

## IOP and SLAM win new Research Centre status

One of 11 new Biomedical Research Centres is to be based at the IoP and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM). The Centres are being created by the National Institute for Health Research and are all located within NHS and university partnerships. Each will receive a share of £450 million over the next five years, starting in April, to fund 'translational research' that will help patients benefit more quickly from new scientific breakthroughs.

The Centres were selected through open competition: last year NHS and academic partners were invited to apply for Biomedical Research Centre status and the successful 11 bids were chosen by an independent panel of international experts.

The IoP (King's College London)/SLAM partnership is to be a 'specialist' Biomedical Research Centre in Mental Health: the Centre's work will be directed by Professor Simon Lovestone.

Other specialist Centres will focus on paediatric/child health, ophthalmology, ageing, microbial diseases and cancer. There are also five 'comprehensive' Centres which will work across a range of research areas: one of these is located in the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London partnership.

The brief for all 11 Centres is, according to the Department of Health, to 'take advances out of the laboratory and into the hospital clinic,' and 'to drive the development, testing and uptake of new and better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat ill-health.'

The amount of money awarded to each Centre has been determined by the scale and nature of the research it conducts and the anticipated impact of that work.

## Return of deans' portraits

Sixteen portraits of past deans and former professors are back on the walls of the lower mezzanine floor in the main building: they were taken down a year ago to make way for an art exhibition and have now been rehung professionally in date order. There are plans to display information about both the academic and the artist next to each one, and to create a catalogue of all portraits on display in IoP buildings. To tie in with this, Professor Ludmilla Jordanova from the Department of History at King's College London, and author of a book about medical and scientific portraits, has offered to give a talk at the IoP later this year.

## New year... new dean by Professor Peter McGuffin

I am delighted to be writing this message for *Viewpoint* as one of my first actions in my new role as dean. I arrived at the Institute of Psychiatry at the Maudsley as a twenty-something SHO in April 1977, fulfilling an ambition that I had had since my medical student days, although never dreaming that nearly 30 years later I would become dean and head of School. It is of course an extraordinary privilege to become the head of such a prestigious and successful organisation, and I'm looking forward greatly to the next three years. However, these are also times of challenge and change in the higher education sector, particularly in health and medical schools, and my looking forward is not entirely un-tinged by trepidation. Interestingly I have found that some colleagues, family and friends have similar feelings on my behalf. Over the Christmas holidays, for example, I had a lunch date with an aunt, a retired maths teacher, and her daughter, who heads a university maths department. 'We're very proud of you,' said my aunt, bringing up the topic of my new post. 'Oh dear!' said my cousin, the seasoned academic, who until then had not heard the news.

So what is it that might give such an academic pause for thought on the role of dean? One of the most pressing challenges throughout the higher education sector in the immediate future is the next research assessment exercise, RAE 2008, for which we need to complete our submission before the end of 2007. The Institute has done exceptionally well out of the RAE system in the past, obtaining the maximum five-star rating in the last two exercises. However, for the coming RAE, the rules and scoring system have changed quite markedly. Even more worrying, the formula for funding following the outcome of RAE 2008 has yet to be announced, making forward financial planning difficult. What has been announced by the government however, is that RAE 2008 is to be the last ever such exercise, and that from around 2010 onwards, a 'metrics based' system of assessment will be phased in for medicine and the sciences, based on grant income, research studentships and bibliometrics. We therefore need to be already planning ahead for this change while making sure we have the best possible outcome in RAE 2008 which, whatever the short-term funding implications, is likely to have a very long-term effect on reputation.

