

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE MARCH 2018

### 1. Undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment

Applications to SMD undergraduate and postgraduate programmes have remained on target, and attention is now focused on confirming offers to prospective students.

### 2. Research

SMD has had considerable success over the last three months in securing prestigious and highly competitive research grants. This includes a £5m CRUK grant to investigate the mechanisms by which aspirin reduces cancer risk, with the aim of establishing the patient group for whom the drug should be prescribed. This research will be led by Prof. Jack Cuzick (Wolfson Institute), who will lead an international collaboration of experts from Harvard, UCL, and Newcastle to identify a new drug which has an equivalent impact on cancer prevention as aspirin, though without the adverse side-effects.

In line with our ambitions to establish QMUL as an internationally leading institution in health data research, SMD were successful in securing a pan-London MRC grant of £7m to establish a foundation site for the new national institute Health Data Research UK. QMUL's Director of the project, Prof. David Van Heel, will lead the SMD research group in building on QMUL's strengths in e-health data research and human genomics, thereby improving the long term health of our local communities, especially diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

SMD's world-leading research into brain tumours was recognised by the UK's politicians in February through a visit by Health Minister Lord O'Shaughnessy, George Freeman MP and Derek Thomas MP. Professor Silvia Marino, Director of the Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence at Queen Mary, presented an overview of her group's research and their focus on glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the most common and most aggressive adult malignant brain tumour. The Department of Health and Social Care used the opportunity to announce that £45 million in funding would be made available for brain tumour researchers by the National Institute for Health Research and Cancer Research UK.

### 3. Athena Swan

The Athena Swan submission for Medicine was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The Institute for Dentistry will be submitting an Athena Swan Silver application in April 2018.

### 4. Malta

SMD will be hosting the GMC in the first week of March whilst they undertake a routine review of the Malta MBBS programme, part of the process for gaining GMC accreditation.

Following the takeover of VGH by Steward Healthcare, building works are now progressing. Recruitment to the Malta MBBS programme have been very encouraging, with an increase in applications at the same point in 2017.

### 5. Dentistry

An interim Dean for the Institute of Dentistry has been identified who will provide firm leadership to ensure the Institute continues to maintain its excellent position in UK league tables. SMD leadership are continuing to identify world-leading dental researchers to appoint to the role on a substantive basis.