Three wins for King’s

KING’S HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN joint bids with its partner NHS Trusts for Department of Health Research Centres of Excellence. The awards were announced in December by the Department of Health as part of its Best Research for Best Health initiative.

The Research Centres will be leaders in scientific translation

King’s will be collaborating on a ‘Comprehensive Centre’ with Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, on a ‘Specialist Centre’ with the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and on a ‘Patient Safety and Quality Research Centre’ in collaboration with King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

King’s is the only university to provide academic partnership in the three categories of research centre.

Last year the Department of Health invited NHS/academic partnerships to put forward proposals for research centres to drive progress on innovation and translational research in biomedicine and NHS service quality and safety. The Research Centres will be leaders in scientific translation and early adopters of new insights in technologies and treatments for improving health. These Centres are a key component of the NHS contribution to the nation’s international competitiveness.

The Comprehensive Centre will be directed by Professor Richard Trembath. Professor Graham Lord will be the Deputy Director with specific responsibility for training.

They will work closely with Professor Charles Wolfe, Research & Development Director for Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust. The Centre will bring together clinicians and basic scientists, educators and representation from industry to explore opportunities for translation. It will be organised around seven themes: Allergy and Asthma, Transplantation, Immunology and Infection, Atherosclerotic disease, Dermatology, Oral Health and Cancer. The Centre will benefit from the clinical research facilities on the St Thomas’ and Guy’s Campuses, which have recently been funded by Tate & Lyle, and the Guy’s and St Thomas’ Charity.

The Specialist Centre, to be directed by Professor Simon Lovestone, will allow the Institute of Psychiatry to accelerate its programme of translational continued on page 2

HRH opens flagship research Centre

On 10 January Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, formally opened the £30 million James Black Centre at King’s Denmark Hill Campus. Here the Principal, Professor Rick Trainer, introduces The Princess Royal to Sir James Black, Emeritus Professor of Analytical Pharmacology at King’s, Lady Black, Professors Jack Price and Ajah Shah and Mr Michael Parker (right), Chairman of King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. For the full story see page 3.
Three wins for King’s

continued from page 1
research so that new discoveries in the area of mental health can yield clinical benefits for patients. The new Centre will provide a strong basis for new ways to investigate, diagnose, treat and support people with mental illnesses and their carers.

‘This is a very proud day for King’s’

The Patient Safety and Quality Centre will be directed by Professor Naomi Fulop. Its innovative approach to translating high quality research into improving patient safety and quality will focus on four major programmes: Workforce, Risk, Innovations and Organisational Governance. The Centre will examine, for instance, staff commitment to an organisation and how that affects quality of patient care. It will focus on risk management and communications in accident and emergency departments and it will develop organisational strategies for reducing the risk of hospital associated infections.

Professor Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health), said of these awards: ‘I am absolutely delighted that King’s is the academic partner in these Research Centres awarded by the Department of Health. This represents a major step forward for King’s and its NHS partners in terms of external recognition of our excellence across a wide range of health disciplines. Many people were involved in the preparation of these bids but in particular from a College perspective I would like to thank the three Directors, who with their NHS counterparts were instrumental in formulating the bids: Professor Richard Trembath, Professor Simon Lovestone and Professor Naomi Fulop.’

The Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, added: ‘This is a very proud day for King’s and its partner NHS Trusts. These awards are fitting tributes to the tremendous efforts made by my colleagues in producing such high quality bids for each of these Centres. These successes also reflect the increasingly close alignment of the College’s strategies with those of its NHS counterparts. The award of these Centres acknowledges at a national level our unparalleled translational research portfolio and will facilitate even greater opportunities to bring real benefit to the nation’s health.’

King’s joins UK global elite

In a major new initiative announced in December at 10 Downing Street the Government launched a ‘Global Medical Excellence Cluster’. The launch was attended by the Principal and Professor Robert Lechler. As well as King’s, other members include Imperial College, UCL, Oxford and Cambridge, NHS partners and leading pharmaceutical companies.

The establishment of the cluster is seen as an essential move if the UK is to compete effectively with other existing and emerging clusters such as Boston and Shanghai. Singapore, Dubai, Shanghai and New Delhi are all developing similar approaches linking business, healthcare and academia.

‘I am very concerned about the risk from India and China and competition from America,’ the Prime Minister, Tony Blair said. ‘The development of science and technology is now central to our economic future. If we fail to make the most of what we have, then we will fall behind.’

Professor Lechler comments: ‘This is an extremely important initiative for King’s and is the first tangible benefit of recently winning Department of Health Research Centre status. We plan to participate actively in the establishment of this cluster.’
HRH opens flagship Centre

ON 10 JANUARY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, formally opened the £30 million James Black Centre at King’s Denmark Hill Campus. The new Centre specialises in research in cardiology, neuroscience and sickle cell disease, with a major focus on stem cell research.

The Princess Royal was welcomed by Sir Graeme Davies, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, Professor Rick Trainor, Principal, and Baroness Rawlings, Chairman of Council. The Chancellor was then introduced to Nobel Laureate Sir James Black, Emeritus Professor of Analytical Pharmacology at King’s, after whom the Centre has been named, and Professor Anne Greenough, Head of the School of Medicine, and Professor Peter McGuffin, Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry.

A unique, state-of-the-art facility

Following a short speech by the Principal and presentations by Professor Ajay Shah and Professor Jack Price on the main areas of work to be undertaken at the Centre, the tour moved to the new building itself. The Chancellor was shown around the laboratories, technical facilities and office areas, along the way seeing poster presentations which further outline the groundbreaking research at the Centre. The tour culminated with the Chancellor unveiling a plaque.

The James Black Centre is a unique, state-of-the-art facility, bringing together more than 200 scientists researching a number of different diseases. Research into cardiovascular disease, led by Professor Shah and Professor Qingbo Xu, will look in particular at the molecular mechanisms that determine heart failure and stem cell research into atherosclerosis. Work on sickle cell disease and b thalassaemia, under Professor Swee Lay Thein, will explore cellular mechanisms of sickle cell and potential clinical trials for new therapies.

The Centre will also enable scientists from the Institute of Psychiatry to increase research programmes in neuroscience. This group, led by Professor Price, will look at neurodegenerative conditions such as stroke, Parkinson’s and Batten’s Disease and psychiatric disorders including schizophrenia.

‘Double our efforts in neuroscience’

Professor Price comments: ‘The new facilities and laboratory spaces at the Centre have given us a unique chance to double our efforts in the field of neuroscience. Our team can now focus more on molecular and behavioural neuroscience, neural stem cells and the neurobiology of mental health, exploring the cellular basis of some of the most devastating neurological and psychiatric conditions affecting the population.’

Professor Rick Trainor said: ‘This new Centre represents a tremendous opportunity to bring together clinical and non-clinical scientists in a wide range of disease areas. Their research programmes, many of which include stem cell science, will make a major contribution towards understanding and treating some of the world’s most debilitating conditions. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of King’s staff, who have worked so hard developing the research strategy for the new Centre as well as those who have coordinated the construction of the building. I’d also like to thank our numerous donors, including the British Heart Foundation, our partner NHS Trusts and their associated charities, whose generosity has helped to make our vision a reality.’
Dear Colleagues

A number of King’s academics have recently made the trip to 10 Downing Street to advise the Government on various policy initiatives, and I was pleased to follow in their footsteps in December when Professor Robert Lechler and I attended the launch of a ‘Global Medical Excellence Cluster’ of which King’s is a founding member. We were in good company: the other members are Imperial College, UCL, Oxford and Cambridge, as well as prominent NHS trusts and pharmaceutical companies. (See page 2.)

This launch followed hot on the heels of the announcement that King’s has been successful in joint bids with its partner NHS Trusts for Department of Health Research Centres of Excellence. King’s will be collaborating on a Comprehensive Centre with Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, on a Specialist Centre with the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and on a Patient Safety and Quality Research Centre – a collaboration between the School of Social Science & Public Policy and King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. King’s is the only university to provide academic partnership in each of the three categories of research centre. (See cover story.) We also currently await the official outcome of a bid for a fifth MRC Research Centre.

We continue to develop our international contacts in line with the global aspirations of the College. The Chairman of Council and I visited New York before Christmas; in February we go to India to meet with alumni, donors and key academic institutions, as well as to host a seminar on international terrorism at which Professor Michael Clarke is the keynote speaker.

Closer to home, since my last column Council has approved the strategic plan for the years 2007-16 which will shortly be published. Work has begun on a complementary document, an implementation plan, which will focus on the next three years.

The connection between King’s and the University of London continues to attract attention. The University Council has given tentative approval to the plans of King’s (and of UCL, LSE and the Institute of Education) to award degrees in our own name starting some time in the academic year 2007-8. The College Council has also approved these plans under which degree certificates would mention King’s continued membership of the University of London. The next steps are to obtain final University approval and to resolve technical issues relating to medicine and dentistry. Meanwhile, reforms to the University’s constitution may well be agreed in March.

