

Paper Title	Proposal for the Institute of Population Health Sciences (IPHS)
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the establishment of the Institute of Population Health Sciences (IPHS), within the Faculty of the School of Medicine and Dentistry
Points for the Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim is to establish a new Faculty Institute (IPHS) comprising a world-class interdisciplinary grouping of academics with expertise in population health sciences • The Institute will foster interdisciplinary working, pulling together expertise across QMUL's faculties to address shared and pressing priorities in health research. • IPHS will be formed by splitting the Centre for Primary Care and Public Health from SMD's Blizard Institute and joining it with the Social and Community Psychiatry Unit; it will build on that Centre's success and expertise in population health sciences. • The Institute will realise new strategic opportunities in the field of population health, maximise both the external and internal visibility of QMUL population health science, realising synergies within SMD and across QMUL faculties. • It will reflect population health's position as a major strand of SMD / QMUL research strategy. It will enhance QMUL's reputation as a centre of research and teaching excellence, delivering QMUL's strategic goals, and academic excellence
Questions for Senate to consider	<p>In accordance with point 5. of Ordinance A12, Senate are requested to approve the formation of the "Institute of Population Health Sciences (IPHS)", a new Faculty Institute within SMD.</p> <p>This was approved by SEG October 2019.</p>
Regulatory/statutory reference points	
Strategy and risk	
Reporting / consideration route for the paper	Senate to approve before publication
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Proposal: Institute of Population Health Sciences (IPHS)

Introduction

The aim is to establish a new Faculty Institute (IPHS) comprising a world-class grouping of academics with expertise in population health sciences.

The research and policy environment around population health has changed dramatically over the last decade, with significantly more investment in addressing this complex area of health than ever before. Over the last twenty years, the University has built up a strong portfolio of population health research and education activity. The Faculty now considers it timely to establish an independent institute that can leverage further funding, consolidate teaching activity, and respond to national workforce demand. It will present a coherent narrative to external stakeholders including funders, policy makers, and commercial organisations. The field of population health is distinct and, in line with Government strategy, will grow markedly over the next 15 years, including the expansion of the workforce in primary care and mental health. The significant expansion of medical student numbers in the Faculty is predicated on Government policy to increase the profile of primary care and mental health with a view to increasing recruitment into these fields.

Although the calibre of existing research is very high, the implementation of an independent institute will permit further growth and will set the institute on a strong trajectory to become a centre of excellence in population health research. Through income generation arising from research funding and education, there is an ambition to grow by attracting emerging and internationally leading experts in this field.

A review of Population Health research within SMD by Professor Greenhalgh (A Population and Public Health Strategy for the School of Medicine and Dentistry) took place in 2014, and in response, a proposal by Professors Eldridge, Griffiths and Priebe for a 'New Institute for Healthcare Interventions' was proposed in 2015. In 2017, The Faculty's Executive Board agreed in principle to the establishment of a new institute dedicated to Population Health. There was consensus that the new Institute for Population Health Studies should comprise separating the Centre for Primary Care and Population Health and the Unit of Social and Community Psychiatry from the Blizzard Institute. This proposal was approved by the Faculty Executive Board in February 2018, and a virtual institute was established in August 2018, with a view of an independent de facto institute recognised by December 2019. This consultation document was approved in October 2018 by the SMD Faculty Executive Board.

QMUL's ambitious new 10 year strategy (Strategy 2030) focusses on excellence in education and research. A key component is the development of cross-faculty University Research Institutes (URIs), addressing innovation in Digital Health, and Global Health and Inequalities. IPHS will bring together a critical mass of researchers and educators to drive greater income, impact and present a coherent message to external funders of QMUL's strengths in this important area in support of the new strategy. Consolidating expertise in this new Faculty Institute is a step towards creation of a parallel University Research Institute of Global Health and Inequality.

