

Teaching awards

Could your tutor win the 2008 *Teaching Excellence Award* for the IoP? Students on taught programmes have the chance to nominate a tutor for one of this year's King's College London Awards. The judges are keen to hear about tutors who are motivating, interesting and innovative, give students support and feedback and organise their teaching well: the winner will receive £1,000. Nine awards are made each year, one for each of the College's Schools.

Nominations have to be in by 20 March: visit www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/acareg/qaaa/teaching.html to make your nomination.

Addictions refurbishment

A £1 million refurbishment of the space occupied by the Addictions team at 4 Windsor Walk started in January and is due to be complete in April.

The ground, first and second floors are being re-designed to house twice as many people to reflect the increasing number of staff and doctoral students. The scheme includes new seminar rooms, new meeting space and a new reception. Addictions staff and students have temporarily moved out to different locations, including the main building and 1 Windsor Walk.

Floors 3 and 4 of the building were refurbished two years ago to become the home of part of the Psychology Department.

● A new Graduate Student Lounge is to be created at 4 Windsor Walk as part of the refurbishment scheme, and students are invited to voice their opinion about the sort of facilities that should be provided there. The Lounge, which will be for use by graduate students, will have wireless internet connection and a kitchen area, but other components that will make the space conducive to work and rest have yet to be decided – a coffee machine, computers, or a television, for example. Contact the Student Forum chairs (sarah.savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk, lorna.taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk and sarah.smith@iop.kcl.ac.uk) with suggestions.

Open Day for students

An Open Day for potential taught and research students will be held on Wednesday 12 March. The late afternoon event will include a guided tour around the main buildings and facilities, and a chance to discuss courses with Programme Leaders and current students who will be staffing information stalls. For more information, contact eva.langan@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Happy New Year!

by
Dean Peter McGuffin

A very happy New Year to all Institute staff and students. I have just completed my first year as Dean and have very nearly completed my first year as a new grandfather. Both roles have been exhilarating and, as far as I know, I have come through comparatively unscathed despite a complete lack of specific training for either role.

2007 was another action-packed year for the IoP. The Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) was established in partnership with South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) under the directorship of Professor Simon Lovestone, who has done an outstanding job in leading the setting up of an incredibly complex but wonderfully exciting new venture. Funded by the new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the BRC promises to place the IoP and SLaM in the vanguard of translational research in psychiatry and clinical neuroscience. SLaM, together with the IoP, has also been awarded six NIHR programme grants for applied research. The topics are: improving physical health and decreasing cannabis use in people with severe mental illness; eating disorders; neurodevelopmental disorders; depression and physical illness in primary care; patient involvement in improving inpatient care; and reduction of stigma.

Reduction of stigma is also a developing theme that features

strongly in the Health Service and Population Research portfolio of the IoP, and in addition to the NIHR grant, there have been sizeable recent awards to Professor Graham Thornicroft and colleagues working in this field – from the Big Lottery Fund and Comic Relief, for example.

The new James Black Centre on the King's College Hospital campus was opened by the Princess Royal. The Centre is a joint venture with the School of Medicine and its focus is on the cellular basis of disease. The psychiatric conditions that will be studied by the group led by Professor Jack Price includes schizophrenia and neurodegenerative disorders. Also on the King's College Hospital campus, we plan another joint venture with the School of Medicine and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: the establishment of a clinical research facility. Funding to support this has been secured from The Wellcome Trust, the Department of Health and the British Heart Foundation. The facility will include a new 3T MRI scanner paid for by the capital funding scheme associated with the NIHR BRC. Plans are also well underway for a third new building that will house the King's Clinical Neuroscience Initiative (KCNI). This follows a highly successful fundraising campaign headed by Sir Ian Gainsford. The KCNI will bring together, under the directorship of Professor Chris Shaw, the IoP's clinical neuroscience researchers. There are also ambitious plans to include a positron emission tomography (PET) scanning facility for the study of both neurological and psychiatric disorders.