I shall be continuing visits to departments and divisions as well as my temryl fora talks. I hope the latter, which continue last term’s innovation of a preceding sandwich lunch, will again be well attended. Likewise, I would encourage attendance at the ceremony on 8 March at 17.00 at which King’s, for the first time, will exercise powers it has long had (and which other colleges have long exercised), to confer honorary degrees of the University of London. (Tickets are available from gwen.rumbold@kcl.ac.uk.)

The approach now being trialled by the College Development Office will establish whether alumni will give direct to their alma mater to support research in areas that are important to them such as cancer and childhood illness.

Kathrin Ostermann, Head of Individual Giving, is cautiously optimistic: ‘Before Christmas we mailed 20,000 alumni who have never made a gift before with a direct mail letter in support of our autism research at the Institute of Psychiatry. We are currently processing gifts from alumni and although it is still early days we are encouraged by the response. Our aim is to engage with former students who perhaps were not motivated to support student-related projects but who would be willing to support other charitable causes through the College.’

This approach has sparked considerable interest from other universities as ‘cause-based’ requests for support are still a relative novelty for individual giving programmes in the UK higher education sector. The Development Office welcomes views on this new approach. Staff wishing to add their support to either the Annual Fund or the Autism appeal should contact the Development Office (ext 3005).

Principal’s Column

Julian Anderson

New approach to giving

AN INNOVATIVE NEW APPROACH TO alumni-giving is to ask large numbers of alumni to engage directly with College research for the first time.

Traditionally the College has approached alumni for support for student-related causes. This has proved highly successful; in the last decade alumni support of the Annual Fund has provided more than £2 million to assist activities and facilities of direct benefit to students, including sports equipment and funding for student societies. The Annual Fund is the foundation of alumni giving and will remain so in the future. However, in order to reach new donors the Development team is reaching out to alumni who do not yet give with a different approach.

The College is in touch with 94,000 alumni in the UK and around the world. Many will already support causes such as medical research and care, overseas development and human rights. The College excels in research in these areas, indeed a large number of the UK’s leading charities make significant grants to research at King’s.

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**HFEA defers decision**

**THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY AUTHORITY** (HFEA) has delayed its decision on whether to grant licences for stem cell research which combines animal eggs and human cells.

Dr Stephen Minger, Professor Chris Shaw and Professor Clive Ballard of King’s and a team at Newcastle University, led by Dr Lyle Armstrong, will now have to wait until the autumn, after a public consultation on the issue.

The research involves deriving human embryonic stem cells using adult cells from patients with diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Instead of using human eggs, the researchers will remove the nuclei from animal eggs and replace them with cells from the patients. The resulting ‘disease-specific’ cell lines will then be studied to see how these neurodegenerative disorders develop. The scientists believe that the efficiency of this technique (known as SCNT – Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer) should be improved before human eggs, which are in short supply, are used.

The deferral of the HFEA’s decision comes after the King’s and Newcastle scientists had been informally told by the HFEA that their licence applications would be turned down. This followed the Department of Health’s December white paper on fertility treatment which included a proposed ban on such research, citing public opposition to it. The scientists therefore held a press briefing in London to explain the benefits of this research. They highlighted that the resulting embryos (which would be 99 per cent human) would be destroyed within 14 days, in line with HFEA regulations and would only be used for research, not therapeutic purposes. The conference resulted in very positive coverage across the media.

Dr Minger, Director of the Stem Cell Biology Laboratory, said: ‘Although we are naturally disappointed that the HFEA has not recommended that our research applications go to the licensing committee, we are happy with their decision to consult both public and scientific opinion. This will, I hope, provide the scientific community with the opportunity to inform the public and Government of the merit of this research.’

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**Primary care grants**

**PROFESSOR ROGER JONES AND WOLFSON PROFESSOR AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE AND PRIMARY CARE, WARWICK** have secured nearly £1 million in research grants from The Health Foundation’s Engaging with Quality in Primary Care programme which will improve primary care in the fields of gastrointestinal disorders and mental health care.

Professor Jones’ £520,000 grant will develop a Quality Outcomes Framework for the care of gastrointestinal disorders in general practice. Gastrointestinal (digestive) problems account for about 10 per cent of the National Health Service’s work yet currently there are no targets for the management of these problems.

Professor Jones, Wolfson Professor and Head of Department of General Practice and Primary Care, will be working with a number of groups including CORE, the digestive diseases charity, the National Association for Crohn’s and Colitis and the British Society of Gastroenterology to develop quality criteria in a national project involving GPs and Primary Care Trusts in England, Scotland and Wales.

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**Higher rates of psychoses**

**RESEARCHERS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY** have found higher rates of schizophrenia and other psychoses in certain ethnic minority groups and that parental separation in childhood is associated with an increased risk of developing later psychosis.

These findings, published in Psychological Medicine, provide new scientific evidence into these disorders as well as social risk factors.

This research forms part of the largest ever study of the development of psychoses in the UK. The Medical Research Council (MRC) has announced its intention to provide continuing funding for this multi-centre study over the next five years.

In the first paper researchers found that African Caribbean and Black African populations in England suffer from remarkably high rates of schizophrenia and manic psychosis.

The second paper looked at the possible causes of these high rates. The researchers found that separation from one or both parents for more than one year before the age of 16, as a consequence of family breakdown, was associated with a 2.5 fold increased risk of developing psychosis in adulthood.

Dr Craig Morgan, MRC Research Fellow and Lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, and first author on the second paper added: ‘These findings provide evidence that early social adversity may increase the risk of later psychosis. Such early adversity may be one factor contributing to the high rate of psychosis in the African-Caribbean population. However, while these findings are an important step forward, further research is now needed to more fully understand how specific types of early social adversity interact with psychological and biological factors to cause psychosis.’
Ray Mears’ Wild Food

DR TONY LEEDS AND A TEAM OF colleagues in the Nutritional Sciences Division with Dr Tony Brain of the Centre for Ultra Structural Imaging worked with Professor Gordon Hillman of the Institute of Archaeology and bushcraft and survival expert Ray Mears to help them identify plant foods present in Britain in the Mesolithic period (10,000 to 6,000 years before the present) as part of the recent series Ray Mears’ Wild Food which was aired on BBC2 throughout January.

Roots of sea kale were shown to be the Stone Age equivalent of potatoes and sea buckthorn berries – protected from scavenging birds and animals by vicious thorns – might have provided vitamin C throughout the winter months.

Last summer during a visit to the Northern Territories of Australia, Ray and Gordon watched river washing of thin shavings of roasted cheeky yam, a process developed by the indigenous peoples to reduce the amounts of toxic oxalate.

Back in Britain this method was applied to black briony, another potential carbohydrate staple but for its potential toxic components. Chemical analysis and scanning electron-microscopy at King’s showed that oxalate was greatly reduced by this process. Filming at King’s finished on 5 December.

The results will be reported in greater depth in a forthcoming ‘book of the film’, and a foretaste was given at King’s in a lecture by Ray Mears on 2 February.

Asian Games drug testing

The International Olympic Committee accredited Drug Control Centre undertook all the drug testing of athletes for the fifteenth Asian Games, which began on 1 December in Qatar, Doha.

More than 6,500 athletes competed from 45 countries, in 39 sports and 46 disciplines. In a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation, the numbers of samples tested by the Centre, led by Professor David Cowan, were on the scale of the Turin Winter Olympic Games.

Samples were couriered to the Centre within hours of collection and the results reported within 24 hours of receipt. Each sample was tested for the full range of substances covered by the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List.

C4 agoraphobic programme

Dr Tony Leeds (second from left) and colleagues from the Centre for Anxiety Disorders and Trauma.

agoraphobia as they receive intensive therapy from Professor Salkovskis.

Often wrongly conceived of as a fear of open spaces, agoraphobia is more properly a fear of environments which may cause panic attacks.

King’s researchers have had an impact on a recent report from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee. The report, Scientific Advice, Risk and Evidence Based Policy Making, was published in November following an inquiry lasting 12 months.

The report was critical of the Government’s arrangements for obtaining good quality scientific advice and applying it to policy decisions, and also made a number of proposals for improvement.

A Memorandum was submitted to the Committee by the King’s-based UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice. Subsequently William Solesbury, Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre, was invited to give oral evidence.

The only submissions from university research centres

Another Memorandum was submitted by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. The impact of the King’s evidence is apparent in the Committee’s report.

The prime concern of the evidence from the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies was the Home Office’s record in commissioning and misusing criminological research. The Committee took this seriously and urged the Government’s Chief Scientific Adviser Sir David King to be more proactive in investigating such allegations.

