



**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

**MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2016**

**AT 15:30 IN MG25 (MYDDELTON STREET BUILDING)**

**Agenda**

<b>Members</b>	<b>02.03.15</b>	<b>23.04.15</b>	<b>17.06.15</b>	<b>23.07.15</b>	<b>22.10.15</b>	<b>28.01.16</b>	<b>28.04.16</b>
Jill Francis (JF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Crabb (DC)	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Kathleen Mulligan (KM)	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓
Nikki Botting (NB)	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Susan Ayers (SA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Alan Simpson (AS)	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amanda Burls (AB) John Lawrenson (JL)	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A
Craig Hill (CH) Secretary	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Nick Drey (ND)	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Christine McCourt (CM)	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓	A
Peter Ainsworth (PA)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Neil Wrangmore (NW)	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Simon Grant (SG)	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
Sarah White (SW) Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓

**1. Welcome and Apologies (Chair)**

Apologies: David Crabb, Susan Ayers, Amanda Burls, John Lawrenson, Craig Hill, Christine McCourt.

Simon Grant joined the meeting in DC's absence. Sarah White acted as the servicing officer in CH's absence.

## 2. Research Centres Update

### i. Applied Vision Research (Simon Grant)

- DC has been awarded new grants for glaucoma studies; £140k from the Wellcome Trust and €500k from Horizon2020. DC has also received a digital award from the Pharmaceutical Marketing Training Society for an interactive app, which allows patients with glaucoma to understand their symptoms.
- Two new appointments to the team; Manbir Nagra and Irene Ctori have started well. Mike Powner, another recent addition to the division, is a Cell Biologist, whose paper, in collaboration with Harvard is featured on the front cover of this month's Nature Medicine.
- Several applications submitted to College of Optometry for PhD studentships.
- The Marine Coast Guard Service are now using a colour vision test John Barbur developed. Several other organisations have also expressed their interest. Noted that this may be of interest as an impact case study for the next REF.
- Byki Huntjens and Manbir Nagra have secured a grant from the School HEIF fund (for impact activities) to hold a 2 day conference. The conference, to be held in November 2016 is being organised with 10 contact lens companies, who will each pay to take part. Strategically it will help establish City as the go-to for future optometry research.

### ii. Health Services Research (Kathleen Mulligan)

- No grants to report. Catherine Hurt has been awarded money from the School HEIF Fund for developing an online tool for Alzheimer's carers.
- Shashi Hirani and Lorna Rixon, who manage the City TECs are currently talking to numerous Tech companies and health care providers (e.g. EFLT, UCLP) re collaborations and consultation in Technology Enabled Care for both research purposes and development of educational courses. Internal collaborators are also being lined up from City's other schools.
- Theo Fteropoulli has just been awarded her PhD.
- Yiannis Kyratsis has been appointed as a visiting scientist at Harvard for his international work on policy research.
- Jill Francis has been appointed visiting scientist at Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

### iii. Language and Communication Science Research (Nikki Botting)

- No new grants received since last meeting.
- Sarah Northcott has been awarded a 3 year post-doc fellowship by the Stroke Foundation.
- Nick Behn received a PhD progress award and is now employed as a postdoc Research Fellow on Katerina Hilari's NIHR-funded project.
- Abbey Roper won the PhD progress awarded funded by the Worshipful Company of Saddlers.
- NB is now cross-checking the SHS calendar when scheduling research events.
- NB is offering 1:1 meetings with the team to get an overview of immediate research priorities and assist in setting goals.

### iv. Maternal and Child Health Research (Susan Ayers) – No update.

#### v. **Mental Health Research (Alan Simpson)**

- Award from School HEIF fund to disseminate/discuss results of two studies on care planning with six NHS Trusts.
- Applications submitted for RSF spend down funds and Doctoral Fellowships.
- Cochrane Systematic Review of self-management interventions in people with type 2 diabetes and severe mental illness published (led by Hayley McBain in HSRM).
- Chris Flood has published international papers on suicide ideation among students.
- Mark Haddad has published on measuring the well-being of health care professionals in the Punjab.
- Julia Jones has submitted a paper on our joint-Division work on type 2 diabetes and severe mental illness to a special supplement on physical/mental health.
- AS will be discussing his research on mental health care planning for a podcast on the National Health Service website (<http://www.nhs.uk/>), which promotes high quality health research.
- Work is underway developing four research grant applications to be submitted this summer.
- Visiting Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane, from Adelaide, Australia, spent a week working with the team on publications and grants and gave a seminar.

#### vi. **Public Health Research (Amanda Burls)** – No update.

#### 3. **Minutes** (Chair) (Paper B)

**Action: The Committee agreed to send any amendments to the minutes of the Research Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to SW.**

#### 4. **Matters arising** (Chair)

No matters arising due to ongoing changes to minutes.

#### 5. **Ongoing Action List** (Chair)

Progress on actions from previous meeting were updated on the Action List (Paper C).

#### 6. **Chair's Communications** (Chair)

##### i. **Restructure of Research and Enterprise Office**

Chair thanked committee members for their support around the ongoing restructure.

Noted that the research office staff will continue to spend most of their time in the SHS building. Line management will go to the central Research Office, with "dotted line" management to the ADR and COO within the School.

##### ii. **Grants submitted and awarded**

Since the last RCM, at the end of January 2016, a total of 23 applications have been submitted with a nominal value of £2.5m. During the academic year to date, £2m has already been received, equalling the total for the entire previous academic year.

DLs have requested sight of the application spreadsheets (including the budget and "AGC" questionnaire). PA is notifying DLs at the School-level approval stage.