It is no coincidence therefore that the IoP has begun to recruit top PET experts, starting with Professor Shitij Kapur who joined us this year from The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. Shitij also took up a new role as the IoP's Vice Dean for Research.

Two other very major grants that commenced in 2007 were IMAGEN, led by Professor Gunter Schumann and the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) led by Professor Stephen Scott. IMAGEN is a multicentre European Commission funded study that will investigate risk factors for psychiatric disorders and addictions in teenagers. The NAPP, in partnership with two of the main charities in the field, will pursue research and provide training for professionals who work with parents in children's services, schools, health and justice services.

Finally, it cannot pass without mentioning that much time in 2007 was taken up in preparing our submission for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). I am very grateful to the RAE Working Group for all of their efforts, especially to Gill Dale. The 2008 exercise is to be the last one ever in its present form, that is peer review by a panel of experts. From about 2010 onwards the science, technology and engineering and medicine departments of universities will be assessed for research funding from HEFCE using metrics (eg citations, grant income, etc). However it remains to be seen whether the effects of RAE2008 on reputation are longer lasting – and by the time of my next New Year message, we will know our scores!

Tribute to Padmal de Silva's intellectual rigour

Padmal de Silva died suddenly at home in November 2007, aged 63. Padmal worked at the IoP for many years and was Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Senior Clinical Tutor in Clinical Psychology until he retired two years ago.

Born in what was then Ceylon, he graduated from the University of Sri Lanka and then studied psychology at Edinburgh. He trained in clinical psychology here at the IoP, where he returned – first as a research worker and then as a member of the teaching staff – after a few years working back in Sri Lanka.

'He combined his interest and knowledge of clinical psychology and Buddhism and became one of the leading contemporary exponents of the relationship between the two disciplines, and was in constant demand for advice across the world,' said Bill Yule, emeritus Professor of Applied Child Psychology. 'His expertise was recognised in such diverse fields as behaviour

therapy, cognitive psychology, cross-cultural psychology, morbid jealousy, sexual and marital therapy, depression, anxiety and phobias, eating disorders and obsessive compulsive disorders – to say nothing of racing, cricket, Asian literature and Sri Lankan politics.'

Padmal was active in the UK Sri Lanka Trauma Group, which aims to help all those affected by the war and the 2004 Tsunami. 'Arising from that, he was influential in setting up the King's College Mental Health Resource Centre, Samutthana, in Colombo, where he had regularly provided training and supervision. Most recently, he helped to establish the first clinical psychology course at Colombo University,' said Bill.

'A modest man, Padmal maintained contact with many colleagues and former trainees world-wide. He combined intellectual rigour with a wicked sense of humour,' he said.

in brief...

An experimental project that seeks to meet the mental health needs of people with multiple sclerosis (MS) was a runner up in the 2007 *Guardian Public Services Awards*' 'long-term conditions' category. The project involves mental health nurse specialist Sally Jones working with neurologists in the MS Clinic at King's College Hospital and specialist MS nurses who refer patients to her. Funded by the MS Society and Teva Pharmaceuticals, the three year project will end with an evaluation of its success: it was launched by the MS Clinic in collaboration with Health Service and Population Research's Section of Mental Health Nursing and the Section of Cognitive Neuropsychiatry in Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry.

Professor Dinesh Bhugra, who heads the Section of Cultural Diversity in Health Service and Population Research, has been elected as the next President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. His term of office starts in July 2008. A Professor of Mental Health and Cultural Diversity, Dinesh has been Dean of the College since 2003, responsible for teaching and training of psychiatrists.

The IoP Library now offers its customers a hearing loop, a document holder, a reading/writing slope and a visually enhanced keyboard. Just ask at the counter.

The deadline for consideration of non-titled applications for the March Academic Promotions Committee has been moved forward to Wednesday 5 March (from Wednesday 12 March). The Committee meeting date remains unchanged – Wednesday 26 March. For more information, contact Christine Murrell on ext 0007.