The evidence from the Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice ranged more widely, including the capability of civil servants to interpret and use research, the falsity of maintaining that decisions are ‘evidence based’ when clearly and properly other considerations of interest and ideology come into play as well, and the need for openness about how evidence has been regarded in making decisions.

‘In due course the Government will issue a response to the Committee’s report. What changes of procedure and practice it adopts will be the true test of the influence of these King’s researchers,’ explains Keith Britto, School of Social Science & Public Policy.

King’s research impacts Commons Committee

CHANNEL 4’S THE HOUSE OF Agoraphobics, shown in December, was the work of anxiety expert Paul Salkovskis, Professor of Clinical Psychology and Applied Science at the Institute of Psychiatry and Clinical Director of the Centre for Anxiety Disorders & Trauma at the Maudsley, and his team from the South London & Maudsley Foundation Trust.

It followed his groundbreaking programme The House of Obsessive Compulsives also shown in 2005. The House of Agoraphobics emphasised the need for people suffering from agoraphobia to leave the safety of their house and risk having the panic attacks they fear. The programme followed three people suffering from panic disorder and

News
Anne Greenough

Professor Anne Greenough is Head of the School of Medicine. Here Comment talks to Professor Greenough about her career, priorities and interests outside work…

Could you describe your career?
Since I was a small child I have always wanted to be a paediatrician. Two of my friends at primary school had been crippled by the last major polio epidemic and seeing their struggles with everyday life resulted in my ambition to be able to treat, and better still, prevent children’s illnesses.

My undergraduate medical training was at the University of Cambridge and University College Hospital, London. At Cambridge, my life-long love of physiology began and early in my clinical training it became obvious to me that a sound understanding of physiology would answer key research questions to improve treatment and prevent adverse outcomes of critically ill infants and children. As a consequence, I went back to the University of Cambridge to undertake research for my MD and then completed my clinical training as a lecturer at Cambridge and then the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. During that time I became focused on respiratory disease.

In 1985, I was appointed at King’s as Senior Lecturer and honorary consultant at King’s College Hospital, and subsequently became Professor of Neonatology and Clinical Respiratory Physiology. Professor Sir Eric Stroud’s leadership, as the then Head of Department, was inspirational. I subsequently took on additional roles, firstly as Clinical Director in Child Health at King’s College Hospital and then, on merger of the Medical Schools, I became Academic Head of Paediatrics. I was appointed as Campus Dean at Denmark Hill, then Vice-Dean of the School of Medicine, and for the last 18 months Head of the School of Medicine.

Tell us about developments in your field.
Physiological research and subsequent multi-centre studies have led to enormous improvements in the outcomes of neonatal intensive care. Forty years ago 80 per cent of babies who required mechanical ventilation died, now 90 per cent of even prematurely born infants survive. Research at King’s has made a major contribution to this success.

What are your areas of expertise?
What are your priorities as Head of School?

The School of Medicine is the most popular in the UK as judged by the number of undergraduate applications. Yet there are further opportunities to develop our highly successful course. My priorities include building on our many teaching and research strengths, such as anatomy and clinical pharmacology and to give further opportunities to highly motivated graduates who wish to study medicine.

King’s, with partner Trusts, has been very successful in the Department of Health’s competition for Research Centres of Excellence as part of Best Research for Best Health. Another of my priorities is to further develop our graduate training pathway for clinical academics, building on our popular academic foundation programme through to being awarded more clinical senior lecturerships.

What do you enjoy most about your roles?
This is a difficult question as I enjoy almost everything about my work. I very much appreciate the achievements of the medical students, including their extra curricular activities, such as MedSin; the RAG magazine I suspect will always have my disapproval, but I understand this improves sales! Graduation day I look forward to with pleasure and worry (no matter how hard I rehearse, I always mispronounce some poor graduate’s name!). My research informs evidence-based practise and better outcomes and my clinical practise enables me to determine which are the important questions that need to be addressed to improve care; aged five this is where I hoped to be – a clinical researcher. There are equally very important aspects of my roles which are to help students and staff with problems and to support families whose babies are critically ill.

Do you have many interests outside work?
Much of my time outside work is devoted to research, there are so many fascinating questions and my husband, Anthony Milner, Emeritus Professor of Neonatology, is a like-minded soul. Until my accident I loved playing tennis and sailing, but as always most of all spending time with Anthony and our daughter Antonia.

Eighteen months ago on a supposedly peaceful barge holiday my lower leg got caught in a lock gate and was smashed into pieces. Due to the incredible expertise of the orthopaedic surgeons, my leg was pieced together like a jigsaw with internal fixation and external metal work involving rods and screws operated by spanners. It meant, however, four months in a wheelchair and a year on crutches and even now going downstairs remains an adventure. My limited, but temporary immobility made me feel very humble; many people suffer greater problems all their lives. I returned back to work after my holiday, which was only possible because I was so sympathetically and ably supported. I cannot thank everyone enough for all their kindness, not only my family, friends and colleagues, but all those who prior to my accident I hardly knew, yet they too went out of their way to wish me well and help.

Fact file

Book on my bedside
Like many doctors, I love detective stories and am currently reading PD James’ Death in Holy Orders. My favourite novels are Pride and Prejudice and The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.

Favourite holiday destination
Florence. I love the art.

Proudest work moment
Perhaps my proudest moment was obtaining my MD at Cambridge, as I felt it represented an important contribution to reducing respiratory complications in prematurely born infants.

What are your areas of expertise?

Answer: Paediatrics, Physiology

What do you enjoy most about your roles?

Answer: Everything about my work, appreciating the achievements of medical students, and enjoying the research.

Do you have many interests outside work?

Answer: Tennis, sailing, spending time with my family.

Could you describe your career?

Answer: I wanted to be a paediatrician from a young age due to personal experiences. I completed my medical training at Cambridge and subsequently became a professor in neonatology and clinical respiratory physiology. My career has included roles such as Clinical Director and Academic Head of Paediatrics. I have been Head of the School of Medicine for the last 18 months.

Tell us about developments in your field.

Answer: Research in physiological research and multi-centre studies have led to significant improvements in neonatal intensive care outcomes. Forty years ago, 80% of babies requiring mechanical ventilation died, but now 90% of prematurely born infants survive.

What are your areas of expertise?

Answer: My expertise lies in physiology and respiratory disease.

What do you enjoy most about your roles?

Answer: I enjoy almost everything about my work, particularly appreciating the achievements of medical students. I also love the research aspect.

Do you have many interests outside work?

Answer: Yes, I enjoy detective stories, tennis, sailing, and spending time with my family.
Juries and rape cases

Changes in the law that were supposed to make it easier to convict men of rape might not result in more convictions in cases in which the woman was drunk, according to research.

Under the current law in England and Wales rape can only be established if it can be demonstrated that sexual intercourse took place to which there was no consent and that the defendant lacked a reasonable belief that such consent had been given.

Researchers Dr Vanessa Munro, Reader in the School of Law, and Emily Finch found that: in situations where the woman had become involuntary drunk, many jurors continued to hold her partially responsible for what took place; even when a woman had unknowingly drunk spiked drinks, jurors were reluctant to convict defendants unless they were convinced that the drink had been spiked with the specific intention of sexual assault; it also emerged that jurors were less inclined to equate ‘taking advantage’ of a drunken women with rape in situations in which the woman’s normal behaviour was to drink heavily in the company of men; by contrast, in cases where the date rape drug had been used, jurors were more inclined to hold the defendant responsible for rape, even though the effect of the drug on the woman was the same as if she were very drunk.

‘In cases in which the evidence suggests clear links between excessive alcohol consumption and sexual assault, these findings suggest that more needs to be done at both legal level and in society as a whole, to secure justice for victims of rape,’ commented Dr Munro.

Brain differences

Researchers from the Institute of Psychiatry have identified that the way in which the brain processes other people’s emotions could be one reason why criminal psychopaths do not care about others. Their findings were published in a study in The British Journal of Psychiatry.

By scanning the brain emotional responses of six men who had committed repeat offences and comparing them to the scans of nine healthy volunteers, researchers, led by Professor Declan Murphy, deduced that psychopaths may have learned to dampen their brain’s response to other people’s distress signals.

Professor Murphy comments: ‘We’ve never been able to look directly in the brain before and what we found is that when psychopaths were exposed to frightened faces the distress cue didn’t increase the psychopath’s blood flow. It decreased it.’

Tom Fahy, Professor of Forensic Mental Health and co-author of the study, said that the condition might be inherited or acquired through very deprived and abusive childhoods. He added that the findings of the study opened possibilities for new treatments other than counselling therapies, and could be used to identify people who had a higher risk of re-offending.

More research is now needed to clarify how brain abnormalities in people with psychopathy arise and how they affect social behaviour and socialisation.