The vision

The vision is to establish an Institute (IPHS) comprising a world-class grouping of academics with expertise in population health sciences. The Institute will foster interdisciplinary working, pulling together expertise across QMUL's faculties to address shared and pressing priorities in health research. The Institute will reflect population health's position as a major strand of SMD / QMUL research strategy. It will enhance QMUL's reputation as a centre of research and teaching excellence, delivering QMUL's strategic goals, and academic excellence.

Strategic development

Strategic development reflects QMUL's ambitious ten-year plan. The medium to longer term financial plans are for the institute to grow significantly from its current base position. Income is planned to double by 2023/24 and triple by 29/30, through the expansion of both teaching & research. This will be supported through investment in both resources and infrastructure to enable the planned growth. We will build on existing strengths in the Institute, while responding to demand, opportunities and developments in research, education, NHS and industrial sectors.

The Institute's strategic development goals over the first five years are to:

- a) develop and consolidate international recognition as a centre of excellence in population health research and teaching
- b) consolidate financial sustainability to support strategic expansion

This development will allow QMUL to establish and develop an Institute for Population Health Sciences, similar to those that exist in almost every Russell Group university, including for example, UCL, Imperial College, KCL, Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol and Edinburgh.

Interdisciplinary working

The Institute will continue and expand interdisciplinary work across the University. A core goal of the Institute will be to create an environment where researchers from multiple disciplines can meet, allowing them to share scientific questions and address them through complimentary skills and methodologies. To this end, IPHS will affiliate with Centres, Groups and individuals across faculties in QMUL who have common research or teaching ambitions. The Institute will feed into the new QMUL Global Policy Institute bringing a health element.

Research

The Institute will expand its research programme, including renewing its existing World Health Organization Collaborating Centres in a) Mental Health and b) Women's Health, and its Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research. We will seek to establish an MRC Centre in Mental Health. IPHS will build on the extensive funding success consolidated over the last 18 months, including:

- *Global Health*: £9m from NIHR and MRC streams
- *Genomic Health*: £12m from Wellcome Trust and MRC
- *Health Data Science*: £14.5m from MRC, Health Data Research UK, Barts Charity
- *Population Health*: £13m NIHR and Asthma UK

Intersecting with the Life Sciences Institute

Considerable collaborative potential exists with the aims of IPHS and the LSI to impact on population healthcare. Detailed consideration will to be given to how these two develop, interact and function. Population health forms one of the four key hubs in the Barts Life Sciences initiative, and there plays a strong strategic role in not only developing a robust reputation in this field within the Life Sciences funding space, but provides an effective mechanism for translational capabilities in the local community.

Relationship with industry

The new Institute will develop interactions and partnerships with industry, building on success, for example, within the East London Genes and Health programme and the health data science DISCOVERY project. There are other opportunities in the fields of global health, data science, asthma and infectious disease.

Education and post graduate development

The Institute will train the next generation of high-achieving non-clinical and clinical scientists. IPHS will expand doctoral training through the recently awarded £5.5m Wellcome Trust Data Science Doctoral Training Programme (of note the application presented supervisors from across QM faculties) and pursue career development opportunities through MRC, NIHR and other funding sources. IPHS will appoint an experienced Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) to develop an active postgraduate education programme: the DGS will work alongside the SMD Deputy Dean for Post-Graduate Research and the QMUL Doctoral College.

Knowledge Exchange and Research Impact

The Institute will appoint a lead to monitor and maximise impact, in particular to interact more effectively and realise opportunities in relation to UCL Partners and the NIHR North Thames Applied Research Centre to ensure maximal impact on local and London-wide NHS development. We will build on current success, including the Centre for Women's Health's Knowledge Transfer Network, and the Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research (AUKCAR) Patient and Public Involvement group. We will ensure that patients and the public remain central to the work we do. Our goal is that the general public is actively and meaningfully involved in the development, execution and dissemination of every research project within the Institute.

Values

IPHS work will reflect our mission to deliver the highest standards of research and teaching to benefit wider society; the Institute's working will be anchored on values of public service, equality and diversity, and a strong sense of social justice, reflecting and adhering to QMUL's own core values: <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/strategy/the-strategy/values/index.html>