The Corporate Design Unit at King's College London, guardian of the corporate identity, has issued an updated *House style for written material*. The guide includes how to refer to the College (not KCL); when to use upper and lower case, hyphens, dashes and full stops, how to format an address, how to present dates and much more. The updated version includes for the first time house style for biblical references, compass points and currencies. To download a pdf, visit www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/attachments/HousestyleWrittenMaterialv6.pdf.

New fundraiser

Cliff Tapp is the IoP's new Major Gifts Fundraiser (Neurosciences and Mental Health). His brief is to achieve 'significant support' for research projects and posts in mental health and neuroscience, and for large-scale capital schemes.

He'll also be seeking to secure funding for related PhD scholarships and academic support projects at the IoP and in other College health Schools.

After studying neuroscience at degree level, Cliff worked in research in sensory systems and vision and then joined the field of fundraising and finance. Before coming to King's, he worked at Marie Curie Cancer Care as Major Donor Fundraiser.

Cliff will be splitting his time between the IoP and the James Clerk Maxwell Building on the College's Waterloo Campus. You can contact him at cliff.tapp@kcl.ac.uk or on ext 4706 (Waterloo) or ext 0740 (IoP).

in brief...

People from every department bar Site Services attended the first of a series of lunches organised to give those who wouldn't normally come into contact with Dean Peter McGuffin the opportunity to meet him. A mix of administrators, PhD students, support staff, academic and research staff were nominated by their departments to attend the informal buffet affair in December. The next two 'meet the Dean' lunches are scheduled for February and April. 'The events are also a chance for people to network with colleagues in other departments,' said Sue Colwell, Director of Knowledge Management.

A graduation ceremony for students who have completed Masters and Postgraduate Diplomas at the IoP took place on Tuesday 15 January at the Barbican Centre. The ceremony was organised by King's College London Graduation Office: a summer ceremony is scheduled to take place in July.

Moving People, an £18 million campaign that aims to combat stigma and discrimination against people with mental illness in England, is being officially launched with the help of Health Minister Ivan Lewis on 11 February at The Commonwealth Club. The IoP's Health Service and Population Research Department will be carrying out an evaluation of the success of the campaign, which is to be led by three mental health charities – MIND, Rethink and Mental Health Media. Visit www.movingpeople.org.uk.

Next Steps for Mental Health Policy: challenges and opportunities is the title of the first Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health/King's College London Forum to be held at the King's College Great Hall in the Strand on 11 February. An invited audience of about 100 people will debate future mental health policy in the UK with a panel of speakers including Lord Carlile of Berriew, Professor Genevra Richardson, Professor Peter Beresford and Chris Heginbotham. The Sainsbury Centre is one of the IoP's academic partners and the evening will also celebrate an association of 20 years.

Records officer Max Mwakitalu is urging researchers to make it one of their New Year's resolutions to store data correctly. 'During 2007, I found a large amount of important and valuable research data dumped in cupboards by people who had finished their projects,' he said. Before starting new studies, Max says researchers should decide where they are going to keep information and how long they will keep it. 'It is unethical to leave information used for research unattended,' he said. Contact Max at max.mwakitulu@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Professor Paul Salkovskis is one of the speakers at a Royal Institution public event *The truth about OCD*, organised in association with, and to be held at the ICA (Institute of Contemporary Arts) on The Mall in central London on Monday 18 February at 7pm. Visit www.righ.org or www.ica.org.uk to find out more.

Cycle Madagascar raises £60,000 for eating research

The charity Research Into Eating Disorders (RIED) presented £60,000 raised by *Cycle Madagascar 2007* to the Section of Eating Disorders in January. 'It was undoubtedly a life-changer for some of those taking part,' said Nina Jackson, who set up the charity. 'Madagascar is a truly fascinating place. Its flora and fauna are second to none and the people are most welcoming.'

The two dozen strong fundraising team cycled 615 kms over eight days, 'encountering all types of terrain and weather. My heartfelt thanks go to all the participants who were brave enough to make the commitment to raise their sponsorship, and get themselves fit, and to Madagascar itself for providing such a special, spectacular and memorable

backdrop to our challenge,' said Nina. Over the past four years, RIED has raised more than £500,000 to help fund research carried out by the Section of Eating Disorders in the Division of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry.

