



Senate

Paper Title	Centre for Population Genomic Medicine
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the title: Centre for Population Genomic Medicine
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2015, Professor Simon Gaskell, The VP-Health and Dr Francesca Gliubich, Head of Strategic Development at the time, were interviewed by HEFCE to present a proposal for a new centre, previously approved by QMSE. • In September 2015 The College was officially awarded £5M from HEFCE Catalyst Fund to deliver the Centre for Population Genomic Medicine, a collaborative project between QMUL, KCL and UCL. • This <u>will not be a new administrative or cost Centre</u>. The formal administrative home will be within the Centre for Genomics and Child Health at the Blizard Institute while the management of the Centre will be via the VP Health Office and the Board. • The VP for Health is the Director of the Centre and chairs a Board constituted of 4 members from QMUL, 2 from KCL and 2 from UCL. • As described on the application, the funds were granted to deliver a Centre within the Abernethy building where there would be a clinical area to support the work of East London Genes and Health (ELGH) study, meeting rooms, hot-desking, networking and office space and a data facility with servers and computers to support the initiatives of the Centre and to foster collaborations with other HEIs and companies.
Questions for Senate to consider	<p>In accordance with point 5. of Ordinance A12, Senate are requested to approve the formation of the “Centre for Population Genomic Medicine”</p> <p>This was approved by SEG April 2015.</p>
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Approved by SMD VP Executive and QMSE (13/12/2016)
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Centre for Population Genomic Medicine

Introduction

QMUL was awarded £5M from the *Hefce* Catalyst Fund to deliver the **Centre for Population Genomic Medicine** in September 2015. The Abernethy building in the Whitechapel campus was identified as ideal location.

The Centre for Population Genomic Medicine is a collaborative enterprise between Queen Mary University of London, King's College London and University College London, supporting gene-based experimental medicine studies and novel therapeutic validation. It provides a population-based research and education environment.

The Centre will not be a new administrative or cost Centre. The administrative home will be within the Centre for Genomics and Child Health at the Blizard Institute while the management of the Centre will be via the VP Health Office and the Board.

The VP for Health is the Director of the Centre and chairs a Board constituted with 4 members from QMUL, 2 from KCL and 2 from UCL.

The Vision

The vision for the Centre is to create an outward facing facility to support, promote and deliver genomic advances to Precision Medicine. The Centre will add substantial value to the Whitechapel Campus and more broadly to established Life Science resources in the School and across the South East of England.

The Centre will specifically enable novel genomic-based research and training through the assessment of naturally occurring loss of gene function in humans.

The core resource at present is the East London Genes & Health study. This is one of the world's largest community-based genetic studies, and already the largest cohort study funded by the Wellcome trust. The study aims to improve health among people of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage in East London by analysing the genes and health of 100,000 local people.

Education

The Centre will provide an important opportunity for early and advanced training in the processes for and implementation of experimental and precision medicine to the next generation of clinicians, clinician scientists and bio-medical researchers.

The Centre will seek to address the 'skills' gap in clinical experimental medicine, large data analysis and industry partnership working. We will develop special skills models for undergraduate programmes within the undergraduate MBBS and BSc Bio-Medicine courses, practical (living laboratory) coursework, industry mentoring workshops and an e-health based learning environment in Population Genomic and Precision Medicine. The Centre will host postgraduate students from within and out with QMUL undertaking funded research fellowships (MRC, Research charities) and work across broader Life Science educational programmes, including intercalated BSc and cross discipline PhD studentships funded by QMUL. Crucially, the Centre will support Health Education England in projects related to advancing the UK's capacity in Genomic Medicine.

Public and patient engagement

Located within our Whitechapel Campus, the Centre will improve and extend our current provision for Public and patient engagement activities, with support from such existing facilities as the Centre of the Cell and the proposed Wellcome Trust- funded Neuron pod education facility. Our major NHS partner is Barts Health (BH), whose New Royal London is located within the Campus. It is the largest NHS Trust in England and Wales and, as a single point of access for community, secondary and

tertiary health care, provides a uniquely rich clinical data resource for the local population

The Centre has a large front facing space specifically designed for public engagement activities. This will be used by the ELGH researchers and community workers to continue the very successful engagement program with the local Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, by the Centre of the Cell and QMUL Centre for public engagement as well as LSI Initiative groups.

The Centre will also work closely with Alison Thompson, Lecturer in Public Engagement and Patient Public Involvement to create collaborative projects.

Collaboration with Industry and Academia

The facility will act as a portal to the ELGH recallable population-based bio- resource and enable directed triage of subjects to the UK network of Centers, each with expertise and infrastructure for incisive gene centric experimental medicine studies. Reaching through to South East England Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) capabilities, the Global Medical Excellence Cluster (GMEC), MedCity initiatives and the Innovate UK Precision Medicine Catapult, the Centre will maximize the economic and social benefits of established research units across London, attracting partners working in the health arena worldwide.

The ELGH Project already has direct collaborations with the Universities of Cambridge, Birmingham, Bradford, KCL, UCL, the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, the Francis Crick Institute and Harvard University, USA. Broad support from NIHR Clinical Research infrastructure has also been established with more specific support for detailed immune, neuroscience and metabolic-based phenotyping, through collaboration with the King's /GSTT, UCL/UCLH and Cambridge/Addenbrookes, Bio-Medical Research Centres.

The Centre will proactively work to implement and extend partnership working across the HEI sector, which particularly in the South East of England Cluster of England, will be facilitated by and implemented through our partnership within MedCity.