Another major change affects the way that research and development funding is allocated within the NHS. This presents both challenges and opportunities: the recent award to the partnership between South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Foundation

Trust and the IoP of a Biomedical Research Centre, one of only five specialist centres in England and the only one dedicated to mental health, is very welcome news. This can only strengthen our relationship with our longest term NHS partner, recently awarded the status of Foundation Trust. News on the funding of associated programmes is awaited. Meanwhile, our relationship with the Trust on the other side of Denmark Hill, King's College Hospital (KCH, now too a Foundation Trust) is also deepening. One of the major developments in 2006 was that all of academic clinical neuroscience within King's College London became part of the clinical neuroscience department at the IoP, which is now responsible for teaching clinical neuroscience as well as psychiatry to King's College medical students. This means too that the academic leadership of the biggest grouping of neurologists, neurosurgeons and allied clinical staff in the UK is now based here and we have even more ambitious plans with our parent, King's College London, in partnership with KCH and SLAM, to build a new centre for clinical neuroscience (provisionally called the King's Clinical Neuroscience Institute) on the KCH campus.

Another highly significant and rather elegant piece of new-build is The Sir James Black Centre, also on the KCH campus and recently opened by the Chancellor of the University, Princess Anne. This is a joint venture

between the School of Medicine, the IoP and KCH Foundation Trust, and houses the IoP's new Centre for the Cellular Basis of Behaviour (CCBB). The opening of the CCBB will enhance the collaborations between members of the IoP and neuroscientists elsewhere in King's College, particularly those at the MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Biology and the Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases.

With all of these developments at the neuroscience end of the IoP portfolio, we need to keep firmly in mind that the Institute has achieved its success by being a truly interdisciplinary organisation. Much of my new role will be to ensure that we maintain excellence in behavioural, social and population sciences, and their interface with neurobiology. The task ahead of us all is to meet new challenges, manage the changes that come with them, and still maintain all that is already outstanding and admirable. I am confident that we can achieve this because I believe the IoP has its world-class status thanks to its world-class staff.

*Peter McGuffin took up his new, three year post as dean and head of school on 1 January. Peter graduated from Leeds University Medical School in 1972 and completed his training in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital. He has been director of the SGDP Centre since 1998. Professor Robert Plomin is the nominated new head of the SGDP Centre.*

## Alumni are targeted by direct mail appeal for autism

The IoP's first ever direct mail fundraising appeal was sent out before Christmas in a bid to encourage King's College London alumni to donate money to research into autism.

The fundraising bid has been organised by Angie Garvich who was appointed last year to find new sources of funding for both individual projects and IoP-wide schemes. She has been working with Professor Patrick Bolton in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry on the appeal that has been sent out to 9,862 former students of King's College London.

'People are used to seeing mailings for cancer and other diseases,' said Angie. 'But this is the first direct mail for autism from King's. A lot of alumni want to be involved with our work and this is an opportunity for them to give something back.'

There is no target sum agreed for the appeal: 'Because this is the first time the IoP has done direct mailing, we are waiting to see what happens,' said Angie. 'At this point, it's as much a learning experience as anything else.'

She is, however, hopeful that the direct mailout will yield results. 'Autism is in the public frame and I think you'd be hard pressed to find someone who hasn't had some sort of personal contact with it,' she said. 'The work we do at the IoP is the best in the world and is carried out by highly respected scientists.'

Money raised through the appeal will boost the pool of funds available for research into autism, rather than fund a particular project. Alumni, however, were given tangible costs of different elements of research in the mailout to allow them to imagine what their donation could fund – £500 would pay for a research brain scan, for example, while £1,000 would buy a special diagnostic tool.

Direct mail fundraising efforts are more common in the USA than here, said Angie. However, more universities in this country are beginning to consider direct mail to help boost funds.

• To support the fund, email [giving@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:giving@kcl.ac.uk) or make a donation via phone on 020-7848 3005.

## Royal opening for Cellular Basis of Behaviour Centre

The building which houses the IoP's new Centre for the Cellular Basis of Behaviour was officially opened as The James Black Centre on 10 January by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

The £30 million building – next to the Weston Education Centre and Rayne Institute – is purpose-designed for both IoP and School of Medicine scientists and has been named after the emeritus professor of analytical pharmacology at King's College London who received the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 1998. A block of flats for King's College Hospital staff nearby on Coldharbour Lane, which is also named after Sir James Black, will in future be known by its street number to avoid confusion.

