REF 2014 – onwards and upwards!

One week prior to the Christmas closure, many of us awaited the outcome of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) with baited breath and trepidation. After almost six years of planning, decision-making and submission, no one could confidently predict the results of this new system which assesses the quality and impact of research in UK Universities, and will allocate block grant funding for research from 2015.

The questions on everyone’s lips were: would we maintain or jostle for our position in the league tables? How would our centres of excellence be rated and how would our five new submissions compete nationally against well-established players? In a fiercely selective and strategic exercise, would our decision to increase the number of staff submitted across 15 subject areas, including ninety early career researchers, be brave or foolhardy? Above all, no one could predict how the assessment of impact – a new indicator of quality – would pan out. Would our 43 case studies evidence our impact on the economy, society, culture, public policy and quality of life sufficiently to convince the 36 expert REF sub-panels?

The results were announced on 18 December 2014 and we have maintained our position very well; we are now placed 65th of 154 institutions in the overall quality league table, and 52nd nationally for the impact of our research (Times Higher). The outcome revealed that more than 60 per cent of our submitted research outputs were rated as 4* (world leading) and 3* (internationally excellent). The results highlighted particular strengths in physics, allied health professions, dentistry, nursing and pharmacy, business and management studies, and area studies. We have grown our number of researchers and range of expertise, and have still managed to improve our overall research quality significantly by 24 per cent since 2008. The reach and significance of 80 per cent of our research impacts were judged to be ‘outstanding’ or ‘very considerable’. This recognition endorses the fact that the University undertakes excellent research applicable to real world issues.

Planning for the next REF cycle is already underway through the analysis of REF 2014 results and submissions (available at www.ref.ac.uk), investment in a new Research Information Management System (Pure), the development of a new Research and Innovation Strategy, and the advent of REF strategic planning groups across the University.

Inside this edition:

Funding Update ........................................................................................................................................................................... Pages 3 & 4
Zooniverse .......................................................................................................................................................................................... Page 7
Update from our networks ..................................................................................................................................................................... Pages 8 & 9
Innovation Services Update .............................................................................................................................................................. Pages 16 & 17
Focus on a Researcher – Professor Rob Strachan .......................................................................................................................... Page 23
Update from the Dean of Research – Professor Taraneh Dean

As I am writing this, on a cold bright Saturday morning, I find myself experiencing a mixture of emotions - happy, sad, proud and excited about the future. Let me elaborate.

The work on this issue (number 13 and my last editorial!) began in November. Yes, this is true, and perhaps we should change the title to ‘Research & Innovation Update’ as opposed to News. Between November and January, I have had many meetings with Julia Cook in Research and Innovation Services (RIS), who does an excellent job of pulling it all together, to go over different parts of this edition and, once it goes to the designers, I wait for a draft and then write my piece. So, having now seen the draft, I am touched by what colleagues in RIS have said about my contribution, below. I am even more surprised to find out I had the title of ‘Executive Editor’. Why didn’t they tell me this before, as it surely would have been an impressive addition to my CV!

I am about to start my third week in my new role as the Dean of the Faculty of Science and, in so many ways, it does feel like coming home. The welcome of familiar faces, the sense of knowing where everything is and how things work etc, yet it is very exciting to have been given the opportunity to lead the Faculty to the next phase of its growth. I have always been blessed with having excellent colleagues and my new role is no exception.

But, what about the role I left behind? Here is where the sadness comes in. I had a lovely farewell in RIS on Thursday 29 January, with beautiful gifts, and I started the new job on 2 February. At around 10am on my first day, the most beautiful bouquet of flowers arrived from all staff in RIS to wish me good luck with my new adventures. I was very touched indeed.

I became Director of Research in January 2011 and it has been one of my most rewarding professional experiences. Looking through this newsletter, I do feel proud. A good friend told me some time ago that I should create an electronic folder where I keep all the uplifting emails and, when I feel low, I should look at them. In early issues of this newsletter I had some lovely emails from colleagues about what a good idea it was to have this newsletter and will we be able to find enough material to keep it going. Well, it is getting bigger with each issue and we now have to be very selective! Amongst the emails I have are two which have stayed with me, one from a caretaker and one from a member of staff from the University Library, who contacted me to say they had no idea that University staff were involved in so many research activities and that they were working in an institution with so many excellent researchers. When I received these, I knew that all my perseverance to ensure this newsletter is circulated to all staff was absolutely the right thing to do. My understanding is that this publication and the Vice-Chancellor’s bulletin have the highest readership. Looking through this issue makes me extremely proud. The Research Excellence Framework outcome, our participation in research-related national surveys – Principle Investigators and Research Leaders Survey (PIRLS), Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) and Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) – our Graduate School, the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation (they now appear to have their own dedicated page), the funding successes, new initiatives like our membership of Zooniverse, the Professors’ and Readers’ Forums, UPEN and UPAN, the external recognition of our researchers, the success of the Research Development Fund, Researcher Development Programme… This ship can go places and my wish for it is to be steered safely to an exciting destination.

It has been a privilege for me to work with you all over the past five years and I look forward to reading the next issue and contributing in a different capacity.

A fond farewell to our founder and executive editor

The team at Research and Innovation Services could not let this edition of the newsletter pass without taking the opportunity to recognise and thank our executive editor, Professor Taraneh Dean, for all her hard work. Since becoming the Director of Research some five years ago, Tara has been behind many schemes to support and promote research at the University.

This newsletter has been one of her noteworthy achievements. First published in March 2011, it has been consistently produced three times per year. In its time there have been 13 editions of the newsletter comprising almost 70,000 words. It has been used to announce funding schemes, noteworthy achievements, postgraduate successes, conferences, feature researchers, press successes and more. Around 1,200 of you read it every time it comes out.

For this last edition, we wanted to thank Tara for her contribution, congratulate her on her promotion to Dean of the Faculty of Science, and ask one last favour – will you come and guest edit sometime soon?

The Research and Innovation Services Team
Funding update
Successful grants awarded between 1 October 2014 and 30 January 2015.

Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries

David Brown
IConIC (Intelligent Condition monitoring with Integrated Communications)
Technology Strategy Board – £249,000

Justin Smith
Fifty Years of British Music Video, 1964–2014: Assessing innovation, industry, influence and impact
Arts and Humanities Research Council – £477,090

Deborah Shaw
Being Human: A festival of the humanities: Conflict and Resolution across Global Cultures
Film Hub South East – £2,989

Joan Farrer
PARASOL (Prevention Against Radiation And Sun fOr Life)
Innovate UK via Vision ICT Ltd – £5,000

Portsmouth Business School

Pierre Failler
Assistance Mechanism for the Atlantic Action Plan
European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – £48,461

Aaron Hatcher
Mapping and modelling the incentives for a landing obligation in demersal fisheries
Fisheries Innovation Scotland – £87,444

Faculty of Science

Gary Fones
Biogeochemistry, macronutrient and carbon cycling in the benthic layer (part of the Shelf Sea Biogeochemistry Programme)
Natural Environment Research Council – £52,029

Investigation into the Residual Effects of Water Treatment by Titanium Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP)
Technology Strategy Board via Advanced Hydro Ltd – £5,000

Gordon Watson
The aquaculture potential of anemones for the marine aquarium trade
UK Bred Ltd – £49,711

Darren Gowers
Life 3D: A new tool for interactive visualisation of 3D models
Technology Strategy Board – £80,000

John McGeehan
Characterising new lignocellulose mobilising proteins
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council via University of York – £94,924

Paul Cox
Molecular Modelling Studies of Environmental Catalysts (one year extension)
Johnson Matthey – £12,500

Jan Shute
Regulation of elastin and collagen expression by human dermal fibroblasts exposed to collagen peptides in culture
Minerva Laboratories Ltd – £4,500

Carina Venter
Dietary management of adult Eosinophilic oesophagitis
Nutricia Ltd – £33,080

Geoff Pilkinson
Continuation funding
Brain Tumour Research – £66,598

Summer Studentship Project – Behaviour of pericytes within a 3D human in vitro model of the blood brain barrier
Dr Hadwen Trust – £1,940

Paul Gorczynski
Strengthening Knowledge Mobilization to Improve Physical Activity Behaviours in People with Schizophrenia and Diabetes
Brain & Behaviour Research Foundation (formerly NARSAD) – £4,176

Marina Davila-Ross
Does an ape feel like a human?
The Royal Society – £13,310

Bridget Waller
Macacognitum
European Commission Marie Curie FP7 – £230,430 (£299,558)

Aldert Vrij
The effect of using interpreters on rapport, eliciting information and cues to deceit
US Department of Justice (Federal Bureau of Investigation) – £152,941

Humphrey Southall
Pelagios 3: Early Geospatial Documents
Mellon Foundation via University of Southampton – £2,715

Mike Tipton
Scientific support for lower water temperature limits for open water swimming events: parameters for participant safety
FINA (Fédération internationale de natation) – £31,667
Faculty of Technology

Bob Nichol
Dark Energy Survey: Observing Shift at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory
Science & Technology Facilities Council – £2,000

