

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

1. Research

- New five-year £1.5bn **Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)** to “ensure UK science takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries”; funding rounds underway/planned.
- Government [White Paper](#) - proposed creation of UK Research and Innovation from RCUK plus Innovate UK – will administer REF and distribute QR funding.
- **REF meetings** with all Schools/Institutes held to start to collect information and review plans.
- **Research information** – detailed study of REF income for each UoA for each output, impact case study etc. is being finalised.
- **Research Consultation Group** – newly re-formed with one representative per School/Institute as a forum for discussing research matters.
- New **Research Computing Board** is being formed to monitor research needs.
- **Research Equipment** – a new call for proposals via Faculties will be released in summer.
- **Misuse of social media** by those opposed to research results or topics - call for confidential input to assess possible changes of policy and practice (contact eo-research@qmul.ac.uk).
- **Research Fish** - feedback being sent to RCUK.
- New [Symplectic Elements](#) upgrade. [Open data requirements](#) website.

2. Life Sciences

- Barts Health Trust has submitted their **Strategic Outline Case** on land redevelopment and should move to next stage of detailed discussions in June to finalise development timelines by the end of the year.
- **New Research Centres** replacing domains - Genomic Health, Bioengineering, Mind in Society plus cross-cutting Computational Biology.
- **Wellcome Trust** proposal for five year grant of £2.5m matched by QMUL funding, being submitted mid July to support LS.
- LS supporting **other areas** of work – Digital Health, Microbiome
- Programme of focussed **workshops** bringing clinicians and researchers together, starting June.
- Broadening of **UG and PG programmes** being promoted by Life Sciences in liaison with Schools/SMD.
- QMUL **Festival of Communities** 24th May-4th June.
- **New staff:** Eleanor Groves (Researcher Development), Yasmin Ahmed (Equality and Diversity).
- **Insider perspective on the Wellcome Trust** talks.
- Development of **LS DTP** by new PGR Lead Magda Osman (SBSCS).
- **Workshops** held or in process for computational biology, digital health, microbiome.
- **Recent LS Funding:** small grants, proof of concept, ECR bridging fund, postdoctoral travel grants, digital health, community engagement.
- Coordinated visit by **Costa Rica President** and delegation – CR has major investment in and plans for Life Sciences.