FACULTY NEWS



Message from The Dean

As we approach the end of another academic year, I reflect on the fact that I have now been Dean for four years (it is officially a five year sentence, but I have no plans to stand down next year!) and it is worth taking a look at the current status of the Faculty. Financially, we are in good shape: the historic deficit position of the Faculty has been turned around and we have made a surplus in each of the last three financial years (and look likely to do the same this year). Research income has risen substantially: every edition of this newsletter catalogues new funding successes, and this one is no exception: very well done to all concerned. We are unable to increase our undergraduate student income because the student numbers for our professional programmes in medicine and dentistry, including the number of overseas students that we can accommodate, are externally fixed. Efforts are underway to test whether there is scope for increasing our postgraduate activities. Medical student satisfaction has improved but there is still a long way to go: the recently introduced academic mentorship scheme will address some of the issues and we have worked hard to listen to students' concerns and respond to them in a number of other areas. Dental student satisfaction remains high, albeit not as high as the peak we reached a couple of years ago. Again, work is ongoing to address the issues. Staff morale is notoriously difficult to gauge but I am very conscious that restructuring, changes in roles and responsibilities, pay restraint and the general economic climate have combined in recent months to threaten everyone's security and happiness at work. I am by nature an unremitting optimist: I believe that the worst is over, that the university sector remains a relatively safe and certainly very rewarding place to work and that the energetic and resourceful nature of the staff and students of the Faculty will ensure our continuing success.

Welcome to Jonathan Sterne as the new head of the School of Social and Community Medicine, sincere thanks again to Jenny Donovan for all her years of hard work as Head of School.

Bristol Health Partners is taking shape: we have recently approved our first two Health Integration Teams (HITs), both prominently featuring academic staff from the Faculty in collaboration with colleagues from the other partner organisations. Particularly striking is the direct involvement of commissioners in the HITs' plans: an early success because promotion of engagement of academics and clinicians with commissioners is one of the central aims of Bristol Health Partners. Carolyn Donoghue, Tim Peters and Jonathan Sandy have all become Associate Deans to help me with the Dean's workload now that 40% of my time is assigned to Bristol Health Partners: I am very grateful for their help.

Have a great summer! With all best wishes,

Peter Mathieson

Message

from

The Dean

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School News: Clinical Sciences



In May Prof John Kirwan and colleagues were announced winners in the group category of the University's 2011/12 Engagement Awards. The Awards are sponsored by the Society of Merchant Venturers and judged by the Engaged University Steering Group.

Prof Kirwan is director of <u>The Academic Rheumatology Unit</u>, a collaborative venture between the University of Bristol, the University of the West of England and University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. The Unit is committed to involving patients and the public in its research programme – to the extent that many of its research publications have one or more patient research partners as co-authors – and in the development and delivery of its clinical service. The Unit's Patient Advisory Group now has an international profile through its involvement in a global network called OMERACT (outcome measures in rheumatology).

The ARU, which this year celebrates its 25th Anniversary, currently has 26 patients who have been directly involved in the design, delivery and conduct of its research projects – as highlighted in a short University video which is available at http://www.youtube.com/ watch?

v=iAOfLKDL5mQ&list=PLA51EA1D6E1A11D9B&index=1&feature=plpp_video .

Neil Scolding, Burden Professor of Clinical Neurosciences at Frenchay Hospital, has been appointed to the newly established Department of Health Emerging Science and Bioethics Advisory Committee (ESBAC) – more information at http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/06/esbac-members/.

Rachael Gooberman-Hill has been appointed as the Treasurer of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, effective from 2013.

RECENT FUNDING AWARDS and PUBLICATIONS

A paper by Dr Rob Andrews has won the 2011 Royal College of General Practitioners and Novartis Research Paper of the Year Award in the Diabetes category. Dr. Andrews, Consultant Senior Lecturer in Diabetes and Endocrinology, and his coresearchers looked at whether intensive modifications to diet or diet plus physical exercise could lead to improvements over the usual care for people newly diagnosed with diabetes. They discovered that an intensive diet intervention soon after diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes can improve a patient's control of blood sugar levels, while the addition of an activity intervention did not lead to additional benefit.