Daniel Thomas
Dark Energy Survey: Y2 Observing Shift
Science & Technology Facilities Council – £2,137

Karen Masters
The Quenching of Star Formation in Disc Galaxies
Science & Technology Facilities Council – £22,290

William Percival
DESI: The Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument
Science & Technology Facilities Council – £28,688

Manish Malik
To develop and embed the capability to develop and manage service quality standards and e-learning systems
Innovate UK/Gully Howard Technical – £62,974

Andrea Bucchi
Multiphysics numerical simulations to predict the formation of abdominal aortic aneurysm and to produce rupture risk assessment
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council – £100,416

John Williams
To develop the capability to understand and predict effects on water chemistry of frequency modulated electronic treatment, and identify markets for the technology
Innovate UK/Environmental Treatment Concepts Limited – £135,505

Collaborative funding success guarantees creation of advanced mass spectrometry resource

The universities of Portsmouth, Southampton, Reading and Surrey recently combined forces to form the Southern 4 Proteomics Consortium to provide a critical mass of facilities and expertise in the region. In October 2014, the consortium was awarded its first research grant of £450,000 from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. The University of Portsmouth’s lead applicant on the grant, Professor Geoff Kneale, said: ‘These facilities will provide substantial underpinning to our existing research programmes in the control of gene expression, chromatin structure and biofuels, amongst others. This will be of great benefit to a wide range of research programmes, both within the Institute of Biomedical and Biomolecular Sciences (IBBS) and across the School of Biological Sciences. This advanced mass spectrometry resource – and there are only three in the UK – will also be of tremendous benefit to structural biologists at Portsmouth in allowing detailed analysis of purified proteins and their complexes.’

2015 is a PIRLS and CROS year

Researchers – tell us what you think of the University’s research culture and support for researchers

Every two years, universities across the UK participate in the Principle Investigators and Research Leaders Survey (PIRLS) and the Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS). These two surveys ask questions about activities and attitudes in relation to research, and about the support available for researcher’s career development. PIRLS is aimed at principal investigators and research leaders, while CROS is for those who are employed primarily to conduct research. At the University of Portsmouth we invite those who have been a principal investigator on an externally funded research grant in the last five years to fill out PIRLS, and researchers with job titles including research assistant, research associate, research fellow and postdoctoral fellow, to complete CROS.

At Portsmouth, we participated in both surveys in 2013 and during March, April and May of this year we will once again be asking researchers to complete the surveys. The reports from the 2013 surveys are available at PIRLS-2013 and CROS 2013. While the University of Portsmouth compared well to other institutions in many areas, we scored poorly within the categories of research culture and the value given to research. Since then, steps have been made to improve the support that is available for researchers. In particular, the Researcher Development Programme has come on stream. Between October and December, researchers attended almost 300 Researcher Development workshop places where they discovered more about topics such as funding opportunities, research impact and publishing in a competitive environment. This programme has also enabled researchers to have more contact with each other and parts of the University that are here to support them, for example from the grants team and business associates in Research and Innovation Services.

If you do fit the categories of the PIRLS or CROS groups, you will be contacted in the spring by email and asked to complete the surveys. Please do take up this opportunity to have your voice heard on issues that affect researchers. The resulting data, and particularly the comments, provide clear evidence of how researchers across the University are faring and helps to steer decision making in a direction that works better for researchers.

Check back for survey results later in the year!
Graduate School update

Graduate School Postgraduate Research (PGR) forum

Alongside the launch of the new University Researcher Network, the Graduate School is keen to provide postgraduate research students with further opportunities to network, share research ideas and best practice, and be an active part of the wider research community.

Following a successful brainstorming meeting with a group of PhD students, we will be launching a number of new initiatives in 2015, including a forum to represent research students and influence the future of PGR development. This will include a PGR Café, a fortnightly series of seminars/workshops led by PGRs, and additional networking and social events. We will shortly be setting up a working group to help launch these ideas led by a group of current students, so please get in touch if you would like to be involved by emailing graduate.school@port.ac.uk.

Triple PhD success for the School of Media and Performing Arts (SMPA)

Three PhDs in three days was the viva challenge taken on by three doctoral candidates in the School of Media and Performing Arts in December 2014. Firstly, Laura Mayne successfully defended her thesis Channel 4 and British Film: An Assessment of Industrial and Cultural Impact, 1982–1998, examined by Professor Andrew Spicer (University of the West of England) and Dr Laurie Ede (SMPA).

The following day, Sally Shaw’s thesis, entitled Where on earth is home?: A Cultural History of Black Britain in 1970s Film and Television, passed with only minor amendments before a panel including Dr Rajinder Dudrah (by video link from the University of Manchester), Dr Paul Newland (Aberystwyth University) and internal examiner Dave Russell (from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences). Sally was a recipient of one of the last Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) doctoral studentships.

Another researcher who was part of the AHRC-funded Channel 4 and British Film Culture project, Rachael Keene, completed the hat-trick of PhDs on Wednesday 17 December with her study Channel 4 Television: Film Policy and Programming, 1982–2011. Rachael’s external examiner was Professor Sylvia Harvey (Visiting Professor at the University of Leeds); her internal examiner was Dr Stephen Harper (SMPA).

Dr Justin Smith, first supervisor on all three projects, said: ‘I’m delighted at this tremendous run of successes. They each represent major intellectual contributions in the field and are a tribute to the calibre of the postgraduate students the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries has attracted over recent years, thanks to funded research success.’

Research students - Are you either conducting or intending to conduct research as a ‘practitioner-researcher’ within your own workplace or professional domain?

On Thursday 5 March 2015, from 10am to 12pm in St Andrew’s Court room 4.09, the Graduate School will be running a special interest workshop – Researching within your workplace.

This event will discuss the specific issues that arise for practitioner-researchers and will help you to plan an effective professional or workplace-based project that is academically credible and professionally relevant. It will also evaluate different methodologies for data collection and discuss the research ethics of practitioner-research.

Please book to attend via Skillsforge.
Successful postgraduate students

Between 5 September 2014 and 9 January 2015 the following students completed their research degrees:

**Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries**

- **Andrea Verenini** – Past and Present Visions of an Island-City: Portsmouth’s Urban Improvement Plans 1750s–2010s

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

- **Alexandra Messem** – Spectacles of Suffering: Self-Harm in New Woman Writing 1880–1900
- **Graham Hadley** – Performance Culture meets Police Culture: The Relationship between Political Ideologies, Police Reform and Police Culture
- **Samantha Page** – ‘Narratives of Blame’ HIV/AIDS and Harmful Cultural Practices in Malawi: Implications for Policies and Programmes

**Portsmouth Business School**

- **Ahmed Almutawa** – Challenges to the Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in the States of the Gulf Cooperation Council
- **Muayad Kamal Mohammad Hattab** – ‘Voluntary’ Promises in Employment Law: a Study of the Legal Approach in the United Kingdom and the United States of America
- **Ernestine Ndzi** – The Regulation of the Determination of Executive Remuneration
- **Lynn Lansbury** – The Development, Implementation and Measurement of a Bystander Intervention Strategy: A Field Study on Workplace Verbal Bullying in a Large UK Organisation
- **Michael Staunton** – Implementing Talent Management in a Global Services Company
- **Syed Wasti** – Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations – A Case Study of Pakistan

**Faculty of Science**

- **John Cashman** – Effects of Histone Modifications on Chromatin Regulation
- **Andrew Terry** – The Effect of Pollen Origin and Pollen Load on the Stigmas in the Female Reproductive Success of Dalechampia species
- **Jennifer Pini** – An Assessment of the Impacts of Chronic Exposure of Copper and Zinc on the Polychaete Nereis (Alitta) virens using an Integrated Ecotoxicological Approach
- **Marie Nolan** – Levee Stability and the Evolution of ‘A’a Lava Flow-Fields
- **David Giles** – Computer-Based Modelling and Analysis in Engineering Geology
- **Alan Charters** – Detection of Distal Ulna and Radius Fractures using Thermal Imaging as a Diagnostic Tool on Children in the Emergency Department Setting
- **Chey Gordon Dearing** – Sources of Uncertainty Impacting upon Sperm Cryopreservation for Cancer Patients

**Mohammed Alswaidan**

A PhD student in the Portsmouth Business School, has received an award for high achievement in his studies during 2013/2014 from HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf Al Saud, the Saudi Arabian Ambassador. The ceremony for Saudi students from across the UK took place at the Saudi Arabian Embassy in London in September 2014. Mohammed was accompanied to the ceremony by his supervisor, Dr Arief Daynes.

Correction

In the October 2014 edition of Research & Innovation News, it was incorrectly reported that Getaneh Agegn Alemu was from the Faculty of Technology. Getaneh is actually a research student in the School of Creative Technologies within the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries. Research & Innovation News would like to apologise for the error and congratulate Getaneh for successfully completing his PhD.