● *Eating Disorders Awareness Week* takes place from Monday 25 February to Sunday 2 March. A National Carers Conference jointly organised by beat (formerly the Eating Disorders Association) and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust on Saturday 23 February at Guy's Hospital launches the week. The IoP's Professor Janet Treasure and Dr Ivan Eisler will be among the speakers at *Families Beating Eating Disorders*. To find out more, visit www.b-eat.co.uk/edaw.

First Priory Group Lectures here and in Scotland

The first lectures in the *Priory Group Clinical Science Series at the IoP* take place on 20 February in Glasgow and 21 February here at the IoP, in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre.

The independent provider of psychiatric services is sponsoring one academic a year to give two lectures, once at a Priory Hospital, and once on College premises. The lectures are organised by the IoP.

The 2008 lectures will be given by Dr A. John Rush, Vice Chair for the Department of Clinical Sciences and Rosewood Corporation Chair in Biomedical Science at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in

Dallas. The title of the Glasgow lecture is *The STAR*D Trial: Revising Conventional Wisdom About the Treatment for Depression* and the London title is *T-2 Translational Research: Bridging the Research-Practice Gap*.

Dr Rush's research has included the developing and testing of innovative treatments for mood disorders, including medications, medication combinations, somatic treatments and psychotherapy. He was principal investigator on the STAR*D (Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression) Trial, funded by the US National Institute of Mental Health.

New King's Business local representative

Dr John Hall is now responsible for the business development of the IoP's intellectual capital. He is currently meeting with academic staff to assess commercially relevant technologies and potential collaborations with industry.

John has been with King's Business since June 2006, previously working for Pera Innovation as a technology consultant before spending a year at Warwick Ventures under the Medici Fellowship scheme as a trainee Business Development Manager.

He can offer a 'one-stop portal' to the various services and expertise available within King's Business:

- administration of legal agreements, including confidentiality agreements, material transfer agreements, consultancy and research contracts;
- advice on accessing a wide range of 'translational' funding opportunities;

- business development and marketing support for collaborative research and consultancy work with industry;
- access to funding, including seed and proof of concept funding, for novel research and technologies;
- patent protection and commercialisation (licence and spinout) of novel research;
- support for the development of new courses in conjunction with industry.

For more information, contact j.hall@kcl.ac.uk or on ext 3118.

Death of Stephen Ackerley

Dr Stephen Ackerley, a Senior Research Fellow in the MRC Neurodegeneration Centre, died unexpectedly in January. 'He was a talented young scientist of great promise and will be greatly missed by his colleagues,' said Professor Chris Miller.

Circulars: no mandate

Staff and students who responded to the e-survey about internal communications have not given a clear mandate about the future of circulars: 42 per cent said they would prefer to receive them all, while 45 per cent said they would prefer to decide for themselves which of the 'email-all' missives arrive in their inbox.

In all, 176 people completed the questionnaire from Director of Knowledge Management Sue Colwell asking for their views on how best to communicate internally. Suggestions for improvement include publishing minutes of committee meetings, with a short summary of key decisions; a weekly timetable of lectures and talks; an anonymous suggestion box on the internal website and a new email address feedback@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

Eighty-four per cent of respondents said they did not know how to make their views about IoP issues known.

Christmas Grand Round scrutinises Dr Who

December's Christmas Grand Round pursued an intergalactic theme with a rather unusual case presentation, writes Paul Allen in *Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry*.

The psychiatric health of Dr Who, the UK's favourite time traveller, was assessed by an eminent team of psychiatrists led by IoP Dean Professor Peter McGuffin, who had himself regenerated from his previous incarnation as Bernard Cribbins.

Paul Fearon made a number of valid observations and suggested that Dr Who's inability to establish long-term relationships with numerous terrestrial partners may stem from the neurocognitive decline brought about by being 903 years old.

