

## Brand new email system to improve working life

A brand new email system is likely to be introduced by the end of the year to make life much easier for students and staff. The IoP had a well-established IT service before it became part of King's College London and therefore, until now, has run its own email completely independently of the College system.

'Discussions with King's Information Services and Systems (ISS) department last year revealed a shared view that the current College email system could be improved to cater for the emerging needs of mobile workers and collaborating groups. Therefore it was decided to follow a path that would lead to an overall improvement in the level and quality of services for the IoP as well as the College,' said Mick Brammer who chairs the IoP ISS Committee.

IT specialists from both the IoP and King's College London ISS and Management Information Systems departments are joining together to implement a pilot state-of-the-art email system at the IoP which could potentially be rolled out across the College. The joint IoP/College project will introduce a completely

new system using Microsoft Outlook 2003 and Microsoft Exchange Server 2003.

If all goes to plan, everyone at the IoP will get the new email system by Easter, retaining existing email addresses. If the system proves successful, the College's servers will become host, allowing the possibility for the system to be upgraded in other parts of the College. At this stage, email addresses at the IoP would be reviewed.

'One potential benefit of this review is that it should simplify the number of accounts needed to access crucial parts of the College system. This will make working life more efficient, particularly for students, who at the moment need a King's email account in addition to their IoP account to access College services,' said Mick.

A joint Project Board will be meeting throughout the year to oversee strategic issues and a joint Project Team will implement decisions. For more information, contact Mick Brammer ([m.brammer@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:m.brammer@iop.kcl.ac.uk)), Charlie Sharp ([c.sharp@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:c.sharp@iop.kcl.ac.uk)) or Sue Colwell ([sue.colwell@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:sue.colwell@iop.kcl.ac.uk)).

## Next phase of refurbishment work in main building

The first part of the next phase of refurbishment of the main IoP building started on January 16. The first floor East Wing was blocked off with hoardings and handed over to contractors Wallis Construction who will now have sole occupancy of the whole wing until work is completed mid-April.

The area is now temporarily out of bounds to staff who cannot use stairs and lifts in the East Wing until the work is finished – or walk through to the South Wing. The emergency escape door from the South Wing has been temporarily converted into a normal entry/exit door for visitors and staff while building works continue.

A small number of rooms in the south end of the West Wing on the first and second floors are being redecorated during this first phase of work but will not be out of action for the whole 12 weeks.

From May, contractors will start on the main part of the Science Research Infrastructure Fund (SRIF) funded works – refurbishment of parts of the first, second and third floors and the upgrading of the main lifts in the central core of the building. This work is due to be complete by Christmas 2006. Staff and students will be decanted, either temporarily or permanently, after Easter to make way for the contractors.

- Email [raghbir.nagra@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:raghbir.nagra@kcl.ac.uk) with queries or problems.

**And...** Seminar Room 4 is being enlarged and refurbished during the second phase of the work and is likely to be unavailable for up to six weeks. It will remain in use during the first phase of work, from January to April, but may be noisy. Seminar Room 5 has temporarily moved to the seventh floor where it will remain until December. Seminar Room 6 will be based in Seminar Room 5 on the first floor of the main block until Easter, when it will then move to Room E16. Seminar Rooms 1, 2 and 3 will remain where they are throughout the work, though the capacity of Seminar Room 3 will be reduced while Seminar Room 4 is enlarged.

## WHAT'S ON...

A new art exhibition at the SGDP Centre aims to stimulate discussion between families affected by autism, scientists, clinicians and teachers. *Art and Autism* features artwork by David Braunsberg, Peter Myers, Zoe Kakolyris and Laurie Mahon as well as artwork by students of various special needs schools. Organised by the Centre for Autism and Related Disorders here at the IoP with the support of the Medical Research Council, the exhibition opens on Tuesday 7 February. For more information, email [e.loth@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:e.loth@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## Publicising work of IoP

Would the press and public be interested in finding out about your research project? If you've got a newsworthy story, contact Camilla Saunders, the IoP's newly appointed public relations officer. Camilla is working three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) and intends to promote the work of the IoP to both the national and local press. She has 14 years' worth of PR experience, previously working in both the private and public sector. Contact her on ext 0438 or on [camilla.saunders@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:camilla.saunders@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## Centre for Cellular Basis of Behaviour water delay

The doors of the new Centre for the Cellular Basis of Behaviour will now not open until Easter. The delay of the opening, originally scheduled for January, is due to tardy connection to the mains water supply: Thames Water and its contractors did not manage to get the taps running until January. Everything else in the newly built Centre had been ready for an early New Year launch.

