this year replaced the Peer Review of Teaching but so far only a small proportion of lecturers have signed up – although the majority need to undertake it by June 2009. ■ [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/departments/?locator=413](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/departments/?locator=413) or [martin.webber@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:martin.webber@iop.kcl.ac.uk)

The *Lion's Face*, the new opera about dementia produced in collaboration with the IoP's Professor Simon Lovestone and his research team, previewed this month. There were two performances – one at an evening event for the public at the Royal Institution in Piccadilly, the other at the Alzheimer's Research Trust 10th Annual Network conference, also at the Royal Institution. A dedicated website – [www.thelionsface.com](http://www.thelionsface.com) – has now been set up by The Opera Group which is creating the piece with the support of a Wellcome Trust Arts Award.

The opening of the new 'nucleus' for the Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health (BRC) run by the IoP and SLaM has been delayed. The refurbishment of the suite of offices on the ground floor of Mapother House is behind schedule and the opening is now planned for June (to coincide with the BRC summer seminar) instead of March.

## WHAT'S ON...

*Pain and the Brain* is the title of the Jeffrey Gray Memorial Lecture on Thursday 26 March in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, starting at 5.30pm. Professor Nick Rawlins from the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford University is the speaker.

## Round-the-world bike ride

James Bowthorpe sets off at the end of this month on a round-the-world cycling trip in a bid to raise £1.8 million for *Parkinson's: What's Driving it?*, a charitable fund of the IoP-based Psychiatry Research Trust. James is a volunteer and Honorary Research Fellow in a clinic at The Maudsley where Drs John and Sylvia Dobbs carry out research about the role of infection in causing and propagating Parkinson's disease. Funds raised through James' global cycle will support that research.

The 18,000-mile-route James will take crosses western and eastern Europe, and includes Iran, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. He plans to cycle 120 miles a day for 150 days with the goal of breaking the world record for time taken to cycle around the globe. He is due back home mid-September. ■ [www.globecycle.org](http://www.globecycle.org)

## Women's Award for Tamara

Tamara Russell in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry has scooped a 2009 *Southwark Women's Award*. She won the *Healthy Living* category after being nominated by Hannah Moncad, an assistant psychologist who voluntarily helps Tamara at the pilot *Breathe and Stretch* class she has been running for service users at The Maudsley, working with SLAM's Occupational Therapy department. It is part of a programme of work Tamara is developing around mind-body holistic approaches to promote mental and physical well being. 'Tamara is inspirational and passionate about what she does,' said Hannah. 'Her enthusiasm is infectious and her dedication to promote health and well-being shines out from within to reach the service users she meets.' ■ [www.southwark.gov.uk/celebratingwomen](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/celebratingwomen)

## New club for 'old boys'

IoP professors emeriti have been invited to join the *Front Row Club*, a new group that will meet for the first time over dinner in April or May. Twenty-five former professors who have retired from full-time work over the last two decades will be at the inaugural meeting. 'The setting up of the *Front Row Club* is part of our wider efforts to support and nurture our alumni,' said Dean Peter McGuffin. 'The Club will meet regularly and we will hope to ask its members for advice and benefit from their collective wisdom.' The name of the Club derives from one of Confucius' sayings – along the lines that he who performs well on stage deserves a front row seat when he steps out of the limelight.

## in brief...

The European Psychiatric Association's Section of Neuroimaging holds its 5th Annual Meeting, *Genes, Brain, Behaviour*, at the University of Edinburgh on 9 and 10 April. The Section's Scientific Committee includes the IoP's Sophie Frangou and Philip McGuire. ■ [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?pid=702](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?pid=702) ■ [www.aep.lu](http://www.aep.lu)

*Creative King's* is a new College-wide initiative, encouraging collaboration between Schools and departments and 'exploring the notion of creativity and its place in academic life.' The launch event was a series of ten discussions where academics from all disciplines talked about creativity in their own field: even if you missed the events, you can contribute via an interactive website where future activities organised under the *Creative King's* banner will be posted. ■ <http://creativekings.kcl.ac.uk>

