



Senate

Paper Title	Matters arising and Chairman's action
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the details of matters arising since the last meeting of Senate not covered elsewhere on the agenda together with details of Chairman's action.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	n/a
Questions for Senate to consider	n/a
Regulatory/statutory reference points	n/a
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	n/a
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Sponsor	n/a

Matters arising

Teaching Recognition Project (minutes 2015.130-2015.131)

Senate would receive a further update on the recognition of other qualifications, including those awarded internationally, together with detail of an appeals process later in 2016-17. The Steering Group working on these matters would consider the issues in more detail and report to Senate once discussions were complete.

Chair's action taken since the last meeting of Senate

Professional Capability Committee and Fitness to Practise Committee membership

The President and Principal approved the nomination of eight members of staff from the School of Medicine and Dentistry to serve on the Fitness to Practise Committee, in accordance with paragraph 48b of the Professional Capability and Fitness to Practise Regulations that each Committee will include *'one member of the academic staff from the School of Medicine and Dentistry, drawn from a list of those appointed annually by the Senate.'* The following members of academic staff have been appointed to serve until the end of 2018-19: Dr Nick Croft, Dr Will Drake, Dr Richard Grose, Dr Judith Jones, Dr Helen Liversidge, Dr Clare Penlington, Dr Wendy Turner and Professor David Wald.

The Dr Hawden Trust (DHT) Centre of Excellence in Animal Replacement Science

The President and Principal considered and approved by Chair's action proposal for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence, funded by the DHT, comprising a core group of individuals whose research is focused on animal replacement and human models for human disease. The Centre will be based within the Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research, Blizard Institute, School of Medicine and Dentistry. A paper summarising the background and rationale for the Centre of Excellence is attached for Senate members' information.

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar
October 2016

The Dr Hadwen Trust Animal Replacement Centre (ARC) of Excellence

Introduction

The Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research has been a pioneer of *in vitro* modelling of human skin and the development of human models for human disease. Professor Philpott is an accepted expert in the development of *in vitro* models of human skin. Initially for his work on developing *in vitro* models of human hair growth-and for which he was awarded the John Ebling lecture at the World Congress of hair Research in Miami in 2015. In addition to developing models of hair growth Professor Philpott has developed *in vitro* models of human basal cell carcinoma and eccrine glands and is currently characterising a cell model of psoriasis.

In addition to Professor Philpott the Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research has carried out pioneering work on a wide range of genetic skin disorders for which cell lines have been made, and skin cancer. This included the recruitment of Dr John Connelly from Cambridge as a lecturer in tissue engineering and who has subsequently been awarded grants from the BBSRC and has established collaborations across QMUL especially with the IoB.

QMUL and the Dr Hadwen Trust have an association going back many years. In that time the DHT has awarded in excess of £415,000 to QMUL to fund various research activities across several research centres. This latest investment further builds on this successful partnership with a focused and strategic activity. The aim of which is to further develop the most robust and applicable human cell based approaches for human cancer research and to address the limitations of animal models in this area. There is therefore a pressing need for human cell culture models and other non-animal technologies that have demonstrable relevance to human cancer.

The Vision

The Dr Hadwen Trust Animal Replacement Centre (ARC) of excellence is a joint venture between the Blizzard Institute, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and the Dr Hadwen Trust (DHT), the UK's leading non-animal medical research charity.

The vision is to bring together an initially small number of academics within the Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research who under this centre of excellence can seek further funding both through fundraising by the DHT and through their extensive links with industry. It is not the intention of this initiative to engage in any lobby or debate over the relevance of animal versus human research, but to promote the importance of developing human models for human disease.

The initiative, involves an investment by the DHT of £1M over 5 years. This funding will allow the Blizzard Institute at QMUL, under the supervision of Professor Mike Philpott and Dr Adrian Biddle, to create a unique centre of excellence in which cutting edge scientific research will be undertaken by using and developing only viable animal-replacement techniques.

The research programme of the facility will initially concentrate on breast, skin and prostate cancer and may develop, over the years, to incorporate various other research fields with equally strong animal-replacement requirements. All research will be carried out under the existing Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research and within the Blizzard Institute.

The Blizzard Institute and QMUL have worldwide reputations for scientific and research excellence. We believe that this investment by the DHT will enhance this reputation by creating, in ARC, a unique environment to help accelerate human model development to further our understanding of human disease. The ARC will serve as a focal point for innovative and cutting-edge non-animal research and extend QMUL and London's academic portfolio of

research, with potential global implications for the development of innovative non-animal medical research as applied to human cancer.

Education

The DHT has an established reputation for helping to develop young scientists, and over the next five years part of the research at the ARC will be enhanced by undergraduates and recent graduates taking advantage of Summer Studentship and Summer Fellowship projects funded by the DHT. Through these summer placements young scientists are given the opportunity to gain practical laboratory experience while developing an appreciation that there are superior alternatives to the animal model.

Dr Adrian Biddle who has been appointed to a lectureship funded by the DHT was previously an NC3Rs David Sainsbury fellow. Dr Rosalind Hannen a postdoctoral scientist in professor Philpotts lab has recently been asked to submit a full application by the NC3R for a David Sainsbury fellowship.

Both undergraduate and postgraduate students contact Professor Philpott wanting work experience in his laboratory and are often driven to know more about human models for human disease. The DHT will fund summer placements within the centre of excellence and wider across QMUL and also funding will be sought specifically for PhD studentships. The DHT already fund a number of these positions.

Dr Biddle runs a London *In vitro* club with an emphasis on 3Rs and this will continue under the centre of excellence. The aim of these meetings is for scientists to discuss their *in vitro* data and modelling of human disease.

Public engagement

As QMUL is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK one key feature of this concordat is to communicate the work that organisations undertake in the 3Rs (the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of animals in research). The establishment of the DHT Centre of excellence in Animal Replacement Science will be a very powerful demonstration not only of QMUL's commitment to openness in animal replacement but also in developing alternatives to animal models.

Professor Philpott has outlined this initiative with the CEO of Med City and she is very interested in discussing this further and how they can publicise this through their members.

Collaboration with Industry and Academia

Professor Philpott has had long term collaborations and funding from Industry and this is frequently based on his focus on human models for human disease. In particular he has received a number of grants from Unilever including BBSRC CASE awards. He has introduced Unilever to other PI's within his centre and this has resulted in Dr Cleo Bishop receiving both BBSRC CASE awards but also recently a BBSRC-LINK grant with Unilever. Both Professor Philpott and Dr Bishop have also been requested to submit further collaborative grants with Unilever.

Professor Philpott has increasingly found that Industry is attracted to the human model approach and as part of the DHT initiative this will be further publicised to attract industrial funding.

Professor Philpott and other QMUL academics as part of an initiative organised by Dr Alvaro Mata in the Institute of Bioengineering (IoB) at QMUL have been invited to visit GSK in October to present on tissue engineering and *in vitro* models and this meeting is now being sent out across all GSK sites and will involve over 80 scientists.

Fund raising to Support Further development and Research

The DHT are committed to carrying out further fundraising to support further posts within the centre of excellence and it is intended that this will include initiatives in gut biology an area within QMUL that has received previous DHT funding.