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**Imperial College**  
London

## Department of Primary Care & Public Health

*Newsletter*

March 2011

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### Research Highlights

Recent publications by members of the department include papers on devolving the Quality & Outcomes Framework to local primary care organisations ([BMJ](#)); improving prescribing for people living in care homes ([Age & Ageing](#)); the impact of new technology on the quality and safety of healthcare ([PLoS Medicine](#)); the association between hospital admissions for chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and population and primary health care factors ([Thorax](#)); and the strengths and weaknesses of hospital standardised mortality ratios ([BMJ](#)).

### Dr Josip Car appointed as Clinical Programme Group Director

Congratulations to Dr Josip Car on his appointment as Director of the [Clinical Programme](#)

Group in Interventional Preventative Public Health at the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (ICHT). Dr Car will be working with the ICHT to help develop a new integrated care organisation, improve working relationships with general practitioners, and ensure that health promotion and disease prevention are integral to the work of ICHT.

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### Early Career Researcher Prize at SAPC regional meeting

Congratulations to Helen Atherton who won the Early Career Researcher prize at the 2011 Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) London and South East Regional Meeting. Helen's presentation was on 'Exploring the potential of email as a method of consultation in UK General practice – early findings.' Helen's prize was free registration to the national SAPC meeting in Bristol later this year where she hopes to present the completed study. Also shortlisted for the prize were Dr Cressida Amiel, Dr Bronwen Williams and Joanna Murray, all from the Department of Primary Care & Public Health at Imperial College London.

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### Research Design Services

The Research Design Service (RDS) London provides help to people preparing research proposals for submission to peer-reviewed funding competitions for biomedical, applied health or social care research. With centres based at King's College London, Imperial College London, Queen Mary's University of London and University College London, it supports applications for funding from NHS staff and academics and those working in partnership with the NHS. The RDS Unit at Imperial College is based in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health. The unit and provides expert advice on biostatistics, health economics, social science, and evidence synthesis. Support is provided at all stages of a developing a proposal from conceptualisation to final draft application and is delivered in the form of personal support with one or more advisers. In addition to the specialties above, the RDS can also provide help on Patient Public Involvement (PPI) in research. If you would like support for your funding application, please complete the RDS London [online support request form](#).

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## New GP Vocational Training scheme

Imperial College London, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and NHS Hammersmith and Fulham have made a successful bid to the London Deanery to develop and deliver an innovative programme of GP training. Trainees on this programme will benefit from a unique four year programme, with two years in acute trust placements across a diverse range of relevant specialties including obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, public health and psychiatry. The third and fourth years include placements in training general practices. Local GPs and other healthcare professionals will have the opportunity, via this programme, to be involved with the training and supervision of trainees. To undertake this role, trainers will have to fulfil a list of criteria (listed in the [Imperial College Healthcare website](#)) amongst which is the registration and successful completion of a Teach the Teachers (TTT) course. The Department of Primary Care and Public Health is currently developing a TTT course which will be open to all professionals who see patients in primary care, such as practice nurses, health visitors, primary care dentists and GPs. Locums and salaried GPs are also welcome to join and the same applies to portfolio practitioners.

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## New GP Academic Clinical Fellowship scheme

In February Imperial joined forces with Bart's and UCL departments of primary care in recruiting GP Academic Clinical Fellows for London. These highly competitive NIHR funded posts offer promising GP academics an extended four year academic GP training scheme. The four-year posts incorporate 75% clinical training and 25% research and teaching training in an academic department of primary care. Imperial is offering one post, starting in August 2011. We aim to attract the best candidates to our department, where we offer excellent research training and teaching opportunities.

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## Faculty Teaching Forum

Imperial College Faculty of Medicine's annual education meeting is a chance for teaching colleagues to meet, discuss new teaching initiatives in the school and hear from guest

speakers. Organised by Director of Undergraduate Education, Paul Booton, the day included a lively mix of workshops and speakers, including Simon Singh, Imperial alumnus and bestselling author of *Trick or Treatment: Alternative medicine on trial*, palliative care consultant Dr Pauline Leonard who spoke about teaching communication skills to students, and a fascinating view of life at Imperial from current medical students.

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### New communication skills suites

Four new communication skills rooms on the first floor of the Reynolds Building at Charing Cross campus have transformed departmental teaching on our Year 5 General Practice and Primary Care attachment. Each room has state of the art digital video recording and playback facilities allowing instant feedback on students' consultation skills with actor patients.