**Clare Le Cras and Professor Jon Butterworth, a leading physicist at CERN and head of physics and astronomy at University College London**

**Jolanta Poplawksa**

**Claire Le Cras, a third year PhD student based in the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation, has recently won the Institute of Physics 2014 Early Career Physics Communication Award. Clare was nominated for her public engagement and outreach work, specifically her innovative project explaining astrophysical concepts through dance.**

**Jolanta Poplawksa**

**Claire Le Cras and Professor Jon Butterworth, a leading physicist at CERN and head of physics and astronomy at University College London**

**Mohammed Alswaidan**

**Jolanta Poplawksa**

**Claire Le Cras and Professor Jon Butterworth, a leading physicist at CERN and head of physics and astronomy at University College London**
Zooniverse

An institutional partnership has now been finalised with Zooniverse, an online platform that is home to more than twenty online crowdsourcing projects.

At the time of writing, more than 1.1 million registered contributors volunteer their time to help with data-driven academic research projects in diverse areas such as cosmology, ecology, history and pretty much everything else in between.

All Zooniverse projects are united by the challenges posed by huge volumes of data requiring analysis and the absence of a reliable way to automate the analysis of this data using a machine. Existing examples include projects where volunteers help to classify deep space photos of galaxies according to their visual properties, marking the size and location of plankton in microscopic images of seawater, and a project involving the transcription of hand-written war diaries to help historians better understand troop movements during the First World War.

Our Zooniverse membership opens the door to many potential projects from our academics in Portsmouth, so we want to hear from you about ideas for proposals we can put forward. We especially want to hear from you if your research involves the extraction of information from a large data set where the use of automated algorithms has proven impractical or unsuccessful. You may be surprised at the power of many pairs of willing eyes to make a rapid and accurate assessment of your data.

As part of our institutional partnership with Zooniverse, we have created a University of Portsmouth Zooniverse Board, with representatives from each of the five faculties. Dr Coleman Krawczyk is a new member of staff who will lead on developing aspects of our membership. Coleman will spend a significant amount of his time identifying and working with academics around the University to help develop ideas for new projects into full proposals. He will also attend Research Committee meetings over the next few months to help explain and spread the word about the Zooniverse and what it can offer to researchers.

If you think your area of research would be suited to a Zooniverse project, please contact Coleman directly via coleman.krawczyk@port.ac.uk or visit www.port.ac.uk/zooniverse. Here you will find a more detailed introduction to the Zooniverse, as well as links to other example projects we are developing.
The University of Portsmouth Environment Network provides an update on activities carried out since the last newsletter.

**Environmental Technologies Hub**

Companies now have fast, dedicated access to the environmental research facilities at the University in order to complete short to medium term projects. Funded through a Regional Growth Fund grant led by Future Solent, the Environmental Technologies Hub is currently providing services to companies in rock mechanics and testing, environmental biogeochemistry, mineralogical analysis, marine science and exposure testing. Through the hub we are strengthening the connection between the University, local businesses and wider industry. Questions and comments can be sent to william.green@port.ac.uk.

The University Geological and Environmental Laboratories (UPGEL), which forms part of the Environmental Technologies Hub, hosted an open day on 21 January to celebrate their launch. Local companies, academics and students were able to tour the new facilities as well as discuss projects with staff members in UPGEL.

The Environmental Technologies hub forms part of a wider regional initiative to set up a cleantech cluster. David Hutchinson is the Future Solent board sponsor for this project, should you wish to learn more.

**Future Living**

Professor Mark Gaterell (Associate Dean (Research) for the Faculty of Technology, and Professor of Sustainable Construction) has taken on the role of academic lead for the Future Living strand of the UPEN network. Mark has a background in sustainable engineering with a wealth of experience in industry and academia. Since joining UPEN from the University of Coventry, Mark has begun to galvanise the Future Living group, sparking enthusiasm to carry forward innovative projects within our city and creating new links with Portsmouth City Council. Made up of staff members from faculties across the campus, and including representatives from the Department of Estates and Campus Services, this group meets on a regular basis and aligns their efforts in research and education to collectively begin the process of creating a clear and coherent way forward for University activity. The group is rapidly gathering momentum and has significant potential to create a clear sustainable agenda for the institution, its staff and students. If you are interested in coming along to Future Living events or hearing more about the group through updates, then please contact tom.greenwood@port.ac.uk.

**Future Solent Conference**

The third annual Future Solent Conference was held in November 2014, bringing together local authorities, large companies, Solent small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and universities to discuss the future of the highly-capable Solent region. For the first time, this event attracted more delegates from business than local government and education – a significant accomplishment. UPEN had a primary role in organising the conference and its agenda, attracting more than 170 delegates including keynote speaker Dr Susie Tomson of Ben Ainsley Racing, who delivered an awe-inspiring speech packed full of passion and commitment not only to their incredible America’s Cup campaign but also to the city of Portsmouth and the Solent region. Sustainability is a core theme running throughout their mission to bring the 36th America’s Cup to the Solent. The opportunity was extended for delegates to feed their ideas and initiatives into the Solent Energy Strategy, ensuring parallel thinking as we work towards a common goal. Feedback for the conference so far has been excellent and huge thanks go to Alanna Smith for coordinating this planning effort.

**The Future of Marine Renewable Energy**

Portsmouth scientists and mathematicians recently led a joint conference with Southampton City Council as part of the Channel MOR (Marine Offshore Renewable) project. The workshop played host to local businesses, training and education providers, local authorities and students. The Channel MOR project aims to support the growth of the marine renewable energy sector by highlighting opportunities for funding to small and medium-sized businesses and facilitating their integration into supply chains. Optimising design, logistics and operations is also a key component of the project. The University component is being carried out through our Centre for Operational Research and Logistics (CORL), which is run jointly by the Portsmouth Business School and the Faculty of Technology (www.port.ac.uk/centre-for-operational-research-and-logistics/research/renewable-energy-and-sustainability).

If you would like to get involved with the network in any way, talk in more detail about UPEN, or receive regular updates, please get in touch via environment@port.ac.uk.

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Professor Mark Gaterell

Dr Susie Tomson of Ben Ainsley Racing at the third annual Future Solent Conference
Once again it has been a busy time for UPAN. Whilst UPAN remains committed to forging strong internal collaborations within the University, it has also continued to promote its outward facing role through involvement in a number of external networks that hopefully promote and support the University of Portsmouth’s commitment to the ageing agenda. Below are just a few examples.

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Wessex Clinical Research Network:** UPAN, in partnership with our Strategic Health Care Projects Manager Tony Horne, recently met with the NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) Wessex. The CRN helps to increase the opportunities for patients to take part in clinical research, ensures that studies are carried out efficiently, and supports the Government’s strategy for UK life sciences by improving the environment for commercial contract clinical research in the NHS in the Wessex area. It is hoped that this relationship will assist the further development of collaborative partnerships with NHS providers and university academics.

**Portsmouth Dementia Action Group:** During 2013/2014 a number of organisations, including Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, Solent Healthcare Trust, Portsmouth Hospitals Trust, Portsmouth City Council and leading Voluntary Organisations, joined together in partnership to review existing plans for dementia care and to create an updated plan for Portsmouth. UPAN recently engaged with this group and hopes to form firmer links during 2015.

**Alzheimer’s Research UK Southern Network:** Professor Arthur Butt (Institute of Biomedical and Biomolecular Science) has been appointed to the committee of the Alzheimer’s Research UK Southern Network as the representative of the University of Portsmouth. The network is managed by the University of Southampton and includes the universities of Bournemouth, Brighton and now Portsmouth. The network has been awarded a grant from Arthritis Research UK to promote network activities.

**Wessex Academic Health Sciences Network (AHSN):** UPAN is represented on the Board of this network, which covers a population of three million across 10 Clinical Commissioning Groups. The Wessex AHSN aligns with the footprints of nine local authorities, bringing together 11 NHS trusts and five universities. With well-established joint working across the locality based on patient flows, clinical networks, educational and research arrangements, the Wessex AHSN is also engaging with local and UK-wide industry, building on its partners’ established links.

**Engaging in research with local providers to deliver better services**

UPAN members have recently been involved in the successful completion of three projects helping people with dementia and their carers. ‘Kit Bags and Berets’ (Natalie Cox, Dr Julie Udell and Dr Karen Burnell) conducted semi-structured interviews with veterans with dementia and their caregivers, to evaluate an Alzheimer’s Society activity group specifically targeted at this demographic.

The second project, ‘Hampshire Creative Arts project for people with Dementia’ (Kellyn Lee and Dr Julie Udell) evaluated three activity groups based on stimulating art, music and drama across Hampshire. The project, through group observation and interviews with carers, provided an evaluation of the creative art groups which would aid the Alzheimer’s Society in assessing the viability of expanding this service.

The third project, commissioned by Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, was a collaboration led by the University of East London that included Healthwatch Portsmouth and the University of Portsmouth. Throughout 2014 a review of the current dementia pathways was undertaken based on feedback from service users, patients, families and carers. The findings of this review, along with reviews of various pilots, and local population and prevalence forecasts, will give commissioners a picture of the services required to meet local needs from 2015 onwards.
Professor Arthur Butt, Director of the Institute of Biomedical and Biomolecular Sciences (IBBS) tells us about his experience of serving on the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

I reviewed many grants as a member of Committee D of the BBSRC from 2011–2014. This took up a lot of my own and the University’s time in attending the committee meetings. I have been asked on many occasions whether it was worth it – particularly by my line manager. I can answer with a resounding yes.