Paper details: R C Andrews, A R Cooper, A A Montgomery, A J Norcross, T J Peters, D J Sharp, N Jackson, K Fitzsimons, J Bright, K Coulman, C Y England, J Gorton, A McLenaghan, E Paxton, A Polet, C Thompson, C M Dayan. 'Diet or diet plus physical activity versus usual care in patients with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes: the Early ACTID randomised controlled trial.' Lancet 2011 Jul 9;378 (9786):129-39. Epub 2011 Jun 24.

School News: Clinical Sciences cont......

Pain could be a good thing for heart attack patients

Professor Paolo Madeddu, Chair of Experimental Cardiovascular Medicine and colleagues have shown that during a heart attack - when a blood clot blocks an artery serving the heart with oxygen - pain signals from cardiac nerves may help attract stem cells to the site of the blockage to repair some of the damage. The study, co-funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and the European Union and published in the American Heart Association journal Circulation, shows that a key molecule in the body's ability to sense pain, called Substance P, is released from nerve terminals in the heart during a heart attack. Substance P then mobilises stem cells from the bone marrow to the site of the artery blockage. The stem cells have the ability to generate new vessels to bypass the blockage and restore some of the blood flow. After initial experiments in mice, the researchers went on to show that the Substance P released by cardiac nerves may play a role in stem-cell mediated recovery after a heart attack in human patients. The discovery points to a new possible route for future therapies to repair a damaged heart.

Craig McArdle, Professor of Molecular Pharmacology has won £618,457 over 3 years from BBSRC. Project title: 'Decoding gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) pulse frequency'. In May, **Dr. Alastair Wilkins, Dr. Kevin Kemp** and **Professor Neil Scolding** were awarded a 3-year Medical Research Council grant of £337,769 for 'Investigating the neuroprotective and neuroregenerative properties of bone marrow stem cell mobilising drugs in Friedreich Ataxia'.

Prof. Scolding has also received an award of £58,000 from the Sir Halley Stewart Trust for a bone marrow stem cell trial in MS.

Dr Chris Jackson has been appointed as a Business Fellow of the University with primary responsibility for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

The role of the Business Fellows is to help their colleagues to achieve commercial success through the use of their **intellectual property (IP)**. IP can be an assay, a piece of software, a device, an experimental model, a drug, a reagent, and so on: the possibilities are very wide-ranging. You might want to find an industrial partner to whom you can license your IP, or may want ultimately to form your own **spin-out company**.

Chris can help you by doing the heavy lifting in terms of identifying potential commercial partners, organising meetings, arranging for legal documentation (such as non-disclosure agreements) where necessary, and generally making it easier for you to increase the commercial impact of your work. As you know, this is an important part of the current REF analysis and will probably become even more prominent in the next one.

Many of you will already have commercial partnerships in place, and it certainly isn't Chris's intention to become involved with those unless you need him to. It is really more a case of encouraging you to take a very open-minded view of the commercial opportunities that might be present in your research.

If you do have something that you think has any possibility of being developed in a business sense - however vague an idea, or uncertain you may feel about it at present! - then please contact Chris on 342-2534 or at chris.jackson@bristol.ac.uk.

School News: Clinical Sciences cont......

NEW STAFF - WELCOME TO SOCS

Dr. Alan Whone, appointed to a new Consultant Senior Lecturer post in Movement Disorders Neurology, based at Frenchay, part-funded by the Burden Trust.

Marie Woods, Executive Assistant, BRI Level 7.

Ben Houghton, Research Associate, HWLine with Liang-Fong Wong.

Charles Saw, Database Manager, Clinical Trials Evaluation Unit, BRI Level 7 with Chris Rogers.

Amy Burchell, commenced a Clinical PhD Fellowship at UHBristol with Andreas Baumbach & Julian Paton.

Samantha Quayle, Senior Tissue Processor at Bristol Eye Hospital with John Armitage.