Black hole found

Astronomers, including King’s astrophysics and cosmology expert, Dr Ignacio Ferreras, have found evidence of a supermassive black hole at the heart of a tiny galaxy about 54 million light years away from the Milky Way galaxy – where Earth resides. VCC128 is an elliptical dwarf galaxy, about one per cent the size of the Milky Way, located in the Virgo Cluster.

‘The detection has only been possible because of the superb spatial resolution of the Hubble Space Telescope,’ explains Dr Ferreras, Lecturer in the Department of Physics. ‘VCC128 is effectively the smallest galaxy in which there is a supermassive black hole.’

Black holes lie at the centre of many galaxies, and have gravitational fields so powerful that nothing – not even light – can escape. Supermassive black holes are so large that their mass can equal anywhere between 100,000 to 10 billion times that of our own sun.

It is only the second time a supermassive black hole has been discerned in a dwarf galaxy, and only the third time that astronomers have observed a double nucleus at the heart of a galaxy. ‘The researchers believe the black hole has at least about the same mass as the ring of stars surrounding it, ranging from 6 million to 50 million times the mass of our sun.’

‘After this discovery, one could speculate whether other dwarf galaxies may harbour similar black holes but lie beyond the resolution limit of the Hubble Space Telescope,’ noted Dr Ferreras.

Diabetes drugs trial

In December Giancarlo Viberti, Professor of Diabetes and Metabolic Medicine, announced the results of a major international clinical trial comparing the efficacy of three drugs currently being used to treat Type 2 diabetes. The findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, show that the most expensive drug, rosiglitazone, slowed the progression of the disease longer than the other drugs, metformin and glyburide.

The randomised, controlled trial evaluated the three drugs as an initial single treatment. 4,360 patients, within three years of diagnosis and who had been on diet and lifestyle modifications only, were treated for up to six years. The researchers studied the progression of the disease by measuring how long good glycaemic control was maintained.

Diabetic patients are considered in good control when HbA1c – an index of blood glucose control – is less than 7 per cent. In this trial, patients taking rosiglitazone maintained this level for up to 60 months, those taking metformin maintained it for up to 45 months, while those given glyburide kept at this level for up to 36 months. Therefore, rosiglitazone gained 15 months of good glucose control compared to metformin.
**Centre for Language, Discourse & Communication**

King’s has a substantial number of staff specialising in descriptive and applied linguistics but because they are spread out across a range of different departments, the College hasn’t had the collective strength and reputation in this field that it could have. Until recently, it was even difficult to find ‘linguistics’ on the King’s website. Change however is afoot as the College has set up a new Centre for Language, Discourse & Communication (LDC) for staff and research students working in this area.

In descriptive and applied linguistics there are more than 30 staff working on language, literacy and discourse in a range of different settings – in everyday interaction, literature and popular culture, new and mass media, medicine, education and the workplace. They also focus on a number of different languages, including English, Chinese, Creoles, German, Greek, Hindi, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish. Even so, there is great potential for closer liaison between these researchers. Methodologies are often shared and there is a good deal of overarching interest in the ways that language and literacy are being affected by globalisation and inter-cultural contact. There have also been cross-School PhD supervisions and success with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

**New Centre**

In spring 2006, the College’s Strategic Investment Fund agreed to set up a new Centre for Language, Discourse & Communication with funding for an administrator for three years. The Schools of Humanities and Social Science & Public Policy have provided start-up funds and there is substantial infrastructural support from the Department of Education & Professional Studies (DEPS).

The new Centre’s purpose is to help generate a trans-departmental research culture that attracts more graduate students in language, discourse and communication, that supports them better, and that makes it easier for staff to turn their common interests into funded projects. ‘Most of us are based in inter-disciplinary departments and the interaction with non-linguists is a really valuable part of our work,’ says the Centre’s Director, Professor Ben Rampton. ‘But it is also vital to stay connected to other linguists with similar interests and the Centre will facilitate this. We want to make more of the linguistics “diaspora” at King’s, flag up LDC as an area of collective strength, and ensure that institutionally the College’s profile in this field receives the full benefit of the national and international reputations that we have as individuals.’

**Positive signs**

The early signs are positive. Nearly 40 people from across Humanities and Social Science & Public Policy attended the Centre’s first Research Day in November, and there has been a noticeable increase in graduate recruitment. According to Professor Rampton: ‘There was an impressive response to the Graduate School Studentship we advertised in March last year and half a dozen candidates are now starting with us as MPhil/PhD students. The enrolment of MPhil/PhD students working on language, discourse and communication has almost doubled this year and they’ve also done very well on competitive awards.’

This academic year also seen a 30 per cent growth in enrolment at Masters level: the MA in English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics continues to attract very well; an MA in World Englishes has also started up in the Department of English; and in DEPS, enrolment on the MA in Language, Ethnicity and Education has more than doubled, and there is a new MRes in LDC.

This year one of the Centre’s first tasks is to consolidate this work by applying to the ESRC for recognition as an outlet for graduate research training in applied linguistics.

**Funded research**

Funded research on LDC is currently focused in employment and education. There is ongoing research led by Celia Roberts, Senior Research Fellow, (DEPS) on Job interviews, ethnicity and disadvantage, funded by the Department for Work & Pensions. Dr Vally Lytra, Visiting Research Fellow, in Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies (BMGS) is heading the King’s side of a collaborative ESRC project Investigating multilingualism in complementary schools in four communities.

Joint work between staff in DEPS and BMGS forms the basis of a project in the ESRC’s Identities and Social Action Programme (Urban classroom culture & interaction). Also from this year the Centre will be leading a three-year advanced training programme for social science researchers UK-wide on Ethnography, language and communication. This involves collaboration with the Institute of Education and Oxford University, and it is being funded under the ESRC’s Researcher Development Initiative.

If you would like more information about the Centre visit: [www.kcl.ac.uk/lpc](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lpc) or email melissa.de_graaff@kcl.ac.uk
New Fellowships & Honorary Degrees

The College Council approved the following awards at its meeting in December:

Fellowships

Fellowships are awarded to those who have been associated with the College as a member of staff, or as a student or as a member of the Council, coupled with outstanding achievements and/or through exceptional services rendered to the College. The new Fellows for 2007 are:

- Professor Robert Lechler, Vice-Principal (Health), King's College London
- Professor Tak Lee, Head of Department of Respiratory Medicine & Allergy, King's College London
- Mrs Olga Polizzi, Vice Chairman, College Council
- Professor Charlotte Roueché, Professor of Classical & Byzantine Greek, King's College London
- Professor Rick Trainor, former Dean, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London
- Professor Frank Walsh, former member of College staff, and Executive Vice President, Wyeth Research
- Professor Peter West FRBS, Professor of Theoretical Physics, King's College London
- Professor Philip Whitfield, Vice-Principal (Students), King's College London
- Professor Gwyn Williams, former Dean, School of Medicine, King's College London
- Dr Kevin Zilkha, Trustee, King's College Hospital Medical Research Trust, (former student of Guy's Hospital Medical School)

Honorary Fellowships

Honorary Fellowships are awarded to individuals by virtue of their distinction in fields outside academic life. The new Honorary Fellows for 2007 are:

- HH Duchess of Cornwall, President and Patron of charitable societies including President, National Osteoporosis Society
- Mr Othman Benjelloun, Chairman and CEO, BMCE Bank Morocco
- Sir Martin Jacob, Chairman, Canary Wharf Group, Chancellor of the University of Buckingham
- Dr Kevin Zilkha, former chairman, Centre for Policy Studies
- Mr Malcolm Lowe-Lauri, Chief Executive, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Mr John-Dmitry Panitza, Founding Board Member of the American University in Bulgaria
- Sir Robert Worcester, founder, MORI and Chancellor, University of Kent
- Dr Paul Zuckerman, Development Economist and Foreign Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Honorary Degrees

Honorary Degrees are awarded to individuals who are of conspicuous merit as demonstrated by the outstanding academic contribution to their field. The new Honorary Graduates whose degrees will be conferred for 2007 are:

- Professor Colin Blakemore FRS, distinguished neuroscientist, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council
- Professor Deborah Greenspan, distinguished dental scientist, Professor of Clinical Oral Medicine, Department of Stomatology, University of California, San Francisco
- Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRBS, distinguished neuroscientist, Vice-President (Research), University of Manchester
- Viscount Runciman of Oxford FBA, distinguished social scientist, Ex-President, British Academy
- Professor Mark Walport FMedSci, distinguished clinician, Director of Wellcome Trust

January Graduation Ceremonies

The College held four Graduation ceremonies at the Barbican on 15 and 16 January with more than 1,300 students graduating from all Schools of the College.

Honorary Fellowships were conferred on Lakshmi Mittal, President and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, the world’s largest steel company; and James D Wolfensohn, an investment banker and former President of the World Bank.

