

Vice Principal Health's report to Senate

May I first of all take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome in my first 6 weeks. My particular thanks to Mike Curtis who has done a superb job as Interim Vice-Principal (Health) and remains Deputy VP for Health. It is clear that there are huge opportunities in the University and the School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) to build on our success and achieve our ambitions.

I believe that we can make a huge difference to the health of the population of East London by delivering excellent education and research. This will require collaboration with all the faculties in QMUL as well as organisations across London and beyond.

Strategy

One of the current priorities is to finalise the work started last summer on the SMD strategy. I have had the opportunity to meet with the Institute Directors, Deans and Executive team. An away day was held to discuss the options. A document showing how SMD will contribute to the QMUL strategy will be produced following further consultation.

Education

We have an excellent suite of undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The student numbers are capped on some of these which limits growth. We are therefore examining the possibilities for diversifying our portfolio following changes to the regulations outlined in the comprehensive spending review. Any growth will be carefully managed to ensure that the high quality of our education is enhanced. We will also position ourselves to maximise any benefits of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). We are continuing to work with the General Medical Council (GMC) regarding developments in Malta.

Research

Preparations for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) are underway following our excellent results in REF2014. We recently submitted an outline proposal for a Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and are preparing a submission for a cancer centre. There have been a number of recent research awards:

- British Heart Foundation Chair; Federica Marelli-Berg
- Medical Research Council (MRC) project; Francesco Dell'Accio
- MRC Newton Fund project; Mauro Perretti
- MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme; Nick Lemoine
- Hawden Trust; Mike Philpott

Collaboration

Collaboration is key for the success of SMD. We have been working with partners such as UCLP, the Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC), Crick, NHS and commercial organisations to achieve our ambitions.

Steve Thornton