Peter Hewitt, former Chief Executive of the Arts Council, is the new Chief Executive of Guy's and St Thomas' Charity. He takes up the post in June. The Charity funds many research projects at the IoP, particularly those concerned with the development of new services and translational research. ■ [www.gsttcharity.org.uk](http://www.gsttcharity.org.uk)

The deadline for paperwork to support an application for a PhD starting in July this year is Wednesday 13 May. For more information, email [michaela.litchmore-dunbar@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:michaela.litchmore-dunbar@iop.kcl.ac.uk)

An exhibition of clothes created by school students and inspired by the science of ageing is touring UK educational establishments after premiering in the SGDP Centre earlier this year. The public engagement project *Design and Gerontology* was funded by the Wellcome Trust. Scientists – including the IoP's Professor Simon Lovestone – and fashion industry professionals worked with students from two London schools and multimedia public engagement specialists ActionDog.

A new qualification – an MSc in *Advanced Psychosocial Practice with Children and Adults* – launches in September. The programme has the same modules as the existing MSc in *Mental Health Social Work with Children and Adults* and gives nurses and other mental health professionals the chance to gain more advanced practice and research experience in psychosocial interventions. The existing course is accredited for just social workers. ■ [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/sites/mhsw/?pid=205](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/sites/mhsw/?pid=205)

Work on installing a new energy and cost-efficient boiler in the main building at the IoP is due to start in May, and be complete in October for the start of the heating season. Work will start on bringing in a new gas supply to the main building at around the same time.

The career of Professor Eric Taylor – who retired as Head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the end of last year – was celebrated at a reception at the British Academy last month. Head of the Department for 15 years, Eric's research has focused particularly on understanding more about and developing treatments for ADHD. The new Head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is Professor Emily Simonoff.

## Preparing for QAA Institutional Audit later in the year

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), will be undertaking an Institutional Audit of King's College London in the autumn this year. The audit team – made up of academics from other higher education institutions – will check whether policies and procedures governing teaching and learning are high quality and consistently applied, and judge whether they offer students the best learning experience. They will be assessing the management and maintenance of academic standards, looking at areas like resources for learning, admissions policies, quality and accuracy of information for students, student representation and student support, supervision policies and practice.

The audit team will visit in November, but before then, written submissions from both the College and King's College

## IoP people played a part in the Good Childhood Inquiry

Judy Dunn, Professor of Developmental Psychology, is co-author of *A Good Childhood: Searching for Values in a Competitive Age*. The end report of *The Good Childhood Inquiry* was published in February and blamed 'excessive individualism' – the culture of 'me-first' – amongst adults for a range of problems experienced by children today. Judy chaired the independent Inquiry, commissioned by The Children's Society, which set out to understand more about modern childhood and 'inform, improve and inspire all our relationships with children'. Co-author of the book is Richard Layard, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics

## Tips for being media savvy

*Contested diagnoses: presenting findings from research to a sometimes unwelcoming public* was the first of a new series of media awareness events, held in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre early in March. Professor Simon Wessely and Ben Goldacre (NIHR BRC Research Fellow and author of the *Bad Science* column in *The Guardian*) were speakers at the seminar, and were joined by Robert Plomin, Director of the SGDP Centre. All of them are old hands at dealing with the media in areas often dubbed controversial by journalists. The second event in the series will be organised for the autumn. It is likely to be a workshop for young academics about what makes a science news story for television, and be led by Angela Hodges in Old Age Psychiatry in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, who was a BA Media Fellow in 2008.

## WHAT'S ON...

*Optimising Patient Centred Care, Focus on Early Onset Schizophrenia* is a two-day conference on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 April at the Franklin-Wilkins Building on King's Waterloo campus and is organised jointly by the Institute of Psychiatry and Oxford University. ■ [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?pid=701](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?pid=701)

London Students' Union are being prepared. After the audit, a report of the team's findings will be published, and the judgement – of 'confidence', 'limited confidence' or 'no confidence' – will affect the reputation and status of all parts of the College.