The Princess Royal's visit included presentations on the main areas of work to be undertaken in the Centre – research in neuroscience, cardiology and sickle cell diseases, with a major focus on stem cell research – to around 200 invited guests, followed by a tour of the new facilities.

## Student Forum needs help

The Student Forum needs you: instead of a chair, the Forum is this year hoping to have a committee of volunteers working together and representing the student body on different IoP committees. If you're interested in getting involved, email [studentforum@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:studentforum@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## Musical performance to launch series of concerts

A musical performance that takes place on Thursday 15 February could be the first of a series of *Music and the Mind* recitals at the IoP, open to the public as well as staff and students.

The February event features music by members of the Camberwell Composers Collective and the work will be performed in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre by the Elysian Quartet. This young string quartet was originally formed at Trinity College of Music and has since performed around the world. The concert starts at 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm) and admission is free.

## Wolfson donation for King's Neuroscience Institute

The Wolfson Foundation has agreed to give £4 million towards the King's Clinical Neuroscience Institute. This is the first major step towards raising £24 million needed for a planned new building, sited next to The James Black Centre, which will be home to some 200 academic clinical neuroscientists. Professor Christopher Shaw is leading the initiative and a major public fundraising appeal is being planned. Money has also been pledged by both King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London.

## Agoraphobia on Channel 4

Professor Paul Salkovskis and a team of therapists from the Maudsley Hospital Centre for Anxiety Disorders and Trauma featured in *House of Agoraphobics*, a Channel 4 documentary shown before Christmas. It told the stories of three people who have panic disorder and agoraphobia – and filmed an intensive 14-day treatment plan. Paul Salkovskis is clinical director of the Centre for Anxiety Disorders and professor of clinical psychology and applied science here at the IoP. He is also head of Graduate Studies.

## Publicity for MindSearch

*MindSearch*, the IoP's renamed database of healthy volunteers willing to be controls in research, features in the January edition of *The Psychologist*. An article by Paul Wicks, a member of the team behind *MindSearch* (formerly known as *PsychPop*) discusses the potential problems in recruiting a control sample with as little bias as possible – and describes the new computerised resource which is actively seeking volunteers through advertising and marketing. Visit [www.mindsearch.co.uk](http://www.mindsearch.co.uk) or [www.thepsychologist.org.uk](http://www.thepsychologist.org.uk).

## 'Has the World Gone Mad?' by Carmine Pariante

This year's Christmas Grand Round addressed a very important, and perhaps unsolvable question: 'has the world gone mad?'. Tony David, professor of cognitive neuropsychiatry, showed evidence from the football pitch – not only was the World Cup won by Italians, but even a 'small incident' involving a French player was blown out of proportion! At least the MRI investigations on one footballer's brain had led to further understanding of the causes of violence, he said.

Paul Fearon, senior lecturer and programme leader for the *MSc in Psychiatric Research*, talked about madness at the IoP. First of all, he asked, why was the cruel Darth Vader chosen to chair the committee selecting the new dean? Secondly, and most importantly, why has the famous actor Bernard Cribbins been chosen?!

A very interesting study was described by senior lecturer Declan McLoughlin: he had reviewed the largest psychiatric survey ever conducted in

## WHAT'S ON...

*Go Directly to Jail* is a workshop on ethics and governance approvals for prison health research organised by the Prison Health Research Network. The free workshop is on Thursday 8 February in Manchester and is for anyone interested in prison research. The Prison Health Research Network is led jointly by the IoP and the Universities of Manchester, Southampton and Sheffield. Visit [www.phrn.nhs.uk/jail](http://www.phrn.nhs.uk/jail) to find out more.

*Depression: Brain Causes – Body Consequences* brings together world leaders in research on depression at a conference where they will discuss and present both classical and innovative ideas and evidence. Organised by the IoP's Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, it takes place on the 2 and 3 April at the Royal Society of Medicine in Wimpole Street. To find out more, visit [www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/apps/depression/default.aspx](http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/apps/depression/default.aspx).