Fellowships where awarded to Professor Peter Jenner, international leader in the field of basal ganglia research and chief scientific officer of Proximagen, a College spin-out company; and Professor Richard Proudfoot, one of the most distinguished editors and textual scholars of Shakespeare and early modern English literature who has been a member of the King’s English Department for more than 30 years.

In his address the Principal, Professor Rick Trainor, spoke about the significant benefits graduates bring to the country and the world as well as the outstanding achievements of the College and its staff.

In closing the ceremonies the Chairman of Council, Baroness Rawlings, called upon the graduating students to ‘aspire to join the ranks of King’s graduates who have contributed significantly to British society and worldwide over the last 175 years’.
**King’s first**

This is the first year during which Honorary Degrees of the University of London will be conferred by King’s College London. This will take place during a secular ceremony in the Chapel at the Strand Campus. The honorary graduates (whose awards were approved by Council in March 2006) are:

**Baroness Hale of Richmond DBE**, the first woman to become a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary

**Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys FRS**, the geneticist who developed techniques for DNA fingerprinting and DNA profiling

**Judith Weir CBE**, composer and former Foundation Visiting Professor at Harvard University, 2004

There will be a number of places at this ceremony (on 8 March at 17.00) available for staff on a first-come basis. If you would like to attend, email: gwen.rumbold@kcl.ac.uk

**Joseph Nye**, Professor of International Relations at Harvard University, will receive his Honorary Degree before he delivers the College’s Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives Annual Lecture on 14 February.

**Obituaries**

**NEIL RYDER**

1938–2006

**NEIL RYDER JOINED THE NEWLY-established Centre for Science Education at Chelsea College in 1968 as Lecturer in Audio-Visual Aids bringing expertise in audio-visual work and in communication through the media. He became a Senior Lecturer in 1973.**

**One of his tasks was to run a small studio which could create and edit TV programmes for research and teaching, Neil had worked as a producer in public broadcasting and among his publications was a chapter in a book on Vernacular Science: something to rely on in your actions? This is just one example of his wider interest in exploring ways in which people have scientific thoughts about situations which matter to them.**

Throughout his time at King’s, Neil pursued his interests in the public understanding of science and more recently he provided a set of four courses to undergraduate science students and similar service courses to students in life sciences before taking early retirement. He continued to pursue his interests at Royal Holloway College.

Neil was one of the pioneers of improving the understanding of science. He will be missed by many but his work will continue to be appreciated and valuable for many years to come.

**Professors Paul Black and Margaret Cox, Department of Education & Professional Studies**

**DR HELEN HUDSON FKC**

1919–2006

**DR HELEN HUDSON FKC MET AND advised thousands of King’s students in her lifetime. She came to King’s in 1959 as Tutor to Women Students. In 1973 she became Dean of Students and set up what was to become the College’s counselling and welfare services. She retired in 1982 but her involvement with King’s remained strong – she was Patron of the King’s College London Association until 2005 and also a former President of the Association. A full obituary will appear in March’s Comment.**

**DBE**

**Dame Jinty Nelson** and her family at Buckingham Palace.

Last summer King’s eminent medieval historian **Professor Jinty Nelson FKC FBA** was recognised for her services to history in the Queen’s Birthday Honours with a DBE. On 23 November Professor Nelson and her family attended a ceremony at Buckingham Palace where Professor Nelson received her award from the Queen. ‘I felt privileged to be among people receiving honours for service to society in such a variety fields,’ comments Professor Nelson.

**Playwright 2006**

**Roger Mayhew**, Staff Development & Training Unit, has been named the 2006 Playwright of the Year by the Central London based Player-Playwrights organisation for his 90-minute farce *A First Time for Everything*.

Previous recent holders of the award include the TV writers Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran. The award was for the highest rated play of the 40 given rehearsed readings during 2006. The organisation has around 150 members – both well-known actors and amateurs.

**New CIO**

**Karen Stanton** has taken up her post as Chief Information Officer and College Librarian. In this role, she has responsibility for Information Services and Systems, and Management Information Systems.

She was previously Chief Information Officer at the University of Nottingham.

**CBE**

**Geneva Richardson**, Professor of Law, was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours in recognition of her services to public law.

‘It’s incredible how kind and supportive people here have been,’ comments Professor Richardson, who joined King’s in 2005. Her three main areas of research interest are: administrative justice, law and psychiatry and the regulation of biomedical research.
Global partners choose King’s

LAST AUTUMN THE DENTAL INSTITUTE entered a new era of global prominence as key Memoranda of Understanding were signed with Baqai Medical University in Pakistan and the University of Malaya, and positive moves toward a similar agreement were made with the Government of Brunei. These agreements will provide new and exciting opportunities for staff and students and will strengthen further the Institute’s scope of research and its international reputation.

Security workshop

THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR STUDIES, in conjunction with the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the European Commission’s project Global Monitoring for Security & Stability (GMOSS), hosted a workshop on Treaty Monitoring and Data Dissemination Policies. The Department is currently involved in GMOSS, coordinating some of the most important elements of European security-related research dealing with the use of space-based remote sensing information.

The workshop was a small-scale, high-level event with participants from India, Japan, Denmark, Poland, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy. A number of technical presentations recognised that in today’s world it is imperative to have a technical and political understanding of situations in order to appreciate fully the most effective and efficient means by which threats and problems can be solved.

‘The results of this workshop clearly demonstrated the advantages and benefits that are to be gained from the use of commercial remote sensing satellites,’ comments King’s Professor Bhupendra Jasani, a nuclear weapons expert. ‘Not only do such capabilities offer a means towards arms control treaty verification; they also have the potential to contribute to other areas of security, for example: peace-keeping operations and humanitarian assistance. It is important now that the issues of data dissemination policy, as well as the information gap between technical experts and decision-makers, are discussed in order to fully appreciate the inherent advantages and efficiency offered by such technologies.’

King’s expert witness called

On 14 December Lord Stevens published his report on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, her companion Dodi Al Fayed and chauffeur Henri Paul.

Dr Eva Steiner, Lecturer in French Law, was asked to provide a description and interpretation of French law, procedures and practices to assist the understanding of actions in the French inquiry where specific legal issues had been raised.

The report contains some of Dr Steiner’s comments on both the practice of autopsy and embalming in French law.

Promotion of Science event

THE CAREERS SERVICE recently hosted a presentation by The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) to publicise the Society’s Fellowship schemes open to UK PhD students and post-docs. The particular focus was the short-term award programme, available for periods up to 11 months, which covers most disciplines in the humanities, social science and natural and physical sciences.

The speaker suggested that King’s students and post-docs interested in the programme should start developing collaborative links with Japanese scholars and researchers. The team at JSPS is keen to stimulate interest from the King’s research community. Please email enquire@jsps.org with any queries or visit www.jsps.org.
King’s at War

Both world wars brought great changes to King’s, as reflected in these photographs and anecdotes from the College Archives at the Strand Campus.

On the outbreak of war the main College buildings were handed over to the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) Service: a group consisting of about 40 porters and members of the administrative and support staff. Robert Hutton, Librarian and Deputy College Secretary (sixth from the left in the front row), was in charge, spending several nights each week in the College. On his left is John Combridge, Assistant to the Secretary and later Registrar, who became head of the King’s ARP when the students returned in 1943.

The Strand on 8 October 1940, with Head Porter Mr Beaver standing to attention beside a bomb crater in the Quad: 27 feet deep and 58 feet long. At the opening of the Second World War in September 1939 the Theology, Arts, Science and Engineering faculties of King’s were evacuated to Bristol. Their library of 7,000 volumes, which had been carefully transported from the Strand, was destroyed in a bomb attack on Bristol University in November 1940. The Medical Sciences Faculty moved to Glasgow and then (in 1940) to Birmingham. The medical students returned to London in 1942 and the rest followed in 1943. This photo was marked on the back by the Press Censorship Bureau ‘Not to be published’.

A student learning the art of trench cookery at the Household & Social Science Department of King’s College for Women during the First World War. This Department remained at Camden Hill, Kensington, but the Arts and Sciences departments moved to the Strand in 1915, and the arrival of women students and staff at the Strand helped King’s to maintain continuity of existence during the 1914-18 war. By the end of 1915, 300 male students had left for the armed forces, and instead the Strand was full of refugee students from Belgium, Russia and other allied countries – who, however, generally paid no fees, observed no rules and did no work, according to the College historian, F J C Hearnshaw.

While King’s students were in Bristol, a magazine covered ‘a day in the life’ of one student, John MacDonald Paterson, who was studying for a General Honours BSc. Fourteen photographs followed his day, from his morning call from his ‘Scout’ at 0730, shown here, through to bedtime. Then, according to the caption, he would ‘dream no doubt of passing his finals in June and the commission that he hopes awaits him at the end of summer in the Royal Artillery of the British Army’.