At the IoP, a working group is being set up to lead preparations for the audit, with representatives from the Education Support Team and academics who lead taught and research programmes. The task, said Institute Secretary Richard Barnard, is to make sure policies, procedures and regulations are being followed, that record-keeping is accurate, that action agreed at committees is carried out and that information for students is consistent – the same on the website as in student handbooks and marketing materials, for example.

and a member of the Inquiry Panel. Also on the Panel were the IoP's Professors Stephen Scott and Barbara Maughan.

The Inquiry received contributions from more than 30,000 children, young people, adults and professionals over an 18-month period and considered relevant social research, examining family, friends, lifestyle, values, schooling, mental health and inequalities. Its recommendations include more support for children with mental health problems; an end to school league tables and SATs tests; greater commitment to tackling child poverty and a ban on advertising aimed at under-12-year-olds. ■ [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

## Better dementia services

Professor Sube Banerjee, Head of the Mental Health and Ageing research team in Health Service and Population Research, co-authored the government's five-year *National Dementia Strategy*, unveiled in February.

The government is investing £150 million to start implementing the Strategy, which seeks to prioritise early diagnosis and give support to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their families. Among the proposals is a nationwide network of memory clinics to provide early diagnosis and treatment – the clinical success and cost-effectiveness of these clinics were proven by research carried out by Sube and his team. Other strands of the Strategy are training for GPs to help them spot warning signs of dementia; more community mental health teams for older people; better information for patients and their families after diagnosis; dementia experts for hospitals and care homes; and improved public awareness to help eliminate stigma.

Sube worked with Jenny Owen, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Executive Director, Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing at Essex County Council to jointly lead the group responsible for consultation and planning the Strategy.

## Padmal de Silva Award

A new prize has been set up by the Department of Psychology in memory of Padmal de Silva who died in November 2007. Padmal worked at the IoP for many years and was Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Senior Clinical Tutor in Clinical Psychology until his retirement two years before his death. The annual prize is for the final year D.Clin.Psych. student whose work is considered to best embody 'achievement in the area of integration of scholarly work and clinical practice.' The inaugural Padmal de Silva Award was made to Claire Salmond at the end of January: the prize was two major textbooks and book tokens worth £150.

## Gresham lectures

Dean Peter McGuffin is giving a lecture at Gresham College in Holborn on Wednesday 15 April, the next in a series of lunchtime events organised in association with the IoP's Mental Health Knowledge Centre. The lecture – *Is it all in the genes?* – looks at the roles nature and nurture have to play in mental health problems. Another IoP face was at Gresham College this month: Glenn Wilson from the Psychology Department delivered three public lectures about *The Psychology of Performance*. ■ [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)

## NIHR Senior Investigator

Professor Elizabeth Kuipers, Head of the Department of Psychology, has been appointed Senior Investigator for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). She was among the second round of Senior Investigator appointments made this year: the first 100 were announced in 2008 and included nine researchers from the IoP. Senior Investigators – all working on NIHR-funded projects – are described as the 'most pre-eminent researchers'. Positions are filled competitively and selection criteria is based on the excellence of their research and its importance to patients. They each receive an award of £15,000 a year as a personal discretionary fund. There were 63 Senior Investigator appointments made in the 2009 cohort. ■ [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

## Forensic conference

Tom Fahy, Professor of Forensic Mental Health at the IoP, will be speaking at the St Andrew's Healthcare annual London Conference, *Quality and innovation in secure mental health commissioning* on Wednesday 20 May in Portland Place. Last October, St Andrew's Healthcare and the IoP jointly launched a new Academic Centre: the collaborative venture is carrying out specialist mental health research and teaching at the secure service run by St Andrew's in Northampton. The conference brings together a number of leading figures in forensic mental health to explore and plan future developments. ■ For more information, email Jo Nairn at [jnairn@standrew.co.uk](mailto:jnairn@standrew.co.uk)