

## **Senate Update March 2018: VP Research and Life Sciences Interim Director**

### **REF 2021**

The REF Dry Run is well underway, with outputs, impact case studies and environment statements being sent for external assessment. Results will come in by the end of March and will provide key input to the spring REF progress/Research Review meetings with each School and Institute. Considerable modelling is also underway to help inform optimal submissions. The outcome of these will in turn feed into meetings of the REF Strategy Group reporting to QMSE. The new REF Manager, Iain Coleman, started on March 1<sup>st</sup>; this post will provide key support as our preparations ramp up.

### **Strategic grants**

QMUL have been successful in our bid for a £1m Leverhulme Trust Doctoral Training Centre, which will admit its first cohort in Sept 2018. The programme is directed by Professor Engin Isin and Professor Kimberley Hutchings in The School of Politics and International Relations collaboration with other Schools in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Its focus is the impact of mobility on social and political institutions.

We were also successful with a £4.9m “MedTech Super-Connector” collaborative bid to the HEFCE Connecting Capability Fund (CCF), led by Imperial. Other collaborators include Royal Veterinary College, Institute of Cancer Research, Royal College of Music and others. CCF is a one-off funding stream designed to encourage universities to work together to explore different mechanisms of Knowledge Exchange and research commercialisation.

### **New DVP roles**

In light of the increased emphasis on partnerships and external engagement in a research funding environment driven by the Industrial Strategy and the wider impact agenda, we are recruiting to two new Deputy Vice-Principal (DVP) roles: a DVP Research Impact and a DVP Enterprise. The roles will provide strategic leadership in these important focus areas and report to the Vice-Principal (Research). Appointments are expected to be announced by the end of March.

### **Knowledge Exchange Framework**

Following consultation with key individuals across QMUL, an institutional response to the HEFCE initial call for evidence regarding KEF metrics was submitted on 30th January. Our submission highlighted the importance of ensuring the exercise is not unduly burdensome for submitting institutions or assessors, as well as emphasising the need to improve the ability of external users to access information that can promote partnerships with HEIs.

### **RGMS phase 2**

The project to implement phase two of the new research grant management system has begun – this will cover all post-award matters and will provide fast access to much more information about research grants. Completion is expected in Autumn 2018.

### **Research IT**

With the rapid expansion of IT and data analytics into diverse areas of research, it is essential to plan ahead to enable us to keep up with the research IT infrastructure needed to support this. Work with the IT Research team has developed a five year plan to support key research IT needs, and is feeding this into the wider ITS planning process. Proposals will be discussed

at the next Research Computing Board, which has members representing all key areas and disciplines.

### **Partner prioritisation**

The Business Development team has been working to assess our current research and innovation work with external organisations, with a view to the identification of and support for a number of key strategic partners.

### **EIS fund launched**

QMI has launched the new enterprise investment scheme that plans to raise £1m this year to support QMUL startups; this is planned to bridge a current gap between our Proof of Concept funding and larger-scale later external investment.

### **Research Fish**

The 2018 reporting period for RCUK and a number of other UK funders is open from 5th February 2018 to 15th March 2018. PIs and students who have received funding within the last five years may be asked to report outcomes as a part of their grant terms and conditions. Failure to do so can result in PIs being barred from applying for further funding and/or suspension of current awards and so a high return rate is imperative. We have set an internal deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> March to give us the opportunity to identify/resolve issues and therefore achieve 100% return rate by the external deadline.

### **Open Access compliance**

Institutional-wide reminders (via ebulletin, Connected and email) have been sent from the VP Research to all researchers regarding [QMUL OA Policy](#) requirements. Adherence to this policy is essential to ensure that outputs are eligible for REF2021. Detailed checks of all outputs submitted to the 2018 Dry-Run are being undertaken to ensure compliance with HEFCE policy. Recruitment is also underway for an Open Access Compliance Officer (within Library Services) to help Schools and Institutes monitor outputs in a more proactive manner.

### **Life Sciences**

QMUL, in partnership with IC, King's, UCL and the London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been awarded one of the six national Health Data Research awards. The QMUL team is David van Heel (lead), Carol Dezateux, Sandra Eldridge, John Robson, Mike Barnes, Steffen Petersen and Claude Chelala. The HDR awards in total represent £54m of funding across the UK, and are described as a unique opportunity for scientists, researchers and clinicians to use their collective expertise to transform the health of the population. This research is expected to contribute to and complement work linked with QMUL's membership of the Alan Turing Institute.

After discussions with Philips, two new joint projects are planned in the area of application of artificial intelligence to health – one to predict the risks of breast cancer from analysing mammograms, and another to identify cohorts of patients suitable for clinical trials from electronic medical records.