## Praise for Maudsley Forum

One hundred per cent of delegates who attended the *2006 Core Maudsley Forum* – an annual event for young European psychiatrists at the start of their careers – said they would recommend the course to their peers. Two courses were held during one week last September at King's College London's Waterloo campus: in addition to the *Core Maudsley Forum*, which teaches the most recent advances in clinical and academic psychiatry to trainee psychiatrists, the *Advanced Maudsley Forum* gives training in research methodology and management of research projects to junior academics.

Preparations are already underway for the seventh Maudsley Forum, scheduled to take place during the week of 10 to 14 September 2007 and organised by the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry.

the USA. In both 2000 and 2004, around 40 per cent of the sample voted for Bu... I mean, scored as patients in the psychiatric interview. Reassuringly, in the third wave of the survey in 2006, there were some signs of improvement.

Of course, if the world has gone mad, its leaders also have. This was a theory discussed by Raj Persaud who showed clinical data on a case of 'folie a deux' involving two notorious political figures, one of whom has clear problems with both receptive and expressive language.

Finally, I (Carmine Pariante), questioned the very usefulness of the Christmas Grand Round, None of the cases discussed in previous years have shown any real improvement: James Bond has just had a violent comeback; the 'superheroes' team created by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust has failed to save Hulk; and the *Psycho* killer Norman Bates has emerged as a politician in Italy.

*Carmine Pariante is a senior lecturer and MRC Clinician Scientist Fellow. All the speakers at the Christmas Grand Round were from Psychological Medicine, the department that organised the event.*

## Postgraduates can nominate their teacher of the year

Students studying on taught postgraduate programmes can nominate someone they consider to be a motivating, supportive and interesting teacher for this year's IoP *Award for Excellence in Teaching*. The Award is part of an annual scheme run by King's College London: each year, £1,000 is given to one member of staff from each of the nine schools.

This year, for the first time, IoP students can submit their nominations electronically by visiting [www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/jaaa/teaching.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/jaaa/teaching.html).

## New publications to promote taught programmes

New publications are being produced by the Education Support Team to promote the IoP's taught courses in a more corporate fashion. The idea is to produce a flyer in standard format for each taught course, though each programme is responsible for footing the £300-£400 bill. The first leaflet to be produced describes the *War and Psychiatry MSc*, run jointly by the IoP and the Department of War Studies at the School of Social Science and Public Policy. The leaflets will be displayed in all IoP buildings, will be available through King's College London, will be downloadable from the website and handed out at all events for potential students. Any programme leader interested in producing a flyer specifically describing their course should contact Nicki Groves in the Education Support Team, [n.groves@iop.kcl.ac.uk](mailto:n.groves@iop.kcl.ac.uk).

## The King's College Psychiatry Society needs you...

Would you be willing to teach medical students in extra curricula sessions, or to get medical students involved in your research? Or would you help promote psychiatry to medical students by talking to them about your chosen speciality?

If the answers are yes, the King's College Psychiatry Society wants to hear from you. Set up by medical students in 2005, the Society wants to improve the status of psychiatry in the School of Medicine and be a link between medical students wanting to find out more and those at the IoP who could encourage or help them.

'Psychiatry is under-represented in most medical school curricula,' said Tom Pollak from the Society. 'We think this is a terrible shame, potentially alienating many of the brightest students from the discipline. We hope that through talks, debates,

## No...that's Health SERVICE and POPULATION Research

The Health Services Research Department has changed its name to reflect an internal re-organisation. Following the transfer of the Section of Epidemiology there from the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry, the department is now called the Health Service and Population Research Department (HSPR). Within the department, the Section of Community Psychiatry, (formerly known as PRISM) is now called the Section of Community Mental Health and

*structure/admin/acareg/jaaa/teaching.html*. You can download a paper nomination form at the same site.

The *Awards for Excellence in Teaching* also recognise innovation and organisation. All staff who teach on taught postgraduate courses and programmes can be nominated: a small panel chaired by the dean will select the final winner. Nominations have to be made by 23 March and should, in the first instance, be given to heads of departments.