Text and images provided by Geoff Browell (Archives) and Christine Kenyon Jones (External Relations)
La *traviata* inspires staff and students

**IN NOVEMBER AS PART OF THE** development of the Care and Culture strategy for the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery 28 staff and students from the School took part in an opera workshop in collaboration with the Baylis Project at English National Opera.

The project was in two parts: attending a performance of the opera and taking part in an experiential workshop. The group – including pre-registration, post-registration and graduate students, research and lecturing staff – formed part of the full house at the last night of the run of *La traviata* at The Coliseum.

‘Provided the perfect dramatic setting’

‘Everyone was moved by the opera and drew comparisons with moral judgements made about women, sexuality and illness in contemporary society,’ said Ian Noonan, Lecturer in Mental Health.

A week later students and staff returned to The Coliseum for a workshop facilitated by ENO Baylis. Themes included the voice of nursing and midwifery and the health-related issues within the opera. By singing and acting together participants explored the ways voices are used in teaching, comforting, caring, instructing and advocating. Issues around tone, pace, rhythm and volume of speech were considered.

‘*La traviata* provided the perfect dramatic setting to discuss and reflect on the subjects of death and dying, denial, concealing illness from loved ones, and the resurgence of tuberculosis in 21st century London.

‘This part of the School’s strategy represents the exciting beginnings of collaborative work between the School, KCL Enterprises and a number of arts organisations in London,’ added Ian. ‘It also provided a unique opportunity for a range of participants to learn together, as peers, contributing to a stronger sense of identity as a School.’

**Opera world première**

**INTO THE LITTLE HILL, COMPOSED** by George Benjamin, the internationally renowned composer and conductor and Henry Purcell Professor of Composition at King’s, premiered in Paris on 22 November.

The opera marked the centrepiece of a retrospective of Professor Benjamin’s works by the 35th Festival d’Automne.

The opera is a collaboration between George Benjamin and the English playwright Martin Crimp. The lyrical tale is based on an old story of a pact made between a statesman and a bizarre stranger before an election, and the consequences suffered when, once elected, the statesman does not honour his promise.

‘If composing for the stage imagined,’ commented Andrew Crimp. The lyrical tale is based on an old story of a pact made between a statesman and a bizarre stranger before an election, and the consequences suffered when, once elected, the statesman does not honour his promise.

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*George Benjamin* expression for Benjamin, the result is more ravishing than anyone could possibly have imagined,’ commented Andrew Clements from *The Guardian*.

**Physiotherapy event**

**MORE THAN 300 LONDON-BASED** physiotherapists attended an evening event at Guy’s Campus entitled *Physiotherapy and low back pain – the current state of play*.

The event was organised for the London hub of the National Physiotherapy Research Network (NPRN) by Dr Iain Beith of the Division of Applied Biomedical Research and the Physiotherapy Department.

Dr Beith’s colleague, Duncan Critchley, spoke alongside Professor Jennifer Klaber-Moffet of the University of Hull, and Dr Lucy Goldby a physiotherapist in clinical practice. Each presented their results from recently published clinical trials into the effectiveness of different forms of physiotherapy for low back pain. This was then followed by a lively 30-minute panel and audience discussion.

Dr Beith comments: ‘We were surprised and excited by the high turn-out and participants were not disappointed as they had an opportunity to hear contemporary research from those carrying it out and to question the speakers. Each speaker confirmed that physiotherapists can manage low back pain to a certain extent but there is room for improvement in terms of effectiveness and we are continuing to investigate within the Division.’

The NPRN has been set up to support research at all levels of the physiotherapy profession and it is hoped further events can be organised to facilitate this with King’s being ideally placed to act as host.
Bureaucracy busting initiative

AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO INCREASE
efficiency within the College, staff have been invited to identify inefficient administrative processes or targets for improvement, with a web-based suggestion box set up for this purpose.

‘To date there has been an impressive response and the efficiency review group, which was established as part of the strategic planning process, is grateful for the range of helpful comments and suggestions made. These have been analysed and are now being reviewed by managers with a view to actioning where possible,’ comments Robin Shonfeld, Head of Internal Audit & Management Review.

‘There has been an impressive response’

There have been some consistent messages, notably in terms of suggesting areas for improved use of IT in support of business, inefficient meetings and committees, poor communications in certain areas and excessive form-filling, which will be addressed. Areas already agreed for revision by management include the development of an electronic internal order/payment system by August 2007, better targeting of emails, a review of committee structures (with a view to ensuring the effective co-ordination of business) and the possibility of creating a web-based version of the research application (RG1) form.

‘It is recognised that there is a long way to go in terms of bureaucracy busting and it will be important that all managers, seek to cut down the paperwork and improve administrative efficiency within the systems and processes for which they are responsible,’ adds Robin.

Should any member of staff have further thoughts or suggestions relating to the College’s efficiency agenda then contact a member of Internal Audit or make use of the bureaucracy busting web form: www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/intaud/secure/suggest-form.html

Companies on Campus

The number of all-staff emails has risen significantly in recent years. This issue has been raised by staff in the internal communications review, a bureaucracy busting initiative and email policy roadshows. Staff overwhelmingly requested a drastic reduction in the number of emails they receive. It also has been the subject of discussion at College Committee, the Principal’s Central Team and other committees.

Consequently, a new College directive from the Head of Administration & College Secretary on all-staff emails has now come into effect which limits all-staff emails to messages about emergencies, messages relating to major new policies, and messages from the Principal or his delegate. This is in line with policies adopted by many other higher education institutions including most Russell Group universities. For the new directive visit the Policy Zone (www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/attachments/CircularEmailDirective.pdf).

Other global lists, such as School lists, the Administration list etc, will still exist and staff can be targeted effectively through these. (There is a special set of mailing lists that is used for the recruitment of volunteers for research projects involving human subjects.)

To communicate information previously provided by all-staff emails a new weekly staff ezine has been launched. It is internally focused and provides information about events, training courses and other committees. The ezine is sent via email to all College’s efficiency agenda then contact a member of Internal Audit or make use of the bureaucracy busting web form: www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/intaud/secure/suggest-form.html

From left: Gareth Hartwell, LogicaCMG, Joachim Wegener, DaimlerChrysler, Berlin, Brian Shea, Vizuri, Mark Harman, King’s, and Paul Bristow, Motorola.

Emails and new staff ezine

From left: Timur Asar (Web Editor), Chris Coe (Director of Communications) and Julie Munk (Internal Communications Officer) press the button on the new King’s staff ezine.

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To communicate information previously provided by all-staff emails a new weekly staff ezine has been launched. It is internally focused and provides information about events, training courses and issues of interest to the majority of staff. The ezine is sent via email each Friday.

Email Julie Munk at ezine@kcl.ac.uk by 12.00 each Wednesday with copy or images. Ideally articles should be no more than 100 words.
Around the College

‘Baby Friendly’ midwifery

**KING’S HAS BECOME THE FIRST** university in England to achieve the first stage of acquiring the prestigious ‘Baby Friendly’ award. The College gained a Certificate of Commitment, which was presented to Sophie French and Louise Long from the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery at the Baby Friendly conference in November.

The Certificate of Commitment can be gained when a university offering midwifery or health visitor training can demonstrate that its curriculum includes the knowledge and skills deemed necessary for newly qualified midwives to effectively support women who choose to breastfeed their babies.

The Baby Friendly initiative is a UNICEF WHO project which sets standards in support of infant feeding for maternity units and now universities in the training of midwives. The award for maternity units was established a decade or more ago and currently 50 of the 315 maternity units in the UK have the award. By comparison the award for universities is relatively new having been started in 2002. To date only one other university in Scotland has a Certificate of Commitment, making King’s the leader in England.

The final stage in achieving the full award is planned in April and June 2007 when student midwives will be assessed to see if they have met the 19 learning outcomes set by the Baby Friendly initiative. If successful, King’s will have acquired full accreditation. Further information about the initiative can be found at: [www.babyfriendly.org.uk](http://www.babyfriendly.org.uk)

Annual Fund applications

Last year the [King’s Players Society](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/) received a grant from the Annual Fund which enabled them to participate in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

**THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** invites staff to submit funding applications for consideration at its next meeting in early May 2007. The Committee disburses funds raised from alumni, staff and friends through the Annual Fund.

The Committee welcomes applications from across the College that will be of great benefit to departments, or a significant proportion of the College as a whole. The Committee is particularly keen to receive any proposal designed to enhance the overall quality of student life and resource provision.

The Committee will not accept academic research projects and advises against applications regarding general repair and maintenance of existing facilities where there is no obvious extension of facilities or new facilities being made available. In each case, evidence of how the project will make a difference, and to whom, is required. A complete budget is also necessary.