##### iii. **CRO report**

Chair is aiming to get people engaged with the website and has been trying to get the number of pending articles reduced. The latest update from the Chief

Librarian noted that, University-wide, there are now 457 fewer articles pending since the previous audit. SHS had the biggest improvement with 638 fewer articles.

#### iv. ARQM

Due to ongoing problems with functionality of City Research Online and despite the increased support from the central Research Office, the ARQM process has been delayed. The deadline has been pushed back by a month. Expected to go active shortly.

#### v. PhD funding: Full studentships, match-funded studentships, progress awards

Approximately 15 PhD proposals will be going live on the City website and jobs.ac.uk at midday on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. There are 2 full studentships and 2 match-funded studentships funded by RSF (and possibly others, depending on other funding possibilities). [https://www2.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl\\_cityuniversity01.asp?s=4A515F4E5A565B1A&jobid=105523,1286529865&key=123213811&c=23712356485659&pagestamp=seltsmtjogwxgnpmop](https://www2.i-grasp.com/fe/tpl_cityuniversity01.asp?s=4A515F4E5A565B1A&jobid=105523,1286529865&key=123213811&c=23712356485659&pagestamp=seltsmtjogwxgnpmop)

Noted that the PhD Progress Awards appear to have been a good investment.

#### vi. Impact activity – HEIF funded awards (Paper D)

The Committee received and noted the paper to be of interest.

#### vii. Research Centre structure of the School

The Committee received the table displaying the research centres, research groups and leads as they were set for the previous REF.

The following observations were made:

- Many groups overlap between few centres.
- Centre for Health Services Research has 10 research groups, several of which are not functioning.
- Our new professor Nursing, Leanne Aitken, conducts research within the Intensive Care context; her work should be made visible through the activity of a group that she could lead.

It was suggested that conversations about these issues should take place within each research centre with a view to make proposals about possible minor changes to the structure.

**Action: Each research centre is to compile a brief statement stating which groups are working well together and which groups are not functioning well, along with recommendations. Statements to be emailed to the Chair and SW, to take to the Executive Committee before the next Research Committee meeting in July.**

#### viii. Research strategy presentation for next SHS “allstaff” meeting

The Research Committee received the Overall Metrics paper (Paper E) and made the following observations:

- *Graph Page 1: Grant application success rate by year* - Over time there has been what appears to be a decline, possibly due to unsuccessful applications not reported by senior staff recruited prior to REF2014. Displaying this graph in the context of the all-staff meeting was thought to be misleading. It was suggested that a 15% grant success rate is consistent with the sector average.
- Noted internal collaboration is not recognised in these grant data.
- Agreed overall, the graphs show a good performance in the School with respect to grant income.
- Noted the graphs of interest to be:

- *Graph Page 1: Grant application success rate by funder type*
- *Graph page 2: Number of active doctoral students by year*
- The denominator, 'research-active member of staff' throughout various graphs was thought to be a difficult number to identify.
- *Graphs page 3* - Publication rates look good and show that the team have been doing very well for a sustained length of time.

**Action: This discussion and the research staff strategy for the all-staff meeting to be continued by email.**

**ix. University consultation on risk assessment – need to ensure inclusion of processes related to research**

Noted the Risk Assessment proposal (Paper H) does not relate very well with research processes. **Action: Discussion to be carried over to the next meeting for CM's contribution.**

7. **Service User Involvement** (Alan Simpson)  
Some research centres are very engaged with their service user involvement processes. **Action: Invite Adam Al-Kashi to a meeting to discuss service user involvement further.**
8. **Update on RSF Committee** (Chair) (Paper F)  
Paper out of date at time of RC, as £80k was allocated on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The results of the RSF Special Call is currently undergoing the approval process by the Finance Committee and awards will be announced by 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
9. **Update on Travel Committee** (Chair) (Paper G)  
Paper out of date at time of RC, as £20k was allocated on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
10. **Update on Ethics Committee** (Nick Drey)  
The Annual Report is currently being prepared and will be available at the next RC meeting. Unexpectedly, applications were down across the board for internal school and NHS approvals.
10. **Report from Programme Director for PhD** (Christine McCourt) - No update.
11. **Consultation on Risk Assessment** (Chair) (Paper H)  
Addressed previously in Chair's Communications (Item 6.ix).
12. **Inviting students to Research Seminars** (Chair) (Paper I)  
There has been some interest from the Student Experience Committee in inviting Undergraduate students to Research Seminars. Extending the invite could mean capacity and catering funding issues. It is likely that the content of presentations would need to be structured differently for a student audience. Confirmed that PhD students are always invited.  
**Action: Chair to report back that there are still some complexities around extending the invite for Research Seminars to Undergraduate students.**
13. **Grant applications submitted and awarded** (Chair) (Paper J)  
Discussed previously and noted above.
14. **ADR standing down at end of August** (Chair)  
As previously notified, the Chair will be stepping down and is hopeful someone currently sitting on the RC will take up the post. Ideally the succeeding Chair will co-chair with next RC with JF.
15. **Any Other Business** (All)

**Action: Please encourage your teams to follow colleagues on Research Gate.**

The RC noted the call from the Wellcome Trust for university awards. These enable universities to attract research staff by providing support for up to five years after which time the award holder takes up a guaranteed permanent post at the university." Submission deadline 6 July 2016

**Action: The Chair asked if a member of the RC wanted to take this on as a project? RC to consider.**

**16. Date of next meeting**

28<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Secretary: Sarah White  
Email: Sarah.White@city.ac.uk  
Telephone: 0207 040 5767