In addition, a new *Mental Health Graduate Programmes* brochure showcases four IoP MSc courses – *Clinical and Public Health Aspects of Addiction; Forensic Mental Health Science; Mental Health Services Research; and Psychiatric Research*. It gives a brief overview of each course, the IoP and King's College London and signposts readers to the website for more information. If other programme leaders want to get together to share the cost of a similar 'taster' brochure, they should contact Amanda Kerns, graduate marketing manager at King's College London, [amanda.kerns@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:amanda.kerns@kcl.ac.uk).

And finally, a new IoP Prospectus was being produced in time for the graduate open day on 17 January. The small brochure contains details of all programmes: supplies are available from the Education Support Team so staff can take them to events.

careers evenings and teaching sessions – all held with the support of the IoP – we can help redress this imbalance.

'We have held talks from eminent, and perhaps most importantly, charismatic psychiatrists about why they chose psychiatry; talks on recent controversies – war and mental health, cannabis and psychosis. We hope to have regular talks from patients discussing their experiences and want to be the first port of call for any student interested in finding out more about any area of psychiatry, be it careers advice, exam practice or research opportunities. We want to be able to put them in touch with a member of staff at the IoP who is able to help.'

• If you are interested in getting involved, contact Tom Pollak at [thomas.pollak@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.pollak@kcl.ac.uk).

the Section of Psychiatric Nursing is now called the Section of Mental Health Nursing. A new Section of Evidence-Based Mental Health has been created and hosts both the Cochrane Depression Anxiety and Neurosis Review Group and the Best Evidence Summaries of Topics in Mental Health service (BEST in MH). The latter gives doctors and other mental health care professionals in south-east London access to the best available research evidence about interventions or treatments.

## Another Dana Centre event

The next in a series of public engagement events organised jointly by the IoP's Mental Health Knowledge Centre and The European Dana Alliance for the Brain is about dementia. It will take place at the Dana Centre, next to the Science Museum on Thursday 1 March and the speakers will include the IoP's Professors Simon Lovestone and Sube Banerjee. For more information, visit [www.danacentre.org.uk/events](http://www.danacentre.org.uk/events).

• Dr John Marsden joins the panel of speakers at the Dana Centre on Wednesday 31 January at an event to launch the Academy of Medical Sciences *DrugsFutures* project. Speakers and the audience will be debating questions like 'will our attitudes to drugs change?', 'will children be popping "smart pills" before exams?', and 'what kind of drug use will society accept?' Visit the Dana Centre website (*address above*) for details of the event which starts at 7pm.

## Clinical excellence awards

Staff at the IoP and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust received eight of the 37 Clinical Excellence awards for psychiatry, given across England and Wales 'to recognise and reward the exceptional contribution of NHS consultants over and above that normally expected of a job.' Two of the three Gold awards for psychiatry went to professors in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the IoP. The NHS Consultants' Awards Scheme is run by the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards ([www.doh.gov.uk/accea](http://www.doh.gov.uk/accea)).

## Involving service users

*A Guide to User-Focused Monitoring: Setting Up and Running a Project* is a new publication from The Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (SCMH), which is affiliated to the IoP. It shows how the perspective of people who use services can create research that gives service providers a new insight into the impact they have on people's lives, and includes a step-by-step guide to setting up an evaluation project managed by service users. It costs £15 (£7.50 for service users) plus post and packing and is available on 020-7827 8352 or at [www.scmh.org.uk](http://www.scmh.org.uk).

## WHAT'S ON...

*Memory Disorders: From Research to Practice* is a lecture by Michael Kopelman, an IoP professor of neuropsychiatry, on Tuesday 30 January. The lecture starts at 5.30pm and is in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre in the main building.

Professor Trudie Chalder gives her inaugural lecture on Wednesday 28 February at 5.30pm in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre in the main building. A professor of cognitive behavioural psychotherapy, her lecture is titled *NICE one! Understanding and Treating Fatigue Syndromes*. Admission is free without a ticket.