Being invited onto the committee is clear recognition of one’s standing in the research community. Rubbing shoulders with the great and the good strengthened my profile and helped increase the visibility of research in IBBS and the University of Portsmouth. This is an important outcome of volunteering to be on external committees. I have encouraged other members of IBBS to do it, so that we have a level of continuity of representation on these important committees.

Much discussion is confidential, but I have been able to share with my colleagues how the committee works to achieve the key priorities set by the BBSRC. The majority of the grants that Dr Anastasia Callaghan, Reader in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at IBBS, takes part in a question and answer session about her experience last year of serving in the BBSRC Pool of Experts.

What has your involvement with BBSRC panels been?
Since being appointed to the BBSRC Pool of Experts in April 2014, I have served on two funding review panels. The first panel dealt with research grants submitted to Committee D, which assesses applications on ‘Molecules, Cells and Industrial Biotechnology’. These grants can be anything from a single institution-based, 18-month, £150,000 project up to a four-year, £1.5m, large multi-centre collaborative venture. The second panel dealt with the allocation of BBSRC Industrial CASE studentships. Scientifically, the whole broad BBSRC remit was covered by these CASE submissions, but importantly, these trainee researcher positions leading to a PhD qualification also incorporated an element of support from a non-academic partner. I have now been asked to serve on the forthcoming BBSRC Committee D panel.

How has being a BBSRC panel member affected your day-to-day work?
I have had to become more organised, as being involved in the panels is a lot of work. For the responsive mode panel, it is usual to have more than ten grants to review and around 25 grants for the Industrial CASE panel. I thought I was busy before my BBSRC involvement, but my training and attendance at two panels has added at least six weeks of solid effort to my annual workload.

Do you find being on the BBSRC panel useful for your own research?
Yes. Networking with the mostly senior academic or industrial scientist panel members provides a great opportunity to engage with and learn from UK research leaders. Since the first BBSRC panel training event, I have established a collaboration which has led to the submission of a joint grant proposal. I now have a better understanding of strategic BBSRC policy, research priorities and the direction of UK science funding as a whole. Reading lots of grants in research areas aligned with my own, and seeing their subsequent performance at the panel, also allows me to appreciate what makes an outstanding grant application. Hopefully I can emulate some of the excellence I have seen!

How did you find the decision-making process?
Reassuringly, I found the decision-making process thorough and fair. Unlike some other research councils, BBSRC requires you to present an assessment of reviewers’ feedback on each grant, plus undertake a complete peer review of the grant. Whilst this is time consuming, I have seen first-hand that this ensures the process is robust.
Professor Catherine Harper shares her experience of serving on an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Collaborative Doctoral Panel.

Professor Harper, Dean of the Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries, served on an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Panel in November 2014. Panellists provided detailed evaluation against the Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) criteria, having read a total of 45 applications to be considered that day. The findings of the panel that Professor Harper participated in joined the results of two other panels in a final assessment to determine awards. The AHRC funds around 45 CDA awards per round, depending on funds available, and the success rate is approximately 1:3. Professor Harper is a member of the AHRC Peer Review College and the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, so this experience extends her knowledge of these and similar funding schemes, providing insight into how these operate as well as how the rigorous evaluation process functions. This is personally important in terms of a commitment to academic citizenship, as well as feeding into the income generation knowledge base of the Faculty and University.

Dr Natalya Vince, Senior Lecturer in the School of Languages and Area Studies, received a Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) of £58,827 from the AHRC and the British Council for Shakespeare’s tongue? The English language and social worlds in contemporary Algeria.

According to the AHRC, Collaborative Doctoral Awards are intended to encourage and develop collaborative partnerships between higher education departments and non-HEI organisations and businesses.

Dr Vince’s project examines the place of English within the contemporary Algerian linguistic and cultural landscape. It explores the historical, political, economic, social and cultural contexts which shape the motivation to study English. In doing so, it aims to identify new directions in research into shifts in global connections and perceptions of what has traditionally been termed ‘Francophone Africa’. The project also seeks to provide the basis for more research-informed policy-making, thereby enabling the British Council to encourage UK-Algerian cooperation and partnership, including study in the UK, and to better direct its English provision for both students and teachers.

Congratulations to Dr Justin Smith (School of Media and Performing Arts) and Dr Wendy Powell (School of Creative Technologies) who have been selected to be members of the AHRC peer review college.
Professor Bob Nichol and Professor Claudia Maraston, from the ICG, tell us more about the latest ways in which they’ve been making an impact:

Professor Nichol is an astronomer with astronomical citation statistics, recently ranked in the world’s top one per cent for citations by the Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researchers list 2014. He has co-authored over 350 refereed journal papers with over 50,000 citations. Most of the papers stem from working on the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) in 1993, as a postdoctoral researcher in the USA.

The SDSS revolutionised astronomy by undertaking the first digital survey of the northern sky. Using the latest digital detectors, the SDSS scanned the heavens to a depth and accuracy previously unseen. Key to its success was the publication of the data in a state-of-the-art database, accessible worldwide via the internet. The data was regularly released in an easy-to-use format, allowing all astronomers around the world to benefit. Easy access to SDSS data has resulted in approximately one paper a day being written by scientists outside the SDSS, leading to phenomenal citation statistics for the seminal papers from the SDSS scientists.

‘At the time, it was a risk’, notes Professor Nichol. ‘The culture was to hold onto one’s data as long as possible and to extract as much information from it as possible. The concept of giving away one’s data for free was strange to many astronomers. As a young postdoctoral, without a permanent job, it was scary!’ The reward was collaboration with many fellow astronomers keen to get the science done quickly, resulting in a suite of high-quality results papers, sharing the ideas of many people. ‘These papers are typically highly cited. It’s a pleasure to be a co-author on great pieces of science. I had the opportunity to collaborate on many papers. I still enjoy such teamwork today’, comments Professor Nichol.

Such collaborative papers are still unusual in astronomy; although the culture is changing slowly. Newer, larger experiments like the Dark Energy Survey (DES) and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) will dominate the next decade. ‘Highly cited papers with large author lists still cause problems. Many senior astronomers believe one’s career is defined by the small subset of papers that you’re first author on. This is hard to justify when hundreds of people have worked together to produce one result; such papers usually have alphabetical author lists as it’s impossible, and unfair, to attribute the work to one person,’ says Professor Nichol. ‘I’d rather contribute to several interesting results and papers, than work alone. I love science because of the opportunities to collaborate and explore new phenomena.’

Professor Claudia Maraston has been invited to join the Telescope Allocation Committee for the Atacama Large sub-Millimeter Array, (ALMA), which will select the best scientific proposals from all over the world, for three years from 2015. Professor Maraston has been highly commended for the first South East Physics Network (SEPnet) Public Engagement Award for the University of Portsmouth outreach educational programme, A Visit from Space. The programme unites up to five scientists from ICG, including Professor Maraston, Dr Thomas and Dr Gupta, and PhD students. They visit Portsmouth-based junior schools and offer a morning of activities that starts with a public talk, followed by experiences with inflatable planets, a thermal camera and surfing Galaxy Zoo. It concludes with a Q&A session. Excellent feedback has been received from the ten plus schools visited. Coordinated with the help of the University Marketing Department, the programme was created by Professor Maraston and Dr Thomas with support from Dr Gupta. The novelty is to bring scientists into schools, engaging children in activities and academic learning, supported by volunteers.

‘Evolutionary population synthesis: models, analysis of the ingredients and application to high-redshift galaxies’, C. Maraston, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 362, 3. Gaining over 1,000 citations in nine years makes Professor Maraston’s single author paper one of the most cited articles in the field. The model data published with this paper are available at the University of Portsmouth/ICG dedicated webpage: Stellar Population Models.

ALMA is the largest radio telescope on Earth, built by an international consortium including Europe, East Asia and North America. Made up of 66 antennas displaced over a 16km wide area on Chile’s Atacama Desert at 5,000m above sea level, ALMA will explore our cosmic origins, such as the first galaxies and extra-solar planets.
Visits from funding agencies

British Academy

On the 29 October, we welcomed Jack Caswell, Assistant Head of Research Awards, and Katie Jost, International Manager, from the British Academy to the University. The British Academy is the national academy for humanities and social sciences, which last year distributed over £29 million to support excellence in this area. The Academy have a variety of funding schemes that support researchers at all stages of their careers through fellowships and research grants as well as encouraging engagement with international researchers.

Over 30 researchers from across four faculties assembled for the event that commenced with Jack highlighting the role of the Academy as a voice for the humanities and social sciences as well as a funder of research. Jack continued to outline their strategic priorities, including a languages and quantitative skills programme designed to address the skills deficit in UK education and research, and their annual funding schemes.

Katie then took centre-stage to inform us all of the international opportunities on offer through the Academy. The Newton Fund, as part of the UK's Official Development Assistance commitment, is a programme of awards that provides funding for international researchers to link up with UK researchers through fellowships, mobility grants and partnerships. More information on the countries eligible for each of the awards can be found at www.britac.ac.uk/newtonfund.