Jamie Walker, commenced MRC Research Fellowship entitled "The pituitary corticotroph: an organizing centre for oscillatory activity in the HPA axis?" at HWLine with Stafford Lightman.

Matthew Birnie, Research Technician at HWLine with Becky Conway-Campbell.

School News: Oral and Dental Sciences

Staffing

Staffing recruitment continues, we have a skewed age distribution in the School with a large influx of young staff but at the other end a number of staff approaching retirement. Gordon Gray, who has been Clinical Dean for more than 10 years, has decided to retire at the end of September and will be sorely missed by the student body and as a valued colleague by staff. At the final year dinner Gordon was given a standing ovation when his retirement was announced, he has always worked hard to support all students even the most trying ones. Gordon has been an excellent Clinical Dean and will be very difficult to replace. We welcome Rebecca Johns (Consultant Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Dentistry), Tanya Cerajeska (Lecturer in Restorative Dentistry) and Beate St Pourcain (Lecturer in Genetic Epidemiology).

Equal opportunities

In <u>SWAN</u> we are also working to develop awareness of supporting women in science. A series of lunchtime workshops have been arranged this summer to deal with issues such as recruitment, promotion and progression. These are important communication issues and we have extended this to University and NHS staff. We are very keen to succeed with this award; it is a requirement of the Biomedical Research Unit (BRU) in nutrition which has been awarded by the NIHR. By 2014 we need to have a Silver award in this important area of research structure. We are grateful to Tracy Brunnock for her support and guidance.

South Bristol

Our new community based dental teaching unit at the <u>South Bristol NHS Community Hospital</u> in Hengrove is now open for treatment of patients. The hospital building is complete and the clinic is light and airy. This will hopefully provide an excellent treatment environment for patients, as well as providing a primary care treatment setting for our staff and students. Patients came through the doors on 10th April and have been seen for assessments and population of appointment books. Teaching opportunities will be maximised for students, from the BDS programme and also from Dental Care Professionals (DCP) school programmes, while providing much needed oral health care to the local community. DCP students and small numbers of BDS students are already receiving training in this fantastic facility, which will move into full operational mode in September.

Education

A number of major projects are ongoing in dental education. New formats of assessment were introduced this year for the knowledge-based components of the BDS Final examination, replacing previously used essay format papers. Clinical components of the examination remain unchanged. The new format of BDS Finals saw a strong pass level with nine students receiving Honours. The change in knowledge-based format for assessments was ably led by Professor Dominic O'Sullivan and involved standard setting of various sections for the first time. This is important for our visit from the General Dental Council (GDC) which has now been confirmed and will take place in April 2013. Standard setting is one of the key areas that the GDC will scrutinise and our external examiners recognised the work which had gone into making the examination a more robust and transparent assessment. We will seek to refine and optimise our use of standard setting through collaboration with the Higher Education Academy (HEA). A workshop, open to all and sponsored by the HEA, on best practice in standard setting will be held later this summer.

School News: Oral and Dental Sciences cont.....

A major restructure of the BDS programme was approved by Programme Approval Group (PAG) on 11th June. The restructured programme will be compliant with University regulations regarding Unit completion within a year, has embedded within it clinical training and activity at the recently opened South Bristol Community Hospital (SBCH), and ensures full coverage and implementation of new learning outcomes specified by the General Dental Council within Preparing for Practice. The restructure has required much additional work from all staff as well as leadership from Dr David Dymock. Accompanying the BDS restructure project is a review of administrative staff with the aim of optimally supporting delivery of the programme. Susan Hooper and Dominic O'Sullivan continue to develop a long awaited ePortfolio to support student education within the restructured programme.

In postgraduate education a proposal to restructure and modernise the <u>BUOLD programme</u> was approved by PAG in April. The re-launch has been delayed by a year whilst Dr Nigel Robb, who leads the programme, is building new modules and materials to provide better e-learning material and online access. This may include a market for overseas students.

Finally Dr David Dymock, Faculty Undergraduate Education Director and our Head of Teaching, has received an <u>Association of Dental Education in Europe</u> (ADEE) <u>Mature Educator Excellence in Dental Education Award</u>. The award with certificate will be presented to him in August at the General Assembly of ADEE during the annual Scientific Meeting in Lyon, France.

