

## Senate Update May 2018: VP Research

### REF 2021

The annual REF and Research Review meetings with all Schools and Institutes are progressing well. These rely heavily on the considerable amount of work done by academic and professional services staff in collating, preparing and assessing all aspects of the potential submission, and our thanks are due to them for this. Feedback and actions from each meeting are being provided, and a summary of the university-wide position will go to QMSE and the REF Strategy Group in July.

Staff are reminded of the open access requirements for outputs to qualify for submission to REF2021 – please see the [QMUL OA Policy](#) requirements. Detailed checks of all outputs submitted to the 2018 Dry-Run are being undertaken to ensure compliance with HEFCE policy.

### New DVP roles

We are pleased to announce the appointment of the following two Deputy Vice-Principals from June 1st 2018: Professor Kavita Datta as DVP Research (Impact) and Professor David Lee as DVP Research (Enterprise). Kavita Datta is Professor of Developmental Geography, and her research focuses on transnational migration, financialisation and migrants' financial practices. She is Director of the Centre for the Study of Migration at Queen Mary. Her work was underpinning research for two impact case studies in the 2014 REF. David Lee is Professor of Cell and Tissue Engineering. His research is interdisciplinary and crosses materials science, bioengineering and medicine. He is currently Dean for Research in Science and Engineering, and prior to this was Head of the School of Engineering and Materials Science. These two new positions are explicitly designed to enhance our ability to compete for the range of new funding schemes connected with significantly increased government spending on R+D as well as from the REF, and the success of these roles will be measured in these terms.

### Life Sciences

Congratulations to Panos Deloukas, Dean for Life Sciences, on being elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. Panos is playing a leading role in preparing a large joint funding bid with Barts Health Trust, around precision medicine, focusing on health informatics, digital health, imaging and multi-omics, with the aim to advance precision screening in key disease areas. This is intended to fund major new activity from 2019. A life sciences symposium will be held in autumn to showcase the work of the four [LSI research centres](#). In education, the third annual open day has been held, plus a new joint taster day, email campaigns and a new life science programme prospectus has been produced. Construction of the [neuron pod](#) has started, to address demand from schools and local people and encourage more young people study life sciences at university. Finally, the Life Sciences Image Awards shortlist will be touring various Queen Mary events until the award ceremony on Tuesday 26th June.

### Ideas unwrapped

This year's Ideas Unwrapped event was a great success, highlighting some of the outstanding research going on across the university, with a very high level of participation and appreciation from all staff. Many thanks to all the contributors for taking the time to prepare and present their work, and special thanks to the Events staff – Beth Prescott and her team in particular – for ensuring that this year's proceedings ran so well. Expansion plans are afoot for 2019.

## **Network**

A two-day conference on creative economy networks: research, policy and exchange, was held over May/June as part of the launch event programme for [Network](#) – the QMUL Centre for the Creative and Cultural Economy. Network builds on Queen Mary's leadership of Creativeworks London, our engagement with London Creative and Digital Fusion, and on research activities in EECS, CCLS, Geography, English and Drama, Business and Management, and People's Palace Projects. Partners from these established networks are participating in a range of NETWORK projects, workshops, and collaborations.

## **LHCRE**

The first successful Local Health and Care Record Exemplars (LHCREs) have been announced, and Queen Mary is part of the One London proposal that will receive up to £7.5m over the next two years. This new partnership will significantly improve the sharing of health and care data between councils and the NHS across London, supporting effective clinical decision-making and improving patient outcomes.

## **Alan Turing Institute (ATI)**

Queen Mary's recent membership of the ATI provides major new opportunities for research and development partnerships with other universities, businesses and a range of other organisations, across all our Faculties. A Town Hall discussion meeting with Sir Alan Wilson, the ATI CEO, was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May with excellent attendance. Nominations for Queen Mary Turing Fellows are being assessed; these positions will play a key role in fostering interactions. Queen Mary's work with the ATI will be coordinated by the new cross-Faculty Institute for Applied data Sciences, led by Prof. Michael Farber from the School of Mathematical Sciences.

## **Global Challenges Research Fund**

A proportion of the annual QR block grant allocation received by HEIs has been ring-fenced to support Global Challenges Research Fund objectives and other ODA compliant research activities. HEIs were required to submit three-year strategies to HEFCE in late March 2018 detailing plans for allocating these funds, and QMUL's submission has recently been approved. Two new GCRF research support schemes have been established as part of the strategy: a QMUL-GCRF Visiting Policymakers Scheme, to support short-term incoming visits from policymakers from DAC-listed countries and, a QMUL-GCRF Networking Grants fund, to enable a few large-scale networking events per annum to support sustainable collaboration between institutions/organisations in developing countries and QMUL researchers. These schemes will be coordinated by VP International Office in collaboration with VP Research Office; further details will be circulated in due course.

## **Research Fish**

QMUL achieved a 99.7% compliance rate for submission of Researchfish reports by staff and 100% compliance for PGR students across all Research Councils during the March 2018 reporting period. This compares to national compliance figures of 98.5% for researchers and 83.9% for PGR students. Many thanks to all who have completed this.