The Committee is happy to discuss potential applications and offer comments prior to the deadline. An application form and further information can be found at: [www.kcl.ac.uk/fund/applying.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/fund/applying.html) or by contacting the Development Office on ext.3005 or by emailing annual.fund@kcl.ac.uk.

The deadline for completed applications is 23 March 2007.

**Repair and restoration**

Work is currently underway at the Maughan Library & ISC to repair and restore the Round Room’s glazed dome. It is expected that these repairs will be completed by Easter 2007. The room will still be available for reference users below the access floor during the majority of the works. Repairs will also begin on the stonework in the Chancery Lane wing early this year and be completed by early June. For further information visit: [www.kcl.ac.uk/iss](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/iss)

**Life Writing**

A series of free talks by prominent biographers and autobiographers is taking place this term for staff and students. Speakers include Hermione Lee, acclaimed biographer of Virginia Woolf, Alexander Masters, prize-winning author of *Stuart: A Life Backwards*, James Shapiro, author of the best-selling book on Shakespeare, *1599*; and Clare Pettitt, Lecturer in the Department of English, on *Livingstone*. For more information email Max Saunders (max.saunders@kcl.ac.uk).

**London Genetics**

London Genetics was launched at the end of 2006. London Genetics is formed from a consortium of seven world-renowned medical research institutes, including King’s, to generate and manage partnerships between leading academic and clinical researchers and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. A key strength will be its ability to commission multi-centre studies and provide a point of contact for companies seeking to carry out genetics and genomics-based studies in London.

**Dental prize giving**

At the Dental Society and the Dental Institute’s fifth annual Presidential Address and Prize Giving Ceremony, Professor Naim Wilson, Dean of the Dental Institute, presented medals to past presidents of the Dental Society and welcomed the Society’s new president, Warren Birnbaum. The newly appointed student president, Ian Arad, was also introduced, and prizes were awarded to students.

**Nursing: US perspective**

On 4 December [Sarah Kagan](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/), Professor of Gerontological Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, gave the first (Nursing & Midwifery) Dean’s Lecture for this academic year at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery. Her talk explored current trends in collaborative practice in the USA and offered an analysis of value and worth, opportunities and challenges, and obstacles for patients, clinicians and academic systems in collaborative nurse-physician practice.
Proteomics facility…five years on

ON 29 NOVEMBER 2001 ONE OF THE most advanced proteomics facilities in the UK opened at the Institute of Psychiatry. Five years on, the laboratory is still at the forefront of cutting-edge biological research.

The facility was established in partnership with Proteome Sciences plc and the assistance of a Joint Research Equipment Initiative award from HEFCE. A number of mass spectrometers including a Q-TOF and MALDI-TOF were commissioned.

Since that time the facility has commissioned a new Q-TRAP mass spectrometer with funding from the Medical Research Council. This has increased the facility’s technological capabilities in discovering biomarkers which will help the diagnosis of disease and also be useful for monitoring the effects of drugs and new therapies presently in pre-clinical development. The partnership with Proteome Sciences plc has proved highly successful with several patents for biomarkers in Alzheimer’s and Huntington’s Disease, numerous peer-reviewed papers and many presentations and posters at high-profile international meetings.

**Biomarkers are a key area of research**

The journal *Brain* recently published work led by Professor Simon Lovestone at the Institute of Psychiatry, in which plasma-based biomarkers for Alzheimer’s Disease were identified using the mass spectrometers available within the facility. ‘Biomarkers are a key area of research at the moment. You only have to look at the fields of oncology and cardiovascular medicine for example to see how important they are. In psychiatry we are only just beginning to discover biomarkers but it is at least possible that they will become as important to diagnosis and to monitoring treatments as they are in other branches of medicine. Proteomics is critical to biomarker discovery as proteins, like lipids and other metabolites, are state markers as opposed to genes which are trait markers.’

Professor Brian Anderton, Director of the MRC Centre for Neurodegenerative Research and founder of the facility, comments: ‘The state-of-the-art mass spectrometry and the expertise of our collaborators in Proteome Sciences has given us a lead in neurodegeneration research over many of our competitors. It also certainly was an important factor in our successful application to become an MRC Research Centre since it enabled us to demonstrate our ability to conduct translational research.’

The facility primarily provides mass spectrometry analysis and data processing to King’s researchers on a ‘fees for service’ basis. For more information contact Steve Lynham (ext 0248) or Malcolm Ward (ext 5112).

NI Parliamentary debates online

NI Parliamentary debates online for the first time. A new website has been created by the Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) at King’s and the Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis at Queen’s University Belfast.

The website features all 93,000 pages of the Northern Ireland Parliamentary Debates produced between 1921 and 1972 available online for the first time. ‘Casting a unique and valuable light on political developments within Northern Ireland, these important debates were previously held by various institutions as reference only copies, and with no comprehensive subject index were inaccessible and difficult to use,’ says Alistair Dunning, AHDS.

Now [stornont-papers.ahds.ac.uk](stornont-papers.ahds.ac.uk) offers users the opportunity to access this important and intriguing collection of papers and to search by key subjects or people, many of whom are still involved in ongoing political discussions today. The website has also been indexed by subject heading and an introduction to political figures has been provided.

King’s dynasties

Do you come from a long line of King’s, Guy’s, St Thomas’, Chelsea or Queen Elizabeth College graduates? The next issue of the College’s alumni magazine In Touch (due out in April) will feature staff and alumni who have connections with the College that stretch over a number of generations. If you have a story like this, or if any one you know comes from a King’s dynasty, please contact Rachael Corver (rachael.corver@kcl.ac.uk), Development Communications Manager, ext 3052.

Minister of State visits

Andy Burnham MP, Minister of State for Delivery and Reform, Department of Health (centre), meets Professor Nigel Leigh, Head of Neurology at the Institute of Psychiatry and Director of King’s Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Care and Research Centre, with Kirstine Knox, Chief Executive of the MND Association. The Minister came on a fact-finding site visit in December to hear about ongoing research into MND, see the King’s MND Care and Research Centre at work and meet with patients.

From left: Malcolm Polfreman (AHDS), Paul Ell (Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis), Vijay Alberquerque, Alistair Dunning and Sheila Anderson (AHDS), in front of the Stormont Parliament.

MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF STORMONT parliamentary records have been made available to the general public for the first time. A new website has been created by the Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) at King’s and the Centre for Data Digitisation Analysis at Queen’s University Belfast.

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Listener polls
Dr Richard Howells, Reader in Cultural and Creative Industries, discussed listeners’ polls on Radio 4’s The Message and to what extent they generate audience interaction and programme content.

Female aspiration
In the Radio 4 programme Analytic: The March of the Monstrous Regiment, guest presenter Alison Wolf, Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management, interviewed a group of ambitious young Oxford women about their aspirations. Professor Wolf spoke to Peter Braude, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, about women who put their careers above having children. The Financial Times and the Times Higher ran articles written by Professor Wolf on education.

Polonium-210
Alexander Litvinenko’s death after apparently being poisoned by polonium-210 was the subject of much discussion in the press. Peter Zimmerman, Professor of Science and Security, commented on the use of the radioactive material in The New York Times, USA TODAY, The Wall Street Journal (Europe) and The Los Angeles Times. Dr John Gearson, Reader in Terrorism Studies, discussed the use of polonium on Radio 4’s PM programme and explained that he would expect the material to come from a state-backed facility.

Prison films
Dr Ian Henderson, Lecturer at the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, was interviewed by the BBC 4 cinema show In the Can: The Prison Movie about the Australian prison films Chopper, Stir and Ghosts of the Civil Dead.

World AIDS day
Kamika McLean, Research Assistant in the Department of HIV/GUM, was interviewed for Choice FM (for World AIDS day programming) about HIV in the Black Caribbean community in south-east London.

Ashes ‘whitewash’
Professor Carl Bridge, Head of the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, discussed contemporary Anglo-Australian relations on BskyB TV World News on the eve of the Ashes’ Test. Following the English defeat, Professor Bridge offered an Australian perspective to BBC Asian Radio Network news, and then compared the Ashes ‘whitewash’ in 1920-1 with that of 2006-7 on Radio 4’s The Long View.

Jury convictions
Juries are reluctant to convict men of rape in cases where the alleged victim has been drinking, research by Dr Vanessa Munro, Reader in the School of Law, suggests. Dr Munro was interviewed by ITV’s Tonight: Consenting Adults?, BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast Programme, Channel 4 News and Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour.

Tense & explosive
With contributions from many leading politicians, the military, and Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman, Vice-Principal (Research), the BBC2 programme Masters and Commanders: No 10 and the Generals explored the tense, and sometimes explosive, relationship between politicians and their generals down the ages and asked who really called the shots.

Constantinople
Judith Herrin, Professor of Late Antique & Byzantine Studies, discussed the fall of Constantinople in 1453 on the Radio 4 programme In Our Time.