Researchers here at the University of Portsmouth have been funded by the British Academy for their research and we were lucky enough to be joined by Dr Tamsin Bradley, Reader in International Development Studies, who shared with us the research that Academy funding has enabled her to undertake. Tamsin's research, in partnership with The Centre for Mass Communications at Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi, analysed the newspaper reporting of rape in India, and included reviews of international and national press along with interviews with anti-rape movement activists. The recently completed project has already produced two articles submitted to peer-reviewed journals, and a second phase of the project to establish a network of researchers, activists and journalists, working on gender-based violence, is currently being planned.

Full details of the British Academy, including details about their role, priorities, funding schemes and deadlines can be found on their website at http://www.britac.ac.uk/.

Royal Society

We were delighted to bring together over 20 researchers from across three faculties, on 30 October, to hear about funding opportunities offered by the Royal Society. The Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science. Last year the Society distributed around £70 million to support excellence in the natural and applied sciences, through a range of funding schemes for researchers at all stages of their career, as well as schemes to encourage exchanges of information and visits overseas.

Jason Codrington, Grants Impact and Promotion Manager, and Debbie Shields, Impact and Promotions Officer, travelled down from their London offices for the afternoon event.

Jason gave an excellent overview of the funding schemes offered by the Royal Society including a wealth of fellowships suitable for both early career and senior researchers, along with those at a mid-career point wishing to engage with industry. A number of innovation schemes were highlighted alongside the ‘seed corn’ research grants of up to £15,000.

The later part of the presentation focussed on developing research on an international level, showcasing a number of collaborative, capacity building and travel schemes incorporating the Newton Fund calls offered as part of the UK’s Official Development Assistance commitment. To conclude, Jason took us through the application process before taking questions from the floor.

For full details of the funding schemes available from the Royal Society, please see their website at https://royalsociety.org/.

Newton Fund

The Newton Fund is part of the UK’s official development assistance. Its aim is to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.
**Featured new research study**

Dr Justin Smith, from the School of Media and Performing Arts, in collaboration with Dr Emily Caston, from the University of the Arts London, has won £477,090 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He tells us about the research study, *Fifty Years of British Music Video, 1964–2014: Assessing innovation, industry, influence and impact.*

For over half a century promotional films for British popular music have received critical acclaim and numerous awards. Since the launch of MTV in 1981, these films have become known as ‘music videos’, although until the 2000s the overwhelming majority were shot on 35mm and 16mm film, and the form itself long predated MTV. Where did it all begin?

The point of departure for this study is 1964, when short promotional films began to be commissioned for British bands like The Kinks, Pink Floyd and The Rolling Stones. Since then, music videos (shaped in the 1970s and syndicated in the 1980s) have not only had an enormous impact on successive generations of television viewers, but have also inspired creative producers in fashion, design, photography and feature film. Directors Derek Jarman, Julian Temple, Jonathan Glazer, John Maybury and Jamie Thraves are among a number of well-known filmmakers behind some of the most innovative and celebrated music videos. Yet, despite its recognition, its innovation and its longevity, the cultural significance of music video within British academic research has been largely unacknowledged. This project seeks to change that. This corporate history will reveal the extent of the dynamic relations between the recording and video industries, film and television, in terms of their cultural economies, their creative talent and their aesthetic influences.

The project’s primary aim is to document the innovative British music video industry from its origins in the 1960s, through its professionalisation in the MTV years, to its amateurisation in the YouTube era. The two-year study, funded by an award of £477,090 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is the fruition of a dynamic collaboration I developed with Dr Emily Caston from the University of the Arts London, an award-winning senior music video producer with a long track-record at Black Dog (a subsidiary of Ridley Scott Associates). Emily's insider knowledge of the sector and passionate belief that music video should receive the cultural recognition it deserves, chimed with my own interests and experience in researching creativity in the UK's cultural industries. In putting the project together we drew on existing, uncatalogued collections at the British Film Institute and the British Library, who came on board as project partners. It's so important on a project of this scope to build meaningful relationships with partners so that everyone is clear about the value of their contributions and rewards. We then devised the project's central aim: to assemble a panel of industry executives and creatives from record labels and production companies to work with an advisory committee of academics, to select a canon of British music video titles for conservation at the British Film Institute’s (BFI) National Archive. The project will also create the first national database of British music videos free to access at the BFI and British Library.

But the project's pursuit of cultural recognition for British music video extends beyond the establishment of a permanent, catalogued archive. The selected titles will also be distributed to the general public by Soda Pictures as a DVD/Blu-ray box-set and exhibited across the UK in four national cinema screening events with leading music video curator David Knight (BUG, editor Promo News TV, curator UK Music Video Awards). Drawing on specially-commissioned interviews with production executives and top directors, and privileged access to company records, this rich legacy will be documented and analysed in a journal special issue, and a co-authored book relating the as-yet-untold story of British music video art. Both publicly and academically, the impact potential is tremendous.

The technical challenges will be crunching the data and sourcing the video masters, but we’ve got excellent support from the BFI and British Library data managers, and a number of major production companies are already on board. The creative challenges will be getting agreement on the shortlist of greatest British music videos; I predict there will be some lively debates over canon formation, such is the variety and innovation that has characterised the UK’s contribution to this unique short-film art form.

In terms of the academic study of screen media music video, like commercial advertising, it has been virtually ignored. I am delighted that the AHRC award is recognition at last that this sector is worthy of serious academic attention, and I feel very privileged to be leading this exciting collaborative project.

Twitter: @Britmusicvideo
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Britishmusicvideo
Justin.Smith@port.ac.uk – @justintherhymer

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Dr Justin Smith
When research hits the headlines

Homosexuality may help us bond

According to preliminary research by evolutionary psychologist Dr Diana Fleischman, from the Department of Psychology, and published last November, homosexual behaviour may have evolved to promote social bonding in humans.

The University’s press office issued a press release on the findings which appeared in UK national daily newspapers including The Telegraph and Daily Mail, in the Huffington Post and much of Europe’s gay press, as well as in over 100 regional newspapers. It was also reported widely in the US, Canada and Australia, with a combined audience of well over 20 million readers.

From Diana’s point of view:

Several months ago I was told Kate Daniell, from the University’s press office, was interested in evolutionary psychology for possible press releases. When I saw the light at the end of the tunnel for the paper I’d had under review for nearly two years, I contacted her.

The paper is called ‘Testing the Affiliative Hypothesis of Homoerotic Motivation: The effects of Progesterone and Priming’. The findings are very tricky to report to the lay person and on a hot button issue for the press and society: homosexuality.

After Kate read the paper we sat down to chat about its findings and how to disseminate them. Kate wrote the first draft and then I and my co-author, Dan Fessler, extensively drafted new bits and made comments. After a few drafts and emails back and forth, Kate did a great job of putting everything together in such a way that it would be attractive to the media but retain all the precision about methods and findings that we, as scientists, wanted.

Photographer Helen Yates took some professional photos of me, and Alison Coote, also from the press office, made a short film with the help of my colleague Ed Morrison, from the Department of Psychology, who played a study participant.

The media response was remarkable. I exchanged a few emails and answered calls from Huffington Post and The Telegraph among other outlets. The Telegraph reporter was hoping I’d endorse a claim that progesterone in the drinking water is increasing levels of homosexuality! Luckily both I and the other endocrinologist they contacted for the story put that hypothesis to rest.

Working with Kate, Alison and the rest of the press team was great and, amazingly, my paper was not significantly misreported anywhere.

From Kate’s point of view:

When Diana contacted me, her research paper had been accepted by a journal but wasn’t yet published, which gave us time to draft and re-draft the press release until we were all satisfied.

Getting the right balance between interesting and relevant to the public and scientifically accurate took a few drafts and lots of discussion. The average reading age in the UK is 11, so we aim to use simple language even when conveying complex research. If we can get it right, we significantly minimise the risk of the findings being misreported or hyped.

Diana was excellent to work with; she was flexible, aware the impact this paper might have and willing to give up time for a video made by my colleague Alison, who later pitched it to the Huffington Post. The video received more than 11,000 plays on the day it was hosted on their website, and within three days had been played 32,500 times. If a story is compelling, a good video will extend its reach.

All these things, the drafting and re-drafting of a story, the video and photos, are time consuming but worth the effort to make a story attractive to a wide audience on different platforms.

A further detail which helped enormously was that the journal agreed to work with me on releasing the story under an embargo. I asked for a publication time of one minute past midnight on a Tuesday (stories sent out earlier in the week always gain more coverage), and this allowed me to give approximately 350 science and health journalists and gay specialist media across Europe and the UK a few days to prepare their stories.

This story worked for us and gained Diana a significantly higher public profile because the research was of wide public interest. Diana gave us advance warning and was willing to take the time to work with us to get the story right, she was available for interviews, and the journal was willing to agree in advance the day and time of online publication. She was also willing to work within journalists’ often tight timeframes, clearing much of her diary to deal with calls.