National graduate recruitment

Dentistry has followed Medicine into a national recruitment process for dental foundation training (DF1). Our final year BDS students have been through a poorly thought out process and the inevitable casualties are very anxious and without jobs after graduation. Further posts are being released over the next few months and hopefully all will be placed. The recruitment is a Dental Deanery function and we are optimistic that the process will be improved this year. This continues to be discussed as a priority at Dental Schools Council. We have tried to support students as much as possible but fear they will reflect their distress through the NSS return.

Student activity

Bristol students hosted the British Dental Students Association conference this year and the student president Lee Feinberg, together with the University of Bristol Dental Students Society, is to be congratulated on an excellent event. Over 500 students attended, and were all well behaved although, by all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Research

In research work continues on the development of the three major awards that have been confirmed in the last 12 months. The MRC/NHS (NIHR) BRU in nutrition is a major award (£4.5 million) and involves all three schools in the Faculty. This will contribute to the ambition of the Faculty in developing the BHP. Staff and PhD students are being recruited rapidly and the Unit will be based in the Trust Education Centre. As a consequence of this activity this building is now known as the Research and Education Centre. The BRU will be formally opened in September 2012.

School News: Oral and Dental Sciences cont.....

Howard Jenkinson, Professor of Oral Microbiology has been awarded a five-year programme renewal from NIH for \$2.1 m to develop further research into yeast infections and better ways to control them. Angela Nobbs received an award from the Royal Society and Jim Middleton was successful in obtaining a PhD studentship from the MRC.

The Healing Foundation birth cohort and gene bank study had a media launch at the end of March 2012, there was coverage from national television, BBC radio 4, BBC radio Bristol, national and local press as well as the British Medical Journal.

We have also seen further success for our NIHR Academic Clinical Fellows, an applicant in Oral and Maxillo-Facial surgery is being interviewed this month and further applications are in process. We have appointed three further Academic Clinical Fellows who will join us in August. These posts last for three years with 25% of the time being allocated for research. This time is consolidated into a 9 month period of full time research which is used to build an application for a research training fellowship for submission to a research council or charity.

Sustainability agenda

In the last newsletter we highlighted our green activity in early spring. At that time we held a bronze award in the School and silver in the postgraduate Dental Deanery. Despite all the rain and a miserable summer, growth of green awareness led by Maria Davies has been rewarded with a silver award for the School and a gold award for the laboratories. This has been a long and sustained campaign which has increased awareness and sustainability. Maria and her team have worked hard to achieve this and are to be congratulated on this achievement.

School News: Social and Community Medicine

Awards successes

Mark Brennan Prize, Institute of Medical Ethics

A number of Bristol medical students presented their creative-reflective work, 10th Feb 2012, at the Sixth Conference on Medical Ethics and Law in London. The title of the conference was 'Stories and Narratives – their role in Teaching and Learning Medical Ethics & Law' and students had been invited by Professor Gordon Stirrat nationally to submit their texts.

Runners up included Georgina Maguire and Bronwen Warner both of whom performed poems produced during their year 1 GP placement based on a home visit with a patient. Egho Ireo was a runner up in the visual art presentations with her scrapbook produced on the Whole Person Care course.

Louise Younie (Honorary Lecturer UoB, previous course lead for year 1 GP placement)

"Taking History"-

My painting is inspired by a patient suffering from cancer for the second time. Before meeting Mrs Jones* the doctor handed us a copy of her brief medical history. Condition details and medication names help give a biomedical overview. When doctors see so many people they must rely on this in-

formation to understand their patient's problems. After spending time with Mrs Jones I realised the medical view shouldn't just include her previous cancers, problems and drugs- it needs to also include her story, how she is coping and how her health affects her family.

I decided to paint on a large canvas to represent the huge impact the cancer has on Mrs Jones's life. I painted her face disappearing into copies of her crumpled medical notes as if in order to see her as a scientific being, you

would have to look through her. I tried to portray Mrs Jones's fear, pain and exhaustion whilst fighting cancer. I crumpled and ripped the notes to represent people's fragility and purposely layered the text to give a sense of depth.