## Alfred Meyer Prize for Neuropsychiatry

A new prize is being launched by the Psychiatry Research Trust. The first *Alfred Meyer Prize in Neuropsychiatry* will be awarded for the best essay incorporating substantial original work or a detailed review of recent advances in clinical research or practice in neuropsychiatry.

The biennial prize of £1,000 has been made possible by a legacy from Dr Nina Meyer to commemorate the life and work of her late husband, Professor Alfred Meyer.

Staff working for the IoP and SLAM (up to and including senior lecturer or consultant) are invited to submit unpublished reviews or original scientific work which may have been published in the last year. The deadline for submissions is 31 March 2006. To find out more, contact Lesley Pease on 020-7703 6217, or ext 0107 at the IoP.

## Review of Neuroscience

Recommendations for the future of Neuroscience at both the IoP and elsewhere in King's College London were being published at the time of going to press. They are contained in the College-commissioned *External Review of Neuroscience at King's College London*, carried out by Professors Chris Kennard, Hugh Perry and Ray Hill. The review looks at the scope for improving collaboration.

## Robin Murray shortlisted for Great Briton award

Robin Murray, professor of psychiatry and head of psychological medicine at the IoP, has been shortlisted for the *Morgan Stanley Great Britons 2005 Awards*, run in conjunction with The Daily Telegraph and Commission for Racial Equality. He is one of three shortlisted candidates in the *Science and Innovation* category in recognition of his work in improving treatment of psychotic illnesses, particularly schizophrenia.

The public are asked to nominate for seven categories: *Arts, Business, Campaigning, Creative Industries, Public Life, Science and Innovation* and *Sport*. The 21-strong shortlist (three in each category) was chosen from thousands of nominations in November. The category winners were due to be announced at an awards dinner on Thursday 26 January at the Guildhall when one of the seven winners was also to be named *The Great Briton 2005*.

Last year, inventor of the world wide web Sir Tim Berners-Lee became *Great Briton of 2004* after

## Education Support Team's January launch

The new Education Support Team is up and running: staff moved into new posts in the new structure on 9 January. On the same day, Registry ceased to exist – its responsibilities and role are now embraced by the new team along with support for students and staff on taught programmes, previously offered by different departments.

'A service specification will be developed for the team alongside a business plan to ensure learning and teaching support is properly resourced,' said Karen Langridge, project manager, Learning and Teaching Support.

'The team will focus on improving communications and this will be achieved through updated information on the website, representation at meetings, regular team briefings and regular updates on what we plan to do and how we intend to achieve it,' she said.

In addition, staff from the College Student Welfare Office will set up a service early this year for all students based at the IoP.

Following the re-organisation of support for learning and teaching, some staff chose to take voluntary severance. There are still some vacant posts in the new Education Support Team and these were being advertised at the time of going to press.

- For more information about the new Education Support Team, contact Karen Langridge on ext 0812 or at [k.langridge@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:k.langridge@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

winning the *Science and Innovation* category. Other category winners of 2004 included author Philip Pullman, fashion designer Paul Smith and double Olympic gold winner Dame Kelly Holmes.

This year's shortlist includes Abigail Witchalls, the young mother stabbed and left partially paralysed, Ellen MacArthur, who broke the record for a single-handed circumnavigation of the world, Dr Gareth Davies, the medical director of the Helicopter Emergency Service for the response to the July 7 bombings, artist Lucian Freud, actor Ian McKellen, TV chef and school dinners campaigner Jamie Oliver and founder of Carphone Warehouse Charles Dunstone.

