

## **Vice-Principal Health's Report to Senate**

### **Strategy**

The aim of the School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) is to improve the health of the population. Our strategy is to do this through providing top quality education and research aligned to the strategy of QMUL. The 5 year strategy has been developed in conjunction with the Executive team and Institute Leads within SMD and finalised following discussion with staff. The published strategy will be available at Senate and published on the website.

### **Education**

There are many opportunities arising from the changes in the education environment. The current strategy is to increase our education portfolio by increasing clinical and non-clinical undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. The changes outlined in the previous comprehensive spending review have led to a number of changes in clinical commissioning and we are currently investigating the opportunities that arise from this. Our current numbers of medical and dental students are capped although our applications have increased. The conversion from offer to conditional firm acceptance has reduced slightly and we are currently working to ensure that we attract the very best students whilst maintaining the core QMUL values.

The General Medical Council (GMC) have requested further information regarding the development of the Medical School in Malta. These questions have been answered and it is anticipated that they will be submitted to the GMC shortly.

### **Research**

An increase in research capacity is anticipated over the next 5 years in accordance with the SMD strategy. The development of Life Sciences at Whitechapel has continued in conjunction with Barts Health Trust and other partner organisations. SMD currently has a biomedical research centre and applications have been invited to apply for renewal. The submission is led by Mark Caulfield and has been shortlisted. A full application is in preparation and an interview anticipated in July this year.

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is about to announce a call for renewals of the CRUK Cancer Centres and an application will be put forward shortly by Barts Cancer Institute (BCI).

Each of the institutes continue to undertake research of the highest quality. There are many individuals within the Institutes who undertake world class research and are leaders in their particular area. One of our researchers, Jack Cuzick, has recently been awarded Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) which is a reflection of the incredible work that he has done.

### **Collaboration**

SMD continues to work very closely with a number of other organisations. The School is part of University College London (UCLP) which brings together higher education and the NHS across North London. A very close working relationship also continues with Barts Health and other Trusts in the North East of London. The provision of health care is currently changing and an accountable care organisation (ACO) will likely deliver health care in the North East of London in a similar manner to DevoManc. Work continues to ensure that SMD links into these developments in order to provide appropriate academic input.

### **PACE Trial**

Following publication of a clinical trial on chronic fatigue syndrome, the University was asked to provide individual patient data following a Freedom of Information request. The Information Commissioner ruled that patient data should be released and this was appealed by QMUL. There was a 3 day court hearing last month and a decision is currently awaited. Senate will be updated if a decision is reached before the meeting. The ruling of the court is important because it could influence national recruitment to clinical trials