If you are due to publish a paper that you think might be of interest to the public, please contact the press team, giving them plenty of notice, so that we can collaborate it’s success.

http://www.port.ac.uk/uopnews/contacts/
Update from the Director of Research and Innovation Services

The world of commerce is an increasingly global phenomenon. With most companies or universities unlikely to experience immediate rapid growth and expansion, partnerships have become the mechanism that helps us all reach further as a global player. I find myself preaching this mantra on a regular basis, more so than perhaps I had previously done in similar jobs, and consequently partnerships across the University have recently begun to pay off. We are starting to see the benefits of these relationships in our reputation and through approaches of other organisations wanting to work with us.

You will see later in this update that we have recently partnered with other universities in the Solent region to hold a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) awareness event as well as a local business event to highlight the availability of public sector funding. In University news, partnerships around the Future Technologies Centre and the University Technical College are now also producing successful results, and improving the opportunity and profile of the University.

In more recent months, we have had a significant impact on business prosperity in the region. I am particularly proud of our more recent partnerships that have seen the region deliver the Solent Growth Hub. This scheme has allocated over £1 million worth of grant funding to businesses in the region, and is providing critical business help and advice across the Solent.

Following on from this activity, the team at Innovation Space are working closely with the City Council to turn our focus on how we can help start-up businesses in the region. Linked to this, the Business School are pursuing a course of accreditation with the small business charter which highlights that our internal collaborations are also important.

We are able to deliver so much more when we come together and collaborate. It isn't always the easiest course, but, in my experience, the results far outway the effort, every time. If you're looking to do something different this year, then make 2015 the year you open your mind to partnerships. Whether they are strategic, operational, educational or for the civic good – there is merit to them all.

Alistair McDermott
Director of Research and Innovation Services

Universities collaborate to promote business funding scheme

In December 2014, and in collaboration with the University of Southampton and Southampton Solent University, over 30 local businesses attended the ‘Expand your business potential with a KTP’ breakfast event. The purpose of this Research and Innovation Services led event was to promote Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs). Dr Neil Grice (Regional KTP Adviser) spoke about funding availability from Innovate UK, formerly the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Neil explained that KTP has, for almost 40 years, provided a successful framework for businesses to engage with universities. KTPs enable businesses to develop new capabilities, increase their profits and work with high calibre graduates. In addition, he explained that universities benefit through developing their research, opening up publishing opportunities and formerly contributions to the Research Excellence Framework activities. The event also included presentations from each of the three universities, showcasing a KTP project and highlighting the benefits to business.

The event concluded with a lively question and answer session and networking, and was well received by the businesses attending. Many of the companies were unaware of the funding opportunities open to them through Innovate UK and were encouraged to learn that support for innovation is available.

If you are interested in KTPs and would like to find out more, please contact the Research and Innovation Services Office on ext. 6191 or email ris@port.ac.uk

Correction
In the last edition of the newsletter, we incorrectly printed that Wendy Powell's Technology Strategy Board (TSB) sandpit project was the only one funded. In truth, another five projects were funded that day. We would like to apologise for the error and correct it here.
Start-up event sets the scene for public sector funding

On Monday 1 December, Innovation Space was the venue for an event dedicated to business start-ups looking to secure public funding. The event was hosted by Dana Aslam-Jerling from Research and Innovation Services, Speakers from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, Campari Creative Solutions, Addo Accounting and Solent Business Growth Network presented to the group of 17 delegates.

In a workshop-based day, delegates were given support through the application process for local funding opportunities such as Bridging the Gap. The programme included practical skills such as Crystallising your Business Idea, How to Survive the First 12 months, Effective Financial Forecasting and a briefing of current and future funding opportunities.

Subsequent feedback has shown that delegates found the entire day to be insightful, with the information delivered around how the panel works and the wider context of these funds particularly invaluable in terms of how they could shape their business ideas into successful applications. It is anticipated that this event will re-run over the next year.

City incubation space set for August 2015 opening

A question the department is being asked around the City and the University is ‘What is Cell Block Studios?’ The simple answer is that it’s a project designed to support Portsmouth’s creative industries, but actually, it is much more than that.

As you approach the Historic Dockyard via the public entrance (Victory Gate), there is a wall on the left that extends beyond the land partially over the harbour. This wall is actually the exterior wall of the old police cells. Built in 1882 for the detention of Naval defaulters, the building contains 12 cells all with classic heavy set wooden doors and sleeping bunks. There is even a tiny exercise yard built into the centre of the building. It remained in use until 1912 and since then has remained vacant. The building exudes culture and history and is a fine example of Victorian architecture.

In 2012, conversations began between the University and the Portsmouth Naval Historic Dockyard Trust to look at alternative uses for the building. After successfully applying for funding, including a substantial grant from the Government’s regional growth fund, a project was devised to regenerate the building and once again bring it back into public use.

The building is set to provide space for creative industry start-up businesses from August 2015. The cells will house a mixture of individual businesses in dedicated office spaces as well as shared office space for those that wish to collaborate.

A series of events have been set up to present the latest pictures from the build and give an opportunity for potential business tenants to ask questions and get more information; if you would like to attend one of these, please book via one of the links below:

- Saturday 21 March 2015, 12.00pm–2.00pm
- Thursday 16 April 2015, 6.00pm–8.00pm
- Saturday 23 May 2015, 12.00pm–2.00pm

If you are interested in this project and would like further information, please contact hello@cellblockstudios.com or 023 9284 7000, or visit www.cellblockstudios.com.

New business webpages set the scene for business engagement

Following on from a recent Business Engagement audit at the University, Research and Innovation Services, working with Jennifer Mitchell in the Marketing Department, have decided to revamp the business facing pages on the University website, and use that information as a platform to consult more widely on the campaigns and marketing materials available for staff to use.

The new website will focus on both the mechanisms to engagement as well as areas of proven business credibility where the University has a successful track record. The broad areas being considered for development are:

- Security, Fraud and Forensics
- Business, Enterprise and Innovation
- Manufacturing
- Environment
- Health
- Big Data
- Creative Industries

There will also be other sections on recruitment, research, staff development, client success stories, funding, facilities and connecting with the University.

In the short term, the team are focusing on developing the Business and Environment sections of the website as a pilot, replacing the Business Services area. A timetable for consultation and full rollout has been set, with the pilot website being available for comment internally from March 2015. The website will use business facing language and keywords to signpost businesses deeper into the University website, to places such as researcher websites and faculty/department level contacts.

Following on from this, the team will begin to consult and work on physical media publications and campaigns (including social media) to raise the profile of the work the University does with external organisations.

If you have questions or would like to be involved, please contact Research and Innovation Services on ext. 6191 or email ris@port.ac.uk.
Research Development Fund (RDF) Update

On 23 October 2014, the RDF panel met to consider the applications that were submitted in a competition open to the University of Portsmouth’s Early Career Researchers.

As a result, RDF awards have been made to support the following projects:

**Development of a seed collection and genomic resources to study adaptive evolution in wild flax species (Linum)**
Principal Investigator Dr Rocío Pérez-Barrales (Faculty of Science)
Co-Investigator Dr Darren Gowers (Faculty of Science)
Collaborators University of Durham, Spanish National Research Council.
£15,950

**In-situ hafnium and lead isotope analysis: tracing lithosphere evolution on the Earth, Moon and Mars**
Principal Investigator Dr James Darling (Faculty of Science)
Collaborators Imperial College London, Royal Ontario Museum, Canada.
£12,620

**Designing culturally relevant information and support services in the UK to increase physical activity participation amongst individuals with schizophrenia**
Principal Investigator Dr Paul Gorczynski (Faculty of Science)
Collaborators Birmingham University, University of Southampton, Southern NHS Foundation Trust.
£14,475

**Exploiting ‘humanised yeast’ technology to produce new treatments for brain tumours**
Principal Investigator Dr Rhiannon Lloyd (Faculty of Science)
Collaborators Centre de Génétique Moléculaire, France.
£17,600

**Singing our Way to Victory: The influence of internet-delivered traditional respiratory muscle training and singing interventions on the physical and psychosocial health of patients with cystic fibrosis (a pilot and feasibility study)**
Principal Investigator Miss Zoe Saynor (Faculty of Science)
Collaborators University of Southampton, Liverpool John Moores University, La Trobe University, Australia.
£12,597

These projects represent exciting new research avenues and collaborations, both within and outside the University. Congratulations to the successful applicants.

You can find guidance about the Research Development Fund 2015 on the Research and Innovation Services website: Research Development Fund 2015.
Inaugural update

Shining Galaxies in a Dark Universe – an inaugural professorial lecture

One bright October evening, members of staff, friends and supporters of Professor Claudia Maraston, from the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation (ICG), gathered in a dark lecture theatre to hear her fascinating inaugural lecture.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Graham Galbraith introduced Claudia as a world expert in the energy of galaxies and highlighted her work at institutions, including the University of Oxford as well as Portsmouth. Claudia has attracted well over 10,000 publication citations. She also allocates time to talking about science with children in schools.