In the *Science and Innovation* category, Robin's fellow shortlisted candidates are Professor Fred Sanger, the biochemist who developed the chain termination method of DNA sequencing and Robert Edwards, the physiologist and pioneer in reproductive medicine and in-vitro fertilisation.

## Survey results to inform funding for research

A Department of Health-commissioned survey of people who use mental health services, their families and carers, is being carried out by The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (SCMH) to inform government funding of mental health research over the next decade. Academics and mental health professionals will also be asked for their views at a later stage.

The first step in the nationwide consultation exercise is a questionnaire for users of services, their carers and families, which has been distributed across the country and online. In addition, SCMH is carrying out a series of interviews and focus groups with people who use mental health services. The aim is to find out what research is needed to enable services to meet the needs and aspirations of those who use them.

- For more information, email [chris.naylor@scmh.org.uk](mailto:chris.naylor@scmh.org.uk).

## New head of Addiction Biology

Professor Gunter Schumann is the new head of the Section of Addiction Biology. He comes to the IoP from the Central Institute of Mental Health and the University of Heidelberg in Germany. The Section of Addiction Biology, part of Psychological Medicine but based at the SGDP Centre, is looking for genes associated with substance use disorders.

## WHAT'S ON...

The 18th Aubrey Lewis Lecture will be given by Professor Nikolas Rose from the London School of Economics on Thursday 2 February at 5.30pm. *Disorders Without Borders: the expanding scope of psychiatric practice* is the title of the lecture which takes place in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre. Admission is free without a ticket. For more information, email [Hilary.Payne@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Hilary.Payne@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## Sample jobs evaluated to inform pay changes

Thirty-two jobs from the IoP – including some from the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health – are to be evaluated as part of the planning of King's College London's Pay and Modernisation Programme. In all, a sample 239 job roles across the College are to be evaluated from now until Easter.

The evaluation of a 'benchmark sample' of job roles will inform the development of a new grading structure as part of the implementation of the Higher Education Role Analysis job evaluation scheme which was adopted by the College after it tested three different options. The introduction of a single job evaluation scheme is a key element of the National Framework Agreement, developed in partnership with employers' and trade unions' representatives under the remit of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff. The Agreement 'recognises the need to modernise pay arrangements in the sector to improve recruitment and retention, to ensure equal pay for work of equal value, to tackle problems of low pay, to recognise and reward the contribution which individuals make and to underpin opportunities for career and organisational development.'

The College is working with the recognised trade unions to take the National Framework Agreement forward under its Pay and Modernisation Programme. To find out more, visit [www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/pertra/paymod](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/pertra/paymod). Email any queries to [pay-modernisation@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:pay-modernisation@kcl.ac.uk), or talk to your local trade union representative or the IoP HR team.

## Help PsychPop help you recruit healthy volunteers

If you want to use the new database *PsychPop* to find healthy control volunteers for your research, you need to submit five participants from your previous studies. That's the way organisers of the new Psychiatry Research Trust-funded project have decided to 'seed' *PsychPop*.

The idea is that in future, *PsychPop* will be a single point of contact for potential control participants who wish to register their details – and for researchers who need to recruit for studies.

'The easiest way for researchers to get involved and help us start to build the database is to contact previous participants and ask them to visit [www.psychpop.net](http://www.psychpop.net) and press the "join us" button,' said Paul Wicks from the *PsychPop* team. 'There's a space to say where participants heard about *PsychPop* and they need to put in the name

of the referring researcher. We will then send the participant more information and a questionnaire.'

As soon as 100 people have signed up to *PsychPop* it will be 'live' and researchers will be able to email their requests, said Paul.

The pilot website also contains news about the project, information about studies participants might be asked to join and 'frequently asked questions' about taking part in research.

The *PsychPop* team also wants to hear from people interested in maintaining and updating the database. 'We need to recruit a small number of database administrators to run things,' said Paul. 'It will be very flexible and take just a few hours a week. Administrators will receive training and hourly pay.'

• If you're interested, email [p.wicks@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:p.wicks@iop.kcl.ac.uk) with *PsychPop Administrator* as the subject.

