

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

1. Research

- **Research Support Review** – a task and finish group has been convened to review research support services at QMUL. This is intended to map where such support currently is, and to seek views on what is working well and improvements that might be made. It is intended that the group will report in March 2017.
- **REF Plans 2017** – detailed guidance outlining plans for the 2017 REF Review Meetings and data collection processes were released to Schools in early November.
- **CritiQues** – this initiative is aimed at promoting a small number of annual programmes of externally-focussed activity drawing attention to the relevance of QMUL research to areas of major current debate and public interest. Three have been selected for this year: *Addressing critical questions relating to type 2 diabetes risk and prevention in East London*, led by Sarah Finer and Megan Clinch from the Blizard Institute, *Sensing and Privacy* led by Andrea Cavallaro in EECS, and *Home for Refugee Children* led by Alison Blunt from Geography.
- **Leverhulme DTC** – an internal call for expressions of interest for a £1m Doctoral Training Centre has been launched in preparation for the Leverhulme call expected in Spring 2017
- **Strategic Grants Advisory Group** - a new group has been established which will make recommendations to the VP Research on the identification of strategic grant opportunities, the facilitation of the best possible applications, and the supporting steps required to achieve these aims.
- **Research grants management system** – a new system called Worktribe covering research grant applications, management and reporting is being installed. Phase 1, covering the pre-award stage will go live in April 2017 with testing and training starting in January. This project is on-time and under budget. Stage 2 post-award will be installed from August 2017.

2. Life Sciences

- **Research Centres** - investment in the Life Sciences research centres in the areas of bioengineering, computational biology, genomic health, and mind in society has been agreed for this year. We are also working to develop additional themes including the human microbiome and digital health.
- **Clinical-academic workshops** - the seven clinical-academic workshops arranged to foster engagement between researchers and clinicians have now finished and we are in the process of developing a small number of the most promising areas for further support.
- **Hoardings** - The LSI is working closely with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to develop 7,000 metres of hoardings in the area that will cover planned works. The first of these are outside the old Royal London Hospital site on Whitechapel Road and will feature a summary of the history of the Royal London Hospital, QMUL and the School of Medicine and Dentistry, as well as descriptions of our Life Sciences plans.
- **Studentships** - the current cohort of 15 LSI PhD students will expand with six new studentships shortly to be advertised; an LSI Doctoral College has been formed to cover training and other cohort activities.
- **Researcher development** - the LSI has a new [QMplus site](#), developed as a port of call for LSI researcher development materials, support and event details. It also contains broader LSI event information, equality, diversity and inclusion activities, and information on the LSI Doctoral College.
- **Recruitment** - Applications and recruitment to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the Life Sciences were again very strong this year, exceeding targets. Of particular note is that the newest BSc programmes (Global Health, Neuroscience,

Pharmacology and Innovative Therapeutics), and this year's newcomer Biomaterials for Biomedical Sciences, all recruited extremely well.

- **E&D events** - the second LSI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion event took place on 18 October in collaboration with King's College London (KCL). The LSI also sponsored QMUL's participation in the annual WISE Conference that took place on 10 November.