Raj Persaud concurred with this view but cautioned, that before any definitive diagnosis could be made, a chronic 'thinking' problem should be ruled out.

Finally, Carmine Pariente translated the team's findings for the benefit of all overseas and extraterrestrial members of the audience.

It was concluded that despite the presence of grandiose delusions and a rather baffling ability to change appearance at will, further assessments were needed. However, all costs should be met by the Galifrey Mental Health Trust rather than SLAM.

in brief...

The IoP's Mental Health Knowledge Centre is teaming up again with the European Dana Alliance for the Brain to present an evening discussing social phobia, a deep-seated fear that can make it hard to live a normal life. Research Clinical Psychologist Dr Jennifer Wild from the Psychology Department will be among the speakers at *Scared of Socialising* – which takes place at The Dana Centre in South Kensington on Tuesday 19 February at 7pm. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance by calling 020 7942 4040 or emailing tickets@danacentre.org.uk.

Mental health problems account for 40 per cent of time taken off sick from work, says a new report from the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, one of the IoP's academic partners. The report, *Mental Health at Work: Developing the business case*, was published in December and says the total annual cost to UK employers of mental ill health among their staff is more than £25 billion, an equivalent of £1,000 for every person employed. To find out more, visit www.scmh.org.uk.

A new Photography Society at the IoP was due to have its first meeting in January. PhD student Florence Guillot in the MRC Centre for Neurodegeneration Research is the Society's instigator and said all students and staff interested in taking, developing or looking at photographs are welcome to join. 'We'll try to organise a meeting once a month to talk about technical issues and to help each other improve our pictures,' she said. 'In future, we would like to have access to a dark room to be able to develop black and white pictures, to organise photography exhibitions and show our own work.' To find out more, email Florence.Guillot@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

This house believes that happiness is over-rated is the title of the next Maudsley Debate that takes place on Wednesday 12 March at 6pm in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre.

Speaking in favour of the motion are economist and author Paul Ormerod and Dr Rachel Perkins, a clinical psychologist and Vice Chair of the mental health charity Rethink. Speakers against are Lord Richard Layard, Professor emeritus at the London School of Economics and the IoP's Dr Carmine Pariente. Professor Robin Murray, Head of Psychological Medicine and Psychiatry and founder of the popular public debates, will be in the chair.

WHAT'S ON...

The 2008 Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Academic Psychiatry Annual Conference is to be held at the IoP this year, in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 February. Speakers include Lord Richard Layard, Baroness Susan Greenfield and a host of IoP names, including Robin Murray, Matthew Hotopf, Shitij Kapur, Stephen Scott, James Rubin, Peter McGuffin, Louise Howard and Declan Murphy. For more information and a registration form, visit www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?id=549.

WHAT'S ON...

The next Student Forum meeting takes place on Tuesday 19 February in seminar room 1, ground floor in the main building, at 12.30pm. All students are welcome – and there is a free lunch! For more information about the Student Forum, contact its chairs: sarah.savage@iop.kcl.ac.uk, lorna.taylor@iop.kcl.ac.uk and sarah.smith@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

WHAT'S ON...

Dementia in Developing Countries – The 10/66 Project is the title of a seminar on Thursday 31 January, at 4pm in the David Goldberg Seminar Room in the Health Service and Population Research (HSPR) building on De Crespigny Park. The seminar is organised by the HSPR Interdisciplinary Research Group. 10/66 is a group of researchers from across the world, co-ordinated by the IoP's Professor Martin Prince. For more information, contact Laura Weiss, laura.weiss@iop.kcl.ac.uk.

WHAT'S ON...

Do Films Make People Mad? is a KCL Psychiatry Society organised lecture on Thursday 6 March at 5.30pm in the Harris Lecture Theatre in the Hodgkin Building on the Guy's Hospital Campus. The speaker is Dr Cleo Van Velsen, Consultant Forensic Psychotherapist with East London Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, who will be talking about the relationship between violent films and violent crimes. For more information, contact caroline.zanelli@iop.kcl.ac.uk.