

From Professor Jill Francis, Associate Dean (Research), School of Health Sciences, 20 October 2015

Achievements

Research funding

- Research income (ie, for current projects, amounts invoiced and paid) for the year 08/2014 – 07/2015: **£1,075,925**
- Grant applications submitted, 08/2014 – 07/2015: **95** (previous year 85)
- Grant applications submitted 2015 ytd (to end of September): **78**
- Grants awarded in 2015 ytd (to end of September), are listed below

| Title | Funder | Amount | PI |
|---|------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Orbital implantation of biocompatible magnets for the treatment of severe visual impairment due to intractable nystagmus | NIHR | £19,999 | NEWMAN, STANTON |
| Finding glaucoma in the High Street – A Pop-Up Pilot Project | International Glaucoma Assoc | £15,825 | CRABB, DAVID |
| Coloured lenses for visual stress in children: A precise science? | British Academy | £9,000 | CONWAY, MIRIAM |
| Wellbeing in Pregnancy (WiP): Evaluating an intervention to improve women's perinatal mental health | Boots Family Trust | £7,000 | AYERS, SUSAN |
| A randomised controlled trial to explore the efficacy of a patient-initiated botulinum toxin treatment model for Blepharospasm and Hemifacial spasm compared to treatment as usual. | Merz Pharma | £99,960 | McBAIN, HAYLEY |
| Assessment of a web-based tool for parents of children with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis coupled with standard care versus standard care alone: A randomised controlled trial | NIHR | £335,380 | NEWMAN, STANTON |
| Barriers to effective diabetes care for people with severe mental illness. | Barts and the London charity | £33,594 | MULLIGAN, KATHLEEN |
| Chemotherapy induced cognitive changes in colorectal cancer patients | Barts and The London Charity | £350,000 | HURT, CATHERINE |
| What Works to Increase Attendance for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening? An Evidence Synthesis | NIHR | £216,597 | LAWRENSON, JOHN |

Enterprise activities

- Tech Transfer: The IP Commercialisation Board has approved funding from the Enterprise Revolving Fund for Professors Shula Chiat and Penny Rogers to develop their Sociocognitive Battery for assessing children for impairments in social interaction and communication. A meeting with UK Optical about the Eye Visor project led to plans to bid for funding to improve design of the working prototype and seek investment.
- In the 2014/2015 academic year School of Health consultancy continued to grow at a fast pace with dedicated personal support for academics from Sue Whittle – from £295k in 2012 to over £1.2M invoiced in 2014/2015. The biggest projects are with Roche, Allergan and the Royal College of Optometrists and Leadership programmes in Care homes (*MyHome Life*). Most of the consultancy is undertaken by around 13 key individuals and *CitySight* (the new public-facing clinic on Northampton Square) and Optical Appliance Testing Service (OATS).
- SHS allocated HEIf funding **was reduced this year to £55k from £120k last year and £182k the year before**. £10k of this is being used to support an expert leadership programme for physicians jointly with Cass and the remainder will continue to fund Sue Whittle to support academics with consultancy in the period before our full time Business Development Manager Christina Gutierrez starts in late October and during her induction up to Christmas.

School of Health Sciences Research & Enterprise Progress Report

Item 5 Paper Cii

University awards 2015

- VC's Award for Outstanding Research Income - Professor David Crabb
- VC's Award for Outstanding Research Impact - Professor Julienne Meyer
- VC's award for Outstanding Doctoral Supervision - Dr Katerina Hilari
- University Research Competition: Awarded to Professor Jane Marshall for Taking Eva Park into the wild: developing impact from a technological aphasia research project.

Impact / Public engagement

- Eva Park Open Day held on 10 June 2015. "Evaluating the effects of a virtual communication environment for people with aphasia." The project (funded by the Stroke Association) created a virtual communication environment for people with aphasia. The event was attended by participants with aphasia, family, support workers, consultants, students and representatives from the Stroke Association.
- The Centre for Maternal and Child Health Research held the "Positive Birth: supporting normality in maternity care" conference (21 July 2015). Aims were to provide a forum for sharing evidence and experiences of positive and normal childbirth. This provided an opportunity for collaboration which in turn will enhance clinical practice, education and research.
- The Centre for Mental Health Research hold regular "SUGAR" (Service User and Carer Group Advising on Research) Meetings to build long-term collaborative research relationships with members of local communities in east London.
- As of September 2015, the proportion of Symplectic publications with associated full-text in City Research Online was **34%**.

Research capacity building

- Ongoing workshops and targeted mentoring are offered to support Early Career staff and new PIs in preparing grant applications
- "Dragons' Den" event (28 July) for MSc in Clinical Research students to pitch their PhD idea with a view to supporting their applications for externally-funded PhD fellowships
- School-funded PhD Progress Awards (6 months of Studentship-level funding) for PhD students who submit within 3 years, to support writing for publication and writing post-doctoral fellowship applications: Awarded in 2015 to Maggie Grant, Nicholas Behn and Madeleine Pritchard.
- School-funded postdoctoral fellowship award: One 12-month fellowship awarded to Dr Sarah Northcott

Research training

- Workshops (+ surgeries) on systematic review methods led by Professor Amanda Burls
- Research Seminar programmes of the 6 Research Centres rationalised across the School (one seminar every Monday, 1-2pm with lunch provided) to encourage cross-Centre engagement.

Needs

- PhD student numbers are reduced from 120 in 2014 to 100 in 2015 owing to the cessation of University-funded PhD studentships. This is despite the award from School funds of two matched funded PhD studentships (to Professors David Crabb and Susan Ayers) to Supervisors who secure 50% funding from a business or charity, and several externally-funded studentships. Looking to REF2020 we need university-level support now. This would represent a relatively small investment that promises significant return.
- We require improved post-award research support as PIs are spending a lot of time managing elements of their funded projects that would be more effectively managed by professional services staff. The opportunity costs associated with this mean that PIs are less able to focus on writing for publication, and on writing the next grant application.
- Looking to REF2020, prospective, planned, documentable research impact is imperative and requires support.
- We need greater than £55k HEIf funding to support our ongoing successful Consultancy work. Again, an increase in HEIf allocation would represent a relatively small investment that promises significant return.

Plans

- We plan to hold a School-wide discussion forum on Pathways to Research Impact. There are pockets of extremely good practice in the School and we will share good practice and generate further ideas.