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### Undergraduate teaching website

The [undergraduate teaching website](#) has been updated and hosts our regular termly newsletter for GP teachers. The site has details of upcoming training workshops (such as dealing with students in difficulty and peer observation of teaching) as well as the latest news from the department and course updates.

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### Foundations of Clinical Practice Away Day

The Foundations of Clinical Practice (FOCP) Away Day is on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park. GP Tutors can attend ethics updates and workshops on how to teach breaking bad news and how to improve their small group teaching. There are just a few places left; please email [Tom Durley](#) if you want to come.

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## The King's Fund GP Inquiry launch event

In 2009 -2010 Emeritus Professor George Freeman collaborated on a report on *Continuity of Care and the Patient Experience* for the King's Fund as part of their *Inquiry into the Quality of General Practice in England* – the public launch event of the Inquiry Findings is on 24<sup>th</sup> March at 8.15 -10 am – attendance is free.

His work on Generalism in Medicine has assisted RCGP to run a 'Commission on Generalism' from January 2011 for which he has been named provisionally as Academic Advisor and literature review lead. He is also currently active with two projects:

1 - *How responsive are primary care services to their patients' needs? Development of a patient questionnaire* - Funded by the SDO for three years from Oct 2010

2 - *Developing questionnaires to assess continuity of care* - Assisting a team led by Jeannie Haggerty at McGill, Montreal.

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## Department Launches new Facebook page

Because of the increasing importance of social networking in health, education and teaching and research, the department has launched a Facebook page.

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## Imperial College London welcomes UAE Ministers of Health



**His Excellency Dr Hanif Al Qassim (3<sup>rd</sup> left), Prof Stephen Smith (4<sup>th</sup> left), Prof Salman Rawaf (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and the UAE delegation.**

On the 8th-10th February 2011 the WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training at Imperial College London hosted the United Arab Emirates Minister of Health, His Excellency Dr Hanif Hassan Al Qassim and his accompanying senior delegation. There were four days of visits, interacting with health leaders across London, strengthening collaborative links and viewing health services at a practical level.

His Excellency was welcomed to Imperial College by WHO Collaborating Centre Director Professor Salman Rawaf, who shared insights from his own executive experience within the NHS. At a visit to Brook Green Medical Centre, Dr David Wingfield lead discussions on General Practitioner training, compulsory patient registration and the clinical IT system designed to improve the management of chronic diseases such as Type 2 Diabetes. Later the His Excellency met Lord Professor Ara Darzi and colleagues to discuss health policy training, academic innovation and technology. This was followed by dinner at the House of Lords.

The team visited the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to discuss UAE challenges around the shortage and quality of family physicians. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes is high in the UAE and it is a significant burden of disease. Professor Azeem Majeed, Head of Department of Primary Care and Public Health, and Dr David Wingfield shared their clinical and research experience addressing this issue.

The delegation also visited Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Medical education, health innovation and health care reforms were on the agenda. The team took a guided tour of the hospital's departments and services including the Day Surgery Unit, the Clinical Skills Laboratory and Simulation Centre, the Hospital's pharmacy and the innovative new Stroke Unit which is achieving impressive results.

On the final day, Professor Stephen Smith, CEO of Imperial Healthcare NHS Trust and Pro-Rector (Health) at Imperial College, met with His Excellency and WHO Collaborating Centre staff. Together they discussed the development of the relationship between Imperial College and the UAE. Hospitality was shown with a gift for each of the delegates. Concluding the visit, His Excellency met with Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health, Anne Milton, at Richmond House Department of Health, exploring mutual collaboration between the two countries.

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## Dr Grant Blair & Dr Mabel Alli

We were very sorry to hear about the recent deaths of two members of the department, Dr Grant Blair and Dr Mabel Alli.

Dr Blair was the joint head of the Year 6 General Practice Student Assistantship on the undergraduate medical course at Imperial College. Dr Blair made a considerable contribution to undergraduate primary care education, and was a very committed and popular teacher. Dr Blair also made important contributions to postgraduate teaching and training in primary care, both in the UK and overseas. Dr Blair was also a GP at the Lillie Road Surgery in Fulham.

Dr Alli was the Director of the North West London Haemoglobinopathy Network, which is based in the Department of Public Health at Brent Primary Care Trust, and an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Primary Care & Public Health at Imperial College. Through her work with the Haemoglobinopathy Network, Dr Alli made an important contribution to improving the care of people with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia. In her most recent project, Dr Alli was working with the NW London CLAHRC programme to develop a training programme in sickle cell disease for general practitioners in Brent PCT.

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