Friday 10

BMA Hou

I learnt that the practical, social and emotional aspects of illness must be respected and treated as well as possible. More than ever I truly understood how deep illness can run in a person, how treating the science of a disease just isn't enough.

Mrs Jones was in pain but her strength of character was inspirational. She sadly passed away a few months after the painting was finished.

Libby Wilson



*I have changed the name, medical details and face of the patient who inspired the work to protect their identity. Also the medical notes that make up the background to the piece are fabricated.

School News: Social and Community Medicine Cont......

Fellowships

Corrie Macdonald-Wallis - MRC Population Health Scientist Fellowship "Identification of normal and at-risk trajectories of blood pressure in pregnancy in relation to offspring perinatal health and child-hood development". Sponsors: Debbie Lawlor; Kate Tilling

Lavinia Paternoster - MRC Population Health Scientist fellowship Genetic Epidemiology of Atopic Dermatitis. Sponsors: John Henderson/Dave Evans

Rachel Hughes - MRC Career Development Fellowship: Developing statistical methodology in longitudinal modelling of biomarkers" Sponsors: Jonathan Sterne/Kate Tilling

Celia Gregson - Arthritis Research UK Clinician Scientist Fellowship and will be returning to Bristol in January next year (from Southampton)

Becky Gilbert has been awarded a Cancer Research UK Population Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, entitled "Improving the detection of localised prostate cancer by combining longitudinal reference ranges, clinical prediction rules and genetic information". This will run for three years, and the supervisors are Richard Martin, Chris Metcalfe and Kate Tilling.

Academics in the school have also been awarded the following grants:

Neonatal Discharge – (Jenny Ingram, Peter Fleming, Peter Blair) £327,177

Oak Fellowships in Molecular Epidemiology - Oak Foundation, Switzerland – (George Davey Smith) £840,000

ROMIO Feasibility Study – (Chris Metcalfe, Jane Blazeby, Jenny Donovan, Sian Noble) £482,929

Development of an intervention to improve Mental Health Support and Training for Secondary School Staff – A Feasibility and Pilot Study – NIHR (Judi Kidger, Ricardo Araya, Rona Campbell, Jenny Donovan, David Gunnell, Will Hollingworth, Kate Tilling) £388,556

Grant awarded to develop methods that will predict who will benefit from antidepressant treatment Lewis, G, Gilbody, S, Dowrick, C, Kendrick, T, Ades, T, Welton, N, Peter, T, Holloingworth, W, Wiles, N, Araya, R, Robinson, J, Malpass, A, Kessler, D, Lanham, P, Churchill, R, Mulvenna, S (2012) What are the indications for prescribing antidepressants that will lead to a clinical benefit? NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research RP-PG-0610-10048. £1,999,567 over 5 years.

School News: Social and Community Medicine Cont......

NIHR funding award for Programme of Suicide Research

David Gunnell and colleagues in SSCM (Jenny Donovan, Chris Metcalfe, John Potokar, Will Hollingworth, Richard Huxtable) have been awarded £1,765,660 for a new NIHR Programme of suicide prevention research.

The research is a collaboration between the University of Bristol, AWP Mental Health Trust and research colleagues at the Universities of Oxford, Manchester and Stirling. The overall aim of the research is to contribute to reducing suicide in England. The team will focus on three key issues identified in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy:

- Developing and piloting an intervention to reduce the impact of the economic recession on suicide
- Improving the care of people who self-harm
- Preventing suicides from new high-lethality methods

University to have key role in researching solutions to England's major public health challenges

Researchers from the University of Bristol are among some of the country's leading experts selected to join a £20 million centre of excellence that will help address England's public health issues.

The School for Public Health (SfPHR), funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and established in April 2012, forms part of the Government's Public Health White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People' strategy.