Claudia began by making us pause at the wonder of the Universe in which we live, then highlighted that the Universe is 71.4 per cent dark energy, 24 per cent dark matter. Considering how bright our planet looks in the Universe, only 4.6 per cent is visible atoms that we touch and feel. The reason she studies the Universe is ‘[because] we live here’. She talked about his trip to Dronning Louise Land, north east Greenland, to map the western edge of the Caledonian mountain belt. This included mention of the Greenland Geological Survey’s anti-polar bear device, remarkable for its sheer track record of unreliability! The team’s studies concluded that rather than colliding head on, plates were colliding obliquely. With geologists working in Newfoundland, Spitzbergen and Scandinavia, they generated a much-cited model.

Rob spoke enthusiastically about the project in the Shetland Islands testing the hypothesis that the Great Glen Fault is a major lateral fault which formed at the end of the Caledonian orogeny. This work is being undertaken as a result of sound investment by the University of Portsmouth and puts the team firmly in the realms of leaders within this specialist area.

Rob concluded with an image of the midnight sun in Shetland and by thanking family, colleagues and students – past and present – for inspiring him and for guaranteeing that his research experiences are ‘fascinating, challenging and great fun!’

Professor Rob Strachan is the subject of Focus on a Researcher on the final page of this edition.

Understanding the ancient mountain belts of the North Atlantic borderlands – a towering success

On Wednesday 12 November 2014, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Rebecca Bunting introduced Professor Rob Strachan’s inaugural lecture. Rob began by explaining that through the Crustal Evolution Research Group (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences), he researches topics seeking to understand the long-term evolution of the earth’s crust.

To bolster his claim that mountains are the most impressive manifestations of plate tectonics, Rob described how many mountain tops, such as Everest, are made of sedimentary rocks, which were laid down in shallow seas, not far from present day sea level. It transpires that Alfred Wegener’s Pangaea is the most recent of a series of supercontinents.

To locate continents in the geological past, Rob referred to Palaeomagnetism: using a magnetic signature to identify where ancient rocks were on the earth’s surface when they formed. Rob revealed how plate collisions formed the Caledonian mountain belt and culminated in Pangaea.

An undergraduate Geology fieldwork trip to the Isle of Mull initially captured Rob’s enthusiasm. To rapturous laughter, he explained how they had stayed in ‘special tents which absorbed Scottish rain like blotting paper’. For his PhD, looking at the Moine metamorphic rocks between Fort William and Glenfinnan, he joked that ‘we graduated to stay in a caravan’.

He talked about his trip to Dronning Louise Land, north east Greenland, to map the western edge of the Caledonian mountain belt. This included mention of the Greenland
Forums provide a great way for staff to communicate – but a wider network is coming

Professor Darek Gorecki (School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences), Dr Daniel Thomas (Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation) and Dr Nicola Haines (Research and Innovation Services) take us through the opportunities available to staff through the many forums at the University and give us a glimpse of what is yet to come for staff interested in progressing their careers.

The University has for some time been fortunate enough to have dedicated staff who come together to share ideas and collaborate. In recent years, a number of different forums have been founded and these have focused on the progression of staff members; examples are the Professors’ Forum, the Research Staff Forum, the Early Career Researcher Forum in both the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Portsmouth Business School and more recently the Readers’ Forum. Below, two of our Convenors tell us about their forums, while Dr Nicola Haines tells us a little more about the future of these networking successes.

The Professors’ Forum – Professor Darek Gorecki

A Professors’ Forum is one of the mechanisms by which an academic institution can collect the collective view of its professors. Each professorial appointment is a strategic decision and therefore it is sensible that the professoriate is fully utilised in the strategic sense.

Established in July 2012, the present Professors’ Forum is a convention of all professors. The Forum offers a specific conduit through which the professoriate can be involved in current and emerging academic and strategic matters. This involvement is achieved through information exchange and the discussion of topical issues identified by the members of the Forum. The Forum is keen to work with other forums and encourage the exchange of ideas with all staff. The outcome of all discussions and the position statements they generate are representative of the collective view of the professoriate and are reported to the institution’s Executive Board.

The Readers’ Forum – Dr Daniel Thomas

The first meeting of the Readers’ Forum took place on 16 December 2014. Key agenda items included a general discussion on the role of the Readers’ Forum as well as preparation of a paper with a strategic plan to address the status of Readers at the University.

Members engaged well, and from the lively discussion it became clear that there is a desire among Readers to have a voice that can help shape our University as well as reward Readers with the recognition they deserve. The Forum had a good start and is on track in becoming a means by which Readers can discuss, offer advice and respond to emerging academic issues, on both the structure and function of the University. Communication of Readers’ concerns within the University was one of the pressing issues brought up at this first meeting, and the Forum represents a major step forward. Some of the Readers’ Forum meetings are planned to be joint meetings with the Professors’ Forum. A major task of the Readers’ Forum for this academic year will be to discuss the 'Associate Professor' title versus the ‘Reader’ title at the University.

The Researchers’ Network

Whilst these groups facilitate great conversations and allow staff at similar levels of progression to discuss issues and help each other, the nature of the forums does mean that some staff, such as Lecturers and Senior Lecturers don’t always fit a particular group. During the last few months we have been consulting with researchers in the University, conveners of our current Forums and have also been talking to other universities to find out about the organisation of groups and networks. Following these discussions we will soon be launching a University-wide Researchers’ Network.

We hope that this new network will have a broader appeal to our researchers and academics that are not yet Readers or Professors but are working to build and further their careers. The Researchers’ Network will cross the boundaries that come with job titles and career paths that take different routes in different subject areas, and don’t always match people’s level of experience or future career goals and interests. We will shortly be looking for people interested in taking on the role of the Researchers’ Network convenor. The convenor will have support from Research and Innovation Services to put together a programme of meetings for the Network.

The Forum’s involvement in consultative processes is consistent with the ideals of the University’s ‘Shaping our future’ activity, in addition to exercising academic leadership. So far the Forum has discussed and provided position statements on matters such as: workload allocation methodologies, academic performance measurements, the importance of research, as well as the role of professors and criteria for promotions. These discussions brought together the varied experiences of our professoriate and demonstrated the rich academic diversity underpinning their strength and resilience.

The Forum Convener is elected by members for the three-year term of office (currently Professor Darek Gorecki).
Forthcoming events

Ig Nobel Evening
Monday 16 March 2015
Time: 6.00pm–7.30pm
Venue: Richmond Building, LT1 and Atrium

Every year since 1991, the Ig Nobel Prizes have been awarded, in a gala ceremony at Harvard University, for achievements that make people LAUGH, then THINK. Marc Abrahams, founder of the ceremony, will bring three Ig Nobel Prize winners to the University of Portsmouth, to explain why they did what they did.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

Enterprise Showcase
Thursday 19 March 2015
Time: 5.45pm–8.00pm
Venue: Portland Building

The Enterprise Showcase is an opportunity for you to see our up and coming enterprising start-ups.

The event will see University of Portsmouth students and graduates showcase their business start-ups, with an awards ceremony taking place to recognise some of the key achievements of the past year from entrepreneurial staff, students and graduates. A keynote speech will be delivered by an entrepreneurial member of our University of Portsmouth Alumni. The evening will culminate with networking with students, graduates, alumni, University staff and members of the local community over a glass of wine.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

Humanities research in the Zooniverse
Wednesday 25 February 2015
Time: 2.30pm–3.30pm
Venue: Portland, 1.66

In the first talk of the Zooniverse Seminar Series, Victoria Hyning from the University of Oxford's Zooniverse team, will be speaking about humanities research at the Zooniverse and how to deploy crowdsourcing within the humanities.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

Researcher Development Programme
Building Impact into your Research
Wednesday 11 March 2015
Time: 12.30pm–4.30pm
Venue: St. Andrews Court, 0.04

For University of Portsmouth research and academic staff with at least a working knowledge of the research impact agenda.

Research impact is something everyone is chasing, but what counts as meaningful impact? How do you get it? How is it measured? In this workshop, participants will explore strategies for building impact into each stage of a research project. From the planning stage, where writing a strong 'pathway to impact' statement can be vital in getting the proposal funded, through to working with stakeholders during the course of the project, and approaches to recording and measuring impact following project conclusion. Participants will have the chance to critically examine pathways to impact statements and practice drafting their own. Examples of high-scoring and not-so-high-scoring Research Excellence Framework impact case studies from different subject areas will also be scrutinised.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

Catch me if you can: How not to ruin your research career with authorship disputes, misconduct allegations or unethical practice
Wednesday 18 March 2015
Time: 2.30pm–4.30pm
Venue: St. Andrews Court, 0.04

For all University of Portsmouth research and academic staff

While the retraction of high profile Nature papers makes headline news, cases of blatant misconduct by researchers remain rare. What is much more common are authorship disputes, accusations of plagiarism, and poor practice surrounding data collection, manipulation and storage that spiral towards unethical practice and misconduct. In this workshop, case studies will be used to illustrate how poor practice and lack of attention to key aspects of research governance can land researchers with awkward questions to answer. Practical approaches that researchers can use to help improve their research and protect their career prospects will be discussed.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

Research Futures: Advancing in Academia
Thursday 26 March 2015
Time: 10.00am–4.00pm
Venue: St. Andrews Court, Graduate Training Room, 4.09

For University of Portsmouth research staff interested in pursuing an academic career

This Vitae-inspired workshop gives participants the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of how to succeed in a competitive and complex research environment. Participants will be encouraged to think about the pros and cons of different research/academic career options and will have the opportunity to orientate themselves within a longer-term career plan. We will hear from recently hired lecturers about their experiences applying for permanent academic positions.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

For details of more events available on the Researcher Development Programme, please visit Eventbrite.

