

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE OCTOBER 2020

Undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment

As of 30th September, enrolments to undergraduate programmes have exceeded target as a result of additional recruitment to the MBBS programme (+ 60 students) and to Malta MBBS programme. This latter has recruited exceptionally well with 102 firm acceptances against a target of 60. Postgraduate recruitment is currently 176 below target, although there are still a significant number of students classified as “cleared to enrol”. In 2019, the Faculty saw significant conversions by mid-October enrolment deadlines, and therefore it is possible that we will see a further uplift in enrolments. PGR enrolment remains strong, with over 500 fully enrolled students.

Athena Swan and EDI

As part of the Government’s policy document on Reducing Bureaucratic Burden in HE, NIHR announced the decoupling of Athena Swan Silver from awards. Nevertheless, the Faculty has restated its commitment to continuing both its project work and its reapplication.

Developments to date include:

- The relaunch of the SMD Academic Women’s Network
- Achievement of gender parity in success rates for promotions to reader and professor level
- Introduction of two pilot policies on Menopause and Fertility Treatment
- Introduction of dedicated workshops and mentoring to support women in applications for Clinical Excellence Awards

NSS

Pharmacology: Overall satisfaction scored 100% with the majority of questions scoring over 80%, which is a major achievement.

Medicine: Overall satisfaction scored 92%, with 8 areas consistently scoring over 90%.

Dentistry: Overall satisfaction scored 77%, representing a 12% decrease on 2019 scores.

Neuroscience: Overall satisfaction scored 75%, although there were a number of improvements in individual question scores in comparison to the 2019 survey, with 7 questions scoring over 90%.

All institutes have been devising and implementing NSS action plans in order to deliver remedial work in specific areas as well as sharing good practice. Faculty priority areas to be addressed are “Assessment and Feedback” and “Organisation and Management”.

Research Awards

SMD research grant awards as of October 2020 were valued at £8.2m. Indicative successes over the last 6 months include:

- “Improving Outcomes Of Psychosis In Pakistan And India - Improving Effectiveness Of Community Care”, NIHR (Bird): £2.7m
- “Establishing Biomarkers In Predicting The Responses To TNF In RA”, Resolomics (Dali): £330k
- “From pathobiology to synovia on chip: driving rheumatoid arthritis to the precision medicine Goal”, EU Horizon 2020 (Pitzalis): £480k
- “Safety of Ixzomid targeting plasma cells in MS study SIZOMUS”, Takeda (Gnanapavan): £500k

DHSC Pan-London Covid Testing Alliance

QM has signed a £3m deal with the DHSC as part of the MedCity Pan-London Testing Alliance. Led by Professor Mauro Perretti (SMD Dean for Research) and Dr Belinda Nedjai (Wolfson Institute), QM will provide testing provision for the DHSC in order to assist the Government in meeting its testing targets. From December 2020, QM will undertake 500 tests per day reaching maximum capacity of 3000 tests per day by March 2021.