



Senate

Paper Title	Proposal for Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH)
Outcome requested	<p>Senate is asked to approve the following title for the newly formed Institute. This is subject to ongoing discussions with the Wolfson Foundation regarding the reuse of their name:</p> <p>Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH);</p> <p>and the following centre titles:</p> <p>Centre for Public Health and Policy Centre for Primary Care Centre for Prevention, Detection and Diagnosis Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health Centre for Evaluation and Methods</p>
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<p>We have undertaken a formal consultation on a proposal to merge the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine and the Institute of Population Health Sciences. The new Institute will draw together strengths in population health research and education into a new structure that will enable greater strategic focus. The new Institute will also present a more coherent external understanding of the University's strengths in this domain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Institute will enable development of new opportunities for research income generation and growth of the education portfolio;• The Institute's priorities will include the creation of five new centres to enhance the scope for generating health impacts for local populations;• This initiative involves combining the two existing Institute budgets and restructuring the core administrative teams;• An additional core funded administrative post will be requested to support the development of new education courses as well as the delivery of existing programmes.
Questions for Senate to consider	<p>In accordance with point 5. of Ordinance A12, Senate are requested to approve the formation of the "Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH)", the administrative home of which will be within the School of Medicine and Dentistry.</p> <p>The proposal was approved for consultation by SET in February 2021.</p>
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A

Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/ consideration route for the paper	Senate to approve before publication.
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Sponsor	Professor Steve Thornton, VP Health, SMD

Wolfson Institute of Population Health

Introduction

The School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) has consulted on a proposal to merge the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine (WIPM) and the Institute of Population Health Sciences (IPHS) to create a new Institute, the Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH). This builds on ambitions which were included in the proposal to create the IPHS in 2019.

The WIPM and the IPHS cover cognate areas and are already engaged in collaborative activities. Merging the two Institutes will bring a range of benefits including maximising a broad research and education potential, improved financial sustainability, maximising opportunities for generating health impacts in local populations, enabling additional income generation, and improved internal and mainly external engagement as a result of a coherent offer.

Both Institutes have made major interventions in the UK health policy landscape. The IPHS has, for example, made a significant contribution to respiratory health and Vitamin D supplementation. The Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research (AUK CAR) works jointly with the MRC-AUK Asthma Mechanisms Centre, to provide a globally unique translational approach, applying findings from discovery science to clinical care and population health. Research has provided the first evidence for the extra-skeletal benefits of vitamin D supplementation to reduce the risk of respiratory infection, asthma attacks and hospitalisation. Cognate public health policy research within the WIPM includes the Department of Health-commissioned report on the effects of passive smoking, which led to legislation banning smoking in public places, as well as world-leading research into the safety and effects of e-cigarettes which has fed into NICE guidance on harm reduction and UK regulation of e-cigarette products. This work enabled the UK stop smoking services to open up to e-cigarette use and contributed to Public Health England's inclusion of e-cigarette in the latest national Stoptober campaign and is a key influence on e-cigarette research and regulation globally.

The Institutes deliver a range of education offerings, focussing on key areas such as psychiatry, mental health, preventive medicine and global public health. The merger will enhance opportunities to develop this portfolio.

The Institute will be led by Professor Fiona Walter, who is a world leader in the field of Primary Care Cancer Research.

Rationale

The merger will create an Institute of comparable size to the other five SMD Institutes, resulting in increased resilience and improved capacity to withstand and benefit from changes, external pressures and opportunities compared to two smaller organisational units. Furthermore, the increase in critical mass will better place the Institute to respond to opportunities by mobilising increased shared resource. There are a number of examples where the two Institutes already share resource to good effect, including a shared Research Manager and Institute Manager. Establishing a shared infrastructure will offer opportunities for further resource sharing and economies of scale.

The present structure allows silos to persist, with structural separation between academics working in similar areas. Removing the structural silos will promote closer working of those active in common or complementary areas. It is anticipated that this improved approach to collaboration across the population health science arena will open up new opportunities to access funding and improve the quality and quantity of proposals submitted. This in turn should result in improved outputs and generate further impact, alongside opportunities to build on and expand the education portfolios.

This will be facilitated by improved external engagement and relationships, with all activity brought under the Wolfson name, which benefits from an excellent global reputation. Importantly, from an external standpoint, having Queen Mary's population health expertise spread across multiple organisational units appears incoherent and presents barriers to engagement. The increasing international focus on "Public Health" provides an opportunity for global engagement and partnerships opportunities, where there is focused demand for collaboration.

The creation of unified strategic approaches to areas within population health will foster relationships with external partners and facilitate engagement not only with funders but with key stakeholders such as NHS Trusts, Community Health and Social Care.

The Vision

QMUL's Strategy 2030 focuses on excellence in education and research. The Institute will bring together researchers and educators active in the field of population health and preventive medicine to present a more coherent external understanding of the University's strengths in this domain, and will demonstrate to funding, Government, national and global health bodies the commitment by Queen Mary to develop clinical and clinically-informed policy responses to the prevention agenda in public health.

The Institute's strategic aims over the next five years are:

- To enhance the recognition of the two existing institutes as a composite centre of excellence for the study and advancement of preventive medicine, primary care and public health at a local and global level;
- Provision of an intellectually stimulating and diverse environment for the development of talented staff and high-quality training of postgraduate students;
- To provide the highest calibre education in population health and preventive medicine;
- Achieving the highest impact from our research through developing and implementing public health policy and strategies and changing medical practice.

It is proposed that the new Institute is named the Wolfson Institute of Population Health, subject to ongoing discussions with the Wolfson Foundation about a reuse of their name. The Institute will comprise of five centres:

- Centre for Public Health and Policy
- Centre for Primary Care
- Centre for Prevention, Detection and Diagnosis
- Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health
- Centre for Evaluation and Methods

A core goal of the Institute will be to create an environment where researchers and educators from multiple disciplines can meet, allowing them to share ideas and develop them through complimentary skills and methodologies. To this end, the Institute 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. We have identified joint research and teaching activities across the faculties. More will be forged.