Jordan visit
Professor Yazid Sayigh, Professor of Middle East Studies in the Department of War Studies, was interviewed by BBC World Today and BBC Arabic Service on President Bush’s visit to Jordan and the implications for US policy in the region. Professor Sayigh also took part in a political discussion on the possible formation of a Palestinian national unity government on Al Jazeera English.

Away in a manger
Dr Christine Kenyon Jones, Research Fellow, Department of English, contributed to the Radio 4 programme The Night The Animals Talked. Dr Kenyon Jones talked about the biblical origin of the animals in the stable.

Saddam Hussein
Efraim Karsh, Professor of Mediterranean Studies, and co-author of Saddam Hussein: A Political Biography, contributed an article on Arab reactions to the execution to The New Republic, and was quoted in numerous media outlets, including The Guardian, Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Daily News and Detroit Free Press, following the execution of the former Iraqi leader.

Star Trek
The Dean, the Revd Dr Richard Burridge, spoke to Radio 4’s Sunday programme about Star Trek, as a London convention of Trekkies reflected on how religion has been making a stealthy comeback in the storylines over the decades.

Dr Livingstone
Dr Clare Pettitt, Department of English, discussed the meeting between Stanley and Dr Livingstone on Radio 4’s Today programme. She was interviewed about research in her forthcoming book Dr Livingstone, I Presume on Irish national radio, the BBC World Service and ABC Australia.

After Jesus
Judith Lieu, Professor of New Testament Studies, was interviewed on the CNN programme After Jesus: The First Christians about the early Christians.

Trident
Dr Andrew Dorman, Senior Lecturer in Defence Studies, spoke to BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio Northampton, LBC and BBC News 24, as Tony Blair was set to unveil new Trident plans.

Bone jewellery
Dr Ian Thompson of the Biomaterials Group was interviewed about his project creating jewellery from samples of bone grown in the laboratory on the BBC’s 6 O’clock News. The technique could eventually be used to grow large bits of bone for people with cancer or those who need bone replacements.

Male pill
A new hormone-free pill, which can work in a single dose is being developed at King’s by Dr Christopher Smith and Dr Nnaemeka Amobi. As a result of the story appearing in the Daily Mail, it was picked up by a number of local, national and international broadcasters, including Radio 4’s Today programme, Channel 5, NBC (US), CBS News (Canada), Mexican TV and Indo-Asian News.

Pro-anorexia sites
Professor Janet Treasury, Head of the Eating Disorder Service at the Institute of Psychiatry, discussed pro-anorexia websites on Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour.

French union
The French government proposed a union of Britain and France in 1956, even offering to accept the sovereignty of the Queen, newly discovered documents show. Dr Richard Vinen, Reader in Modern European History, provided his thoughts on this revelation to the International Herald Tribune (Europe), The Washington Post and the Globe and Mail (Toronto, Canada).

NATO
Michael Clarke, Professor of Defence Studies, discussed the role of NATO in a post Cold War world on Radio 4’s Today programme.

See www.kcl.ac.uk/headlines for the latest media coverage or on Campus noticeboards. Comment is keen to know of any staff featured in the media, call ext 3202 or email pr@kcl.ac.uk
Asian radio live from King’s

At the end of last term BBC Asian Network Radio broadcast live from KCLSU’s Waterfront bar. The programme was part of BBC Asian Network Radio Uni Tour 2006.

Anita Rani hosted her regular show from the bar. She discussed what it is like to be a student today: organising study, managing finances, health issues, career options and living in London. Ann Conlon, Director of Student Services, and Paul Cornell, Senior Welfare Advisor, together with Jenny Owen, Head of College Careers Service, answered questions from listeners.

Representatives of various student societies – Musical Theatre, Asian, Indie, Pakistan, Filmmakers, Breakin’ KCL, Yoga, People & Planet, Gospel Music – talked about the extra opportunities available to students while they are at College. A number of academics including Tom Sanders, Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics, Dr Ruth Adams, Lecturer in Cultural and Creative Industries, and Dr Glenn Wilson, Reader in Personality, also featured on the show.

Then Nikki Bedi’s afternoon programme included KCLSU societies taking part in quizzes and reviews. It also featured an interview with DJ Bobby Friction whose set was broadcast live from Tutu’s later in the evening.

Big Band

Leah Thomas on tenor saxophone.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BIG Band has become the focal point for much of the student jazz scene in London. The band was formed in 2002 and is the largest group in the University of London Jazz Society. This year the President of the band and two other committee members are King’s Music undergraduates – Leah Thomas (tenor saxophone), Susanna Gillis (bass) and Katherine Lewis (alto saxophone).

The band, coached by Pete Long, musical director of Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Orchestra, plays swing from the 1930s through to the 1960s and is going from strength to strength.

‘We played a number of gigs in December, including the University of London Officer Training Corps Winter Ball, Camberwell Church Hall and the University of London Union ‘Duck ‘n’ Dive Bar,’ enthused Leah Thomas, President.

‘These events are always great fun because everyone is up and dancing by the end of the night. The term ended with a gig at the Bull’s Head – a prestigious London jazz venue. We had a great crowd who really had a good time!’

In February the band is playing at the Chelsea Arts Club and in March, the 606 Club – a venue with a great jazz history. The band aims to record a CD in the spring and a tour to Southern Europe is planned for the summer.

For more information visit www.uclubbigband.co.uk or contact Leah Thomas at leahthomas84@hotmail.com

Children of the ice

Fourth-year medical student Alexander Kumar clinched first place in the International Office’s photographic competition for his photograph ‘The place where the world bends (Children of the ice).’ This contest is open to medical students many of whom have completed an attachment or elective abroad.

Professor Roger Jones, Dean for External Affairs, chaired the judging panel. Alexander took this photograph when he travelled to an Inuit community in the high Arctic. He found this group of children at the ocean’s edge.
This book develops a new framework for mental health research. It is concerned with how to choose the most appropriate mental health research method, not only to address a specific question, but to maximise the potential impact on shaping mental health care.

The editors focus attention on the type of audience that the researcher is seeking to influence, the types of evidence each audience accepts as valid, and the relative strengths and limitations of each type of methodology.

A range of research methodologies are described and critically appraised, and the use of evidence by different groups is discussed. This produces some important findings about the interplay between research production and consumption, and highlights directions for future mental health research theory and practice.

The findings presented here will be relevant to mental health service users and professionals who use research evidence to inform decision-making. It will also prove an invaluable resource for students and researchers in the field of mental health.

Taylor Francis

Choosing Methods in Mental Health Research

Edited by Dr Mike Slade, Clinical Senior Lecturer

The End of The Cold War Era

Saki Dookrill, Professor of Contemporary History and International Security

Between 1989 and 1991 the world witnessed a number of dramatic and traumatic changes: the end of communism in Central and Eastern Europe, the reunification of Germany, the end of the superpower nuclear arms race, the demise of East-West rivalries in the Third World and, finally, the break-up of the Soviet Union. The final stages of the Cold War were impossible to accurately predict, and many of the questions posed by those events remain unanswered today.

This book investigates the evolutionary (in one sense) and the sudden (in another sense) end of the Cold War in three major areas: Europe, superpower relations and the Third World.

Freed from the apocalyptic threat to civilization posed by the superpower arms race, the common hope was that a post-Cold War world would witness more peace and better government.

The reasons why this new world has failed to materialise, particularly after 9/11, can be found in the highly-charged state of international relations both during the Cold War and its conclusion.

Hodder Arnold

Mozart: A Life in Letters

Edited by Cliff Eisen, Department of Music

Mozart is among the most written-about of all composers. This new selection of letters by the Mozart family takes as its point of departure an earlier selection that was never intended as such: Georg Nikolaus Nissen’s Biographie W. A. Mozarts (Leipzig, 1828).

Nissen, a Danish diplomat and Constanze Mozart’s second husband, based his biography on the Mozart family correspondence still in Constanze’s possession.

What is remarkable about the work is its attempt to tell Mozart’s story through the family letters, which are generously extracted. It is, in effect, an ‘epistolary biography’.

The letters are chosen to preserve the continuity of Mozart’s life story and the broader context within which they were written. It is only in the context of complete letters, which show Wolfgang and his father, Leopold, to the fullest, that a story emerges. Accordingly this is more than an edition of letters: it is also a history and a biography as told by Mozart and his father. The volume is copiously annotated on the basis of both recent and new Mozart scholarship.

Penguin Books

Comment is the College’s regular newsletter, edited by the Public Relations Department and designed by the Corporate Design Unit. Comment is printed on paper produced with 80 per cent recovered fibre. Articles are welcomed from all members of the College, but please note that the Editor reserves the right to amend articles. Copy for the next issue can be sent to Julie Munk, Public Relations Department (ext 3075), James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Campus, or emailed to julie.munk@kcl.ac.uk by 21 February.