

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

Science and Engineering South (SES)

We have joined the SES consortium (Imperial, King's, UCL, Southampton, Cambridge and Oxford). This aims to foster collaboration and sharing, particularly around research equipment and research data. It is one of a number of regional groupings that are expected to play an increasingly important role in linking with government and funder strategies which encourage collaboration, sharing and industry engagement.

London International Development Centre (LIDC)

We have also just joined the LIDC, a collaboration between SOAS, the Institute of Education, the Royal Veterinary College, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Birkbeck. This aims to facilitate interdisciplinary research and training to tackle complex problems in international development. It is expected that this will have particular value for applications under the global challenges research fund.

IBM

Partnership work with IBM has continued, with a high-level discussion around Life Sciences in April and a joint seminar and discussions between key researchers from both organisations in May.

EUA

We have joined the European Universities Association, giving us increased contacts across Europe, and a voice in an independent organisation that can influence EU policy pre- and post-Brexit.

New Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) Fund

A new fund for supporting QMUL start-ups is being launched, based on the Enterprise Investment Scheme, which encourages support for early-stage businesses using tax credits. The QMUL scheme is only the 4th in the UK, following from successful launches in Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol. It is expected that the new fund will appeal particularly to alumni as an opportunity to invest directly in QMUL research and innovation.

Researchfish

QMUL achieved a remarkable 100% submission of reports by staff and PGR students across all Research Councils.

REF Status Reviews 2017

Individual meetings with Schools and Institutes have now taken place to assess the status of preparations for the next REF, in combination with the Annual Research and Innovation Reviews. These meetings have been very successful overall, and this has been made possible by the high level and quality of preparatory work by professional services staff and academics.

Research Grants Management System (RGMS)

Phase 1 of the new RGMS has gone fully live for all funders. This successful launch covers the pre-award stage and uses a system called Worktribe, also being implemented at UCL and Imperial. Phase 2, installation of the post-award system, will begin in August 2017. This will integrate with the pre-award system and give grant-holders and others rapid access to grant details and a variety of reporting tools.

Life Sciences

The joint statement of intent with Barts Health NHS Trust (BHT) in January heralded a new phase of Life Sciences, requiring expanded planning and development work and a number of changes to our oversight and governance arrangements that are currently being implemented. A significant amount of work is going on - necessarily behind the scenes at this stage - working with

the Trust, exploring and developing plans with institutional, commercial, charity and other partners and funders, reviewing and undertaking the necessary estates planning steps, and assessing business plans.

The four Life Sciences (LS) research centres have now received funding and are supporting a wide range of activities. The new round of LS PhD studentships have been awarded, bringing the total up to 16; cohort development activities have been set up to foster coherence and sharing. Applications for undergraduate programmes coming under the LS umbrella have been healthy overall. Newer programmes in Global Health, and Pharmacology and Innovative Therapeutics are seeing significant increases in applications. Three QMUL groups were awarded funds under the London-wide MedCity *Collaborate to Innovate* scheme matching HEIs with SMEs. Public engagement work within Life Sciences continues to be strong, notably with the recent Festival of Communities highlighting the success of our local engagement overall. Please see the LS website for further information: <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/lifesciences/>