## College's strategy for the future will herald changes

Plans to transform King's College London into one of the world's leading universities will be agreed in March. That's when the Academic Board and Council will be discussing a Strategic Plan which will include proposals that can be implemented within the next three years to strengthen the College's position in an ever-competitive market.

Following principal Rick Trainor's 'Green Paper' last July, seven working groups have been coming up with ideas for the future. Many of their proposals to date are included in a progress report published by the principal in December. Another update is due at the end of this month: all the principal's papers can be accessed by visiting his pages at [www.kcl.ac.uk](http://www.kcl.ac.uk).

Proposals so far include:

- providing laptops and a bespoke King's information system for all students – and possibly staff – with the backing of external finance. The idea is that the laptops would help attract students and enhance teaching and learning;
- emphasising teaching quality in the criteria for academic promotion;

- improving accommodation, workspace and leisure facilities for students;
- optimising the College's performance in the 2007/8 Research Assessment Exercise;
- giving increased resources to commercialisation and other types of knowledge transfer activities which would help boost income;
- introducing more campus-wide administration services;
- creating a better external image and improving internal communication;
- attracting more overseas students and creating more links with universities around the world;
- periodically reviewing academic programmes to weigh their ability to attract students against their strategic academic importance;
- investing in fund-raising activities.

If you've got an opinion about any of the proposals, email your views to [joanna.hoffman@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:joanna.hoffman@kcl.ac.uk) by 20 February.

## WHAT'S ON...

Rick Trainor will be visiting the IoP on Tuesday 7 February for a Principal's Fora in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre between 1pm and 2pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Successful moves into two new specialist Centres

The new Psychosis Centre opened for business straight after the festive break. Refurbished floors five, six and seven of the main building are now home to 194 people whose workstations were moved over Christmas.

And refurbished floor four is now the new base for 25 staff belonging to the MRC Centre for Neurodegeneration Research who were moved at the same time.

'The move into the Psychosis Centre went very smoothly,' said Laura Flynn, divisional manager in Psychological Medicine. 'We'd like to say a big thank you to all the teams responsible for moving people from different parts of the campus.'

'We also had a very successful move,' said Melina Carapeti-Marootian, manager for the MRC

Centre for Neurodegeneration Research. At the time of going to press, large laboratory equipment was being moved into the Centre's new fourth floor premises.

The new occupants of floors five to seven are as follows:

- *Floor 5:* Section of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry; Section of General Hospital Psychiatry; Section of Neurochemical Imaging and Psychiatry; Administration; meeting rooms.
- *Floor 6:* Section of Neuroimaging; Section of Brain Maturation; Section of Cognitive Neuropsychiatry; testing rooms.
- *Floor 7:* Section of Perinatal Psychiatry; Section of Neurobiology of Psychosis; Psychological Treatments Research; Neuroscience and Emotion.

## Is it right to close the Maudsley's walk-in clinic?

South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLaM) is currently consulting about the future of mental health crisis care services in Lambeth and Southwark. The main plank of the consultation – which ends on 17 March – is a proposal to turn the walk-in Emergency Clinic at the Maudsley into a five-bed Clinical Decisions Unit for people with complex mental health needs. The Unit would provide back up to specialist mental health teams in the Accident and Emergency departments at King's College Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital.

The Emergency Clinic's '136 suite', for people brought in by the police under section 136 of the Mental Health Act, is being relocated to a ward at the Maudsley in March.

The consultation follows a review of crisis services provided by SLaM and you can access the findings of the review and proposed changes to services by visiting [www.slam.nhs.uk](http://www.slam.nhs.uk).

Comments on the recommendations should be sent by email marked *Crisis Care Consultation* to [jane.courtney@slam.nhs.uk](mailto:jane.courtney@slam.nhs.uk).

## 'Radical but realistic' vision for the future

The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (SCMH) is one of four organisations responsible for *The Future of Mental Health: A Vision for 2015* which sets out a 'radical but realistic' agenda for the next decade.

