

## Vice-Principal Research and Life Sciences Director's Report to Senate

### 1. Research

- **REF meetings** - the Data Group, Coordination Group and Strategy Group meetings have been held to establish processes and strategy for our REF preparations
- **Research Equipment** – a call for proposals has been launched and applications are currently being prioritised by Faculties, with final funding decisions expected in December.
- **CritiQues** – A programme to support new research engagement initiatives in 2016/17, called CritiQues – Critical Questions at Queen Mary has been launched and researchers were invited to submit Eols by mid-October.
- The [Stern Review of the REF](#) – was released in July and made a number of recommendations for changes to the REF. Comments on this were sought from Schools and Institutes and will form part of QMUL's consultation response.
- **Global Challenges Research Fund** – we are currently collecting Eols for the [Growing Capability](#) call for research centres (£2-8m over four years).
- **HEIF** – we are updating and revising our Higher Education Innovation Funding Strategy for submission to HEFCE by 31<sup>st</sup> October.
- **PhDs** – the confirmation that fee waivers attract no net charge to School/Institute budgets was circulated recently.
- **Research grants** – notable successes recently with the £6.3m Biomedical Research Centre award, the ESRC DTP and a number of large EPSRC awards

### 2. Life Sciences

- The seven joint clinical-academic meetings with Barts Health Trust in different thematic areas have just concluded, and outcomes from these are being assessed for follow-up support towards joint funding applications.
- BHT masterplanning of the Whitechapel site has progressed, with close QMUL involvement.
- QMUL and the other major London HEIs presented at the recent MedCity organised 'Collaborate to Innovate' event, aimed at matching life sciences research and innovation to interested businesses.
- Discussions are being held with the leads of the four Life Sciences research centres (Genomic Medicine, Bioengineering, Mind in Society and Computational Biology) on funding and activity arrangements for the coming year.
- A wide range of LS-sponsored activities including those under the public engagement, researcher development and equality and diversity heading continue, and the new LS Doctoral College has been launched, with a new QMPlus page developed to highlight these:  
[http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?idnumber=LS\\_Landing](http://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?idnumber=LS_Landing)