Its primary aim is to increase the evidence base for effective public health practice by drawing on expertise from 8 UK centres [announced today]. These include researchers from <u>Bristol's School of Social and Community Medicine</u> and the <u>Centre for Exercise</u>, <u>Nutrition and Health Sciences</u>, who have been awarded over £2 million to undertake priority research focusing on the health of adolescents, improving emotional health and physical activity as well as reducing inequalities in health.

Debbie Lawlor has been elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci)

Debbie Lawlor, Professor of Epidemiology, is one of 46 UK academics elected for outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical science, for innovative application of scientific knowledge or for their conspicuous service to healthcare.

Academics appointed as UK's most outstanding leaders of healthcare research

A leading cardiac surgeon and two epidemiologists at the University of Bristol have been selected to represent the country's most outstanding leaders of clinical and applied health and social care research by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Gianni Angelini, British Heart Foundation (BHF) Professor of Cardiac Surgery in the School of Clinical Sciences and Bristol Heart Institute, is one of 29 NIHR Senior Investigators who have been reappointed. Jonathan Sterne, Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology, and Debbie Lawlor, Professor of Epidemiology in School of Social and Community Medicine, have been announced as two of 25 new appointees. Together, they make up 208 NIHR Senior Investigators — the NIHR's pre-eminent researchers who are at the cutting edge of health research focusing on the needs of patients and the public. An independent expert panel, chaired by Professor Sir Alex Markham, advised on the appointments. These are made according to criteria of quality and volume of internationally excellent research; its relevance to patients; and the public; impact on improvements in healthcare and public health; impact of their individual research leadership; engagement of patients and the public and engagement of healthcare policy makers and planners with their research.

School News: Social and Community Medicine Cont......

The annual 2012 Senior Investigator competition received 177 applications, including many from current Senior Investigators wishing to continue in this role for a second and final term. For further information about NIHR Senior Investigators visit: www.nihr.ac.uk/faculty/Pages/faculty-senior-investigators.aspx

News

ALSPAC wins the inaugural Bristol Genius Award

ALSPAC has won the inaugural Bristol Genius Award, for 'a project or organisation that has the potential to change lives for the better or has already changed lives significantly'. The decision was announced at an awards ceremony last night, attended by ALSPAC's founder, Professor Jean Golding, and Executive Director Lynn Molloy. ALSPAC beat off competition from 40 long listed and 6 shortlisted projects to scoop the award. In her acceptance speech, Lynn said:

'I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of all our wonderful and dedicated participants, our hardworking and committed staff, and the first-class scientists we work with in Bristol and all over the world, in particular Professor Jean Golding who had the remarkable vision to found the project all those years ago, and Professor George Davey Smith who succeeded Jean as scientific director and who is ensuring that ALSPAC is at the forefront of world-leading genetic and epigenetic research. The fact that this award comes as we celebrate our 21st birthday is metaphorical icing on the birthday cake.'

Primary care based intervention for women experiencing domestic violence probably costeffective

One in four women in the UK experience domestic violence during their lifetime, often resulting in injuries and an increased risk of chronic physical and mental illness. A programme of training and support for GPs, practice nurses and GP receptionists to improve the response of primary care to women experiencing domestic violence could be cost-effective, according to new research published today in *BMJ Open*.

The aim of the study was to find out if IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety), a training and support intervention to improve the response of primary care to women experiencing domestic violence (DV), is cost-effective. The research team was led by Gene Feder, Professor of Primary Health Care in the University of Bristol's School of Social and Community Medicine together with academics from Queen Mary, University of London; University of Exeter and the University of Technology Sydney.

Medical Education News

The Medical School has an all-new website! The new site is the public face of the MB ChB and aims to advertise its key strengths and unique aspects. It also gives a great insight into the range of staff that work in undergraduate medicine. The website includes a redesigned section dedicated to staff and current students.

We have produced 14 short videos for the website as part of our faculty partnership with JISC Digital Media (www.bristol.ac.uk/fmd/jiscdigitalmedia). They also took photographs at each of our clinical academies for inclusion in the website.

The new website will be launched at the MB ChB Annual Programme Review on Wednesday 18th July.



THANK

YOU

FOR

ALL

YOUR

CONTRIBUTIONS