It calls for the promotion of mental wellbeing in all schools, recognised 'wellbeing workplaces', and routine availability of talking therapies for people who need them. People with severe mental health problems should have their own budgets to spend on the services they want, including an alternative to hospital admission and an 'associate' to help them manage their lives, it says.

The paper is published jointly by SCMH, the Association of Directors of Social Services, the Local Government Association and the NHS Confederation.

To download a free copy of the paper, visit [www.scmh.org.uk](http://www.scmh.org.uk). Hard copies can be purchased online for £5 from SCMH's publications section. **And...** SCMH has a new website with a new design, clearer layout and improved search facilities. The site includes more information on the Centre's work, more links and more about policy developments.

## Donation boosts search for Alzheimer's blood test

The quest for a blood test to confirm a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease has been boosted by a donation from a relative of a participant in research. Money raised by Bill Begg in a sponsored swim has paid for new equipment which has speeded up the work of researchers in the Section of Old Age Psychiatry.

Two new extra large tanks for immunoblotting mean researchers can examine around 120 blood samples in two days compared to 40 samples with tanks previously used. They are checking for proteins which they believe indicate Alzheimer's in a research study funded by the Alzheimer's Research Trust. 'The real joy for us is that this equipment was provided by someone who was already engaged in our research thanks to both his kindness and that of his friends and family who sponsored him,' said Simon Lovestone, professor of old age psychiatry. 'We are deeply appreciative.'

## Art helps science be more accessible

Eleven volunteers from the SGDP Centre joined MRC-funded scientist turned artist Lizzie Burns on visits to five nearby primary schools to run workshops with some 500 seven to 11-year-olds.

The artwork produced at the workshops was put on display in the SGDP Centre's atrium as part of *Art of the Brain*, an exhibition which ended earlier this month. And the young artists, their parents and teachers were invited to see their work on show at a pre-Christmas event which included a question and answer session to give adult guests the opportunity to find out about the work of the Centre.

Parent Jane Price, one of about 100 people who attended, said: 'I feel the world of science is often remote and uses a language that is not widely understood. The addition of art, I believe, created a completely unique event. I enjoyed the artwork and hearing scientists talk about their work.'

## Here at the IoP: The Christmas Grand Round

By Carmine Pariante, organiser of the Christmas Grand Round.

Staff and students were terrorised by clips of Hitchcock's movies – and then laughed at *Frasier*, both shown during the Christmas Grand Round on 16 December.

A panel of experts debated the issue *Psychiatrists in the Movies*. Are they helpful? Are they dangerous? Are they real? Or do they simply represent the public perception of psychiatrists?

Guest speaker Carole Jahme, a writer, comedienne and producer with an interest in psychology, showed clips from Hitchcock's *Spellbound* and *Marnie*. We see psychiatrists who fall in love with their patients... and also those who are positive therapists... who change and save their patients simply by

talking to them. This was further discussed by Raj Persaud. Until the 1960s, when psychiatry was identified with psychoanalysis, movies were full of psychiatrists who could understand all problems of troubled minds – even the disturbed behaviour of Norman Bates in *Psycho*. But today, when psychiatry is based on evidence and on biology, movies are full of powerless psychiatrists who just dispense tablets and are unable to help – as in Mamet's *House of Games*.

Of course there are exceptions. Declan McLoughlin discussed Litvak's *The Snakepit*, a 1948 movie that was one of the first realistic Hollywood portrayals of severe mental illness and state psychiatric hospitals.

And what about TV? One of today's most popular comedy

shows is about a psychiatrist, *Frasier*. But is this a good thing? Simon Wessely argued that Frasier and his brother Niles, both psychiatrists, are portrayed as neurotic, out of touch with normal life and generally incompetent. Where did it all start to go wrong?

Maybe we should try something new... like Jose Mourinho who, according to George Szukler, is setting up a new therapeutic community within the Chelsea Team. If this proves successful, other community mental health teams may follow the example!

A final note of caution: Paul Fearon showed classified information from the FBI, suggesting that Hannibal Lecter has escaped to London, has grown a moustache and is disguised as a senior academic at the IoP!