Next meeting of the Professors’ Forum:
Monday 27 April 2015
Time: 12.00pm–2.00pm
Venue: Denis Sciama, 1.12

Next meeting of the Readers' Forum:
March 2015 (further details to follow)
Time: 12.00pm–2.00pm
Venue: Denis Sciama, 1.12

Forthcoming Inaugural Lectures:
Policy, Practice and Power: Creating a Dental Academy
Wednesday 25 March 2015
Time: 6.00pm–7.00pm, followed by a drinks reception
Venue: Portland Building

An inaugural lecture by Professor Sara Holmes MBE, founder and director of the Dental Academy, University of Portsmouth

Professor Sara Holmes will discuss how the development of the Dental Academy, the first School for Dental Care Professionals to be based at a University and situated in a primary care setting, has informed and influenced the education and training of the dental team.

Admission is free, but please reserve your place on Eventbrite.
Future Inaugural Lectures:

Shabbar Jaffry  
Wednesday 29 April 2015  
Time: 6.00pm–7.00pm  
Venue: Portland Building

Rob Crittenden  
Wednesday 13 May 2015  
Venue: Portland Building

Graham Mills  
Wednesday 20 May 2015  
Venue: Portland Building

Francis Pakes  
Wednesday 3 June 2015  
Venue: Park Building

Innovation Space Events Programme

Innovation Space is a University of Portsmouth initiative that helps entrepreneurs and innovation start-ups, to turn clever ideas into brilliant businesses by moving them into a professional, creative environment without distractions and with the right connections, advice and support. Innovation Space runs an events programme for entrepreneurs, start-ups, small businesses and academics interested in business engagement. Their upcoming events are free to attend and will be held at Innovation Space, 1 Hampshire Terrace, Portsmouth, and include:

Future Inaugural Lectures:

What does it mean to be a Woman of the Future?

Karen Masters reflects on this prestigious award success:

In October last year, I was presented with the 2014 Women of the Future Award in the Science category. On that same day, the BBC published its list of ‘100 Women To Watch’ and included myself, along with 24 other female scientists on the list.

It was a real honour to be recognised alongside these groups of extraordinary women, and I had a wonderful day, first at BBC Broadcasting House in London as part of the audience of panel discussion for the 100 Women, and then later at the gala banquet for the Women of the Future Awards at the Hilton Park Lane.

I was particularly delighted that the Women of the Future Awards include a science category, and that the BBC wanted to especially recognise scientists in its 2014 list. I think it is really important for organisations like this to highlight how important it is for women to be part of our scientific culture, and that’s a message I’m passionate about spreading. As I said, during my acceptance speech at the Women of the Future event, it’s not only rare for a scientist to be a woman (especially in my field of physics), it’s also rare for a woman to be a scientist, and I think it’s important that everyone realises that science is as much a part of our culture as amazing literature, or wonderful music, instead of boasting about not understanding it.

Being recognised in these ways is obviously lovely on a personal and professional level, but more importantly, these awards amplify the voice I have to speak about my love of science and the importance for women and girls to get involved in it (as well as the boys and men). The judges of the Women of the Future Award mentioned they chose me as the winner in part because of my ‘clear goals and determination to be successful’ and a real love of science and the importance for women and girls to get involved in it in science, and I don’t intend to help them down. Since winning the awards I’ve been interviewed live on BBC Solent, profiled in the Family Life section of The Portsmouth News (along with my kids), and The Guardian (along with my kids), and The Guardian.

If even a handful of young women saw these and were inspired, or if I persuaded one more set of parents to support their daughter in what they might see as an unusual career choice, then it was worth it.

If I’m perfectly honest though, I can’t wait for the day that special awards and lists of women to watch are not needed. That will be the day when it will no longer be unusual for young women to be at the top of their chosen careers. Given current progress we may be decades from reaching that point, but I hope one day we will make it.

Growing Your Staff, Growing Your Business

Wednesday 18 March  
Time: 5.30pm–6.30pm  

A session to help Business Owners understand the basics they need in place to cover their legal obligations in respect of employment law.

If you are a Business Owner considering taking on your first employee, or you already have a team of employees and want to be sure you have the correct processes and procedures in place, helping you sleep at night and freeing you up to concentrate on developing and running your business, this is the session for you.

The session will cover:

- ensuring your recruitment practices and procedures are legal
- the difference between and appropriate time to use permanent, temporary, zero hours and self-employed contracts
- essential policies to protect your business.

The event will be presented by Susan Beeby. Susan is the Director of the Human Resources (HR) Department and has over 25 years’ experience working at a senior level providing local, personal, and tailored HR support and advice on people management issues and problems to SMEs in a range of sectors. She has experience in all aspects of HR work including recruitment and selection, disciplinary and grievance, performance management, redundancy, restructuring and mergers. Susan has a practical and pragmatic approach, advising Business Owners what they can do rather than what they can’t.

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.

Social Media for Small Businesses

Wednesday 1 April  
Time: 5.30pm–6.30pm  

To book your place, please visit Eventbrite.
Focus on a Researcher

Professor Rob Strachan,
Head of School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES)

What is the main focus of your research?
Understanding the way in which mountain belts form due to the collision of the Earth's plates. The main interest is the Caledonian mountain belt of Scotland and East Greenland that formed ~430 million years ago. Understanding the many different facets of the subject, within this multi-disciplinary area, is fascinating. The basic geological fieldwork, mapping and observations that are absolutely key to achieving this, are irreplaceable; but recent advances in geochronology and mineral chemistry have revolutionised the understanding of plate tectonics. Through recent capital equipment investment within SEES, we can carry out all the necessary high-tech analytical investigations.

Why did you become a researcher?
I have always had a fascination with rocks, my father taught me about fossils and how to sketch folded strata in the cliffs of west Wales when I was seven! Geology is not taught much at A-level so my interest was maintained via physical geography. I was bound for a degree in history, but a last minute change of mind sent me to study geology at Aberystwyth, the only university that would accept me on a geology course with my mainly arts A-levels. My interest was fired up as soon as the course involved large amounts of fieldwork – where the subject comes alive. Following six weeks geological mapping on the Isle of Mull at the end of the second year, I knew I wanted to study for a PhD. Combine that with a desire to teach, and a university career was the obvious pathway.

Describe a typical day at work
It's the variety that comes from being Head of School with its myriad responsibilities, plus dealing with lots of different colleagues, that make it a great job (on the whole!). I have an average teaching load, mostly in the first teaching block, September–December is full-on admin and teaching. Teaching, for me, drops off after the New Year, providing some time for research and paper-writing up to Easter. April–July is busy with assessment, and two 11-day undergraduate field courses to Brittany and NW Scotland. I can usually squeeze in two fortnight periods of research fieldwork during May and July, when the School is relatively quiet. August is generally time for some leave!

How do you manage your different workloads?
I have to multi-task – hopefully effectively. It is difficult to make much headway on research though unless one can carve out a few whole days to write papers, visit colleagues in other institutions, or just to think about the problem. I do not have to micro-manage because hard-working colleagues ensure that their areas of responsibility run smoothly. I need to find the time to develop grant applications – definitely something for the future.

What are the most satisfying aspects of the job?
All researchers gain satisfaction from solving problems, then seeing the results in print. If a paper is published in a high-ranking journal and is well-cited for the right reasons then so much the better. Recognition by one's peers is important. I have been very pleased (and humbled) to receive two prestigious awards in recent years (The Coke Medal of the Geological Society of London in 2012 and, in 2014, the Clough Medal of the Edinburgh Geological Society.) As Head of School, there is huge satisfaction seeing colleagues succeed, whether that be in publishing a paper or winning a grant, helping them along their way if/when necessary, and seeing the School as a whole develop. However, nothing beats the satisfaction of inspiring students on a fieldtrip (sometimes on a mountainside in rain and a gale) or receiving the thanks of students and parents on graduation day.

Who has influenced you most in life and why?
My parents taught me the importance of hard work and the value of study, various academics on my undergraduate and PhD courses inspired me in my studies, and Professor Mike Brown, my first head of department, encouraged me in the early stages of my research career. Numerous scientific collaborators have been stimulating and exciting to work with. Honourable mention must be made of my wife who patiently accepts the demands of my job and has been known to carry a rucksack laden with rock samples across miles of moorland.

What are your interests outside of work?
Nothing too intellectual – mountain walking (e.g. French Alps, Slovenia, Cascades in recent years), rock music (appropriately enough), crime and historical fiction (e.g. Ian Rankin, Bernard Cornwell, Michael Connelly, Henning Mankell) and real ale.

Professor Rob Strachan

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