We will inform decision makers to influence policy

Our excellence, breadth of knowledge, global connections and London location allow us to bring together and inform key decision makers in governments and industries for the benefit of society.

Research undertaken at Imperial informs debates on the issues that matter to global society. Global collaborations and alumni around the world allow us to access key decision makers.

The density of world-class universities, teaching hospitals and scientific institutions in London makes it easier to build relationships with excellent partners.

**ACTIONS IN DETAIL**

- We will substantially increase our involvement in advising governments and industries on key policy areas such as science and innovation, education, health, energy and the environment, using alumni relationships, professional contacts and opportunities to bring key decision makers to the College.
- We will work with stakeholder groups including technology user groups, social networks and patient communities to help make our work relevant to the needs of society.
- We will be proactive in publicising examples, evidence and case studies from our research.

**CASE STUDY 08**

**School of Public Health**

Global influenza pandemics during the twentieth century resulted in millions of deaths. Imperial research, which models the effects of intervention on the spread of pandemics, is helping to ensure that we see a very different pattern in the twenty-first century.

In 2009, the outbreak of the H1N1 pandemic (widely known as swine flu) led to Imperial academics working in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and multiple national governments to collect data on the virus’ transmission and severity in real time. Their analysis of these data, which suggested that the pandemic’s severity was only moderate in comparison with previous pandemics, informed public policy decisions in the UK to pull back from use of economically costly interventions (such as reactive school closure) and focus on targeted use of vaccination.

The research also informed pandemic planning in Europe and the USA and it continues to have a lasting impact, for example on the WHO guidance for Pandemic Influenza Risk Management (2013).

Overall, this research has not only enhanced policy makers’ understanding of pandemics, but has also given them the tools to manage public health crises and develop informed plans to minimise the health and economic impact of future pandemics.
Clockwise, from top left: Imperial’s green aviation research draws together aerospace innovations from across the College, acting as a conduit for new collaborations between Imperial and the aviation industry • The Grantham Institute’s vast range of climate and environment-related work includes studies in the field of glaciology and research into the Antarctic ice sheet • PhD students with Dr Tina van de Flierdt in the general geochemistry laboratory of the Mass Spectrometry and Isotope Geochemistry (MAGIC) facilities • A neurologist tests a breakthrough treatment for multiple sclerosis sufferers on a patient as part of a clinical trial run by Imperial researchers in the multiple sclerosis clinic at Charing Cross Hospital • The President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye, visited Imperial to mark a series of agreements between the institution and Korean universities.

5

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Number of current advisors to government departments who have worked or studied at Imperial.