



**DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

ACADEMIC STAFF MEETING

Notes of the Meeting held on 25th October 2013

Present:

Prof Geoffrey Smith (Chair)	Dr Stephen Graham
Prof Nabeel Affara	Dr Nicholas Holmes
Dr Jim Ajioka	Prof Colin Hughes
Dr Ian Brierley	Prof Jim Kaufman
Prof Peter Collins	Dr Barry Kingston
Dr Colin Crump	Mr Alan Kirby
Dr Paolo D'Avino	Ms Frances McLoughlin
Prof David Dunne	Dr Christopher Smith
Prof Stacey Efstathiou	Prof John Trowsdale
Dr Brian Ferguson	Prof Christine Watson
Dr Gillian Fraser	Mrs Sue Griffin (Note taker)
Prof Ian Goodfellow	

Apologies:

Dr Michael Clark	Prof Vassilis Koronakis
Prof Nicholas Coleman	Prof Tony Kouzarides
Prof Anne Cooke	Dr Heike Laman
Prof Ming Du	Prof Ashley Moffett
Dr Paul Edwards	Prof Sharon Peacock
Prof Mark Field	Dr Emma Rawlins
Dr Andrew Firth	Prof Chris Rudd
Dr Ash Ibrahim	Dr Suzanne Turner
Dr Adrian Kelly	Dr John Xuereb

UNRESERVED BUSINESS

1. Notes of the last meeting

ACTION

The notes of the meeting held on 28th June 2013 were agreed subject to correction of the numbering.

SG

2. Matters arising

2.1 Item 3:

David Browne had confirmed that *Science* journals were available through the University Library if not found on PubMed.

ACTION

2.2 Item 13.1

The University travel fund had been discontinued. Information on alternative funds was available on the School website. It was agreed this should be circulated to PIs.

FMcL

3. **REF**

The exercise was complete. PIs were asked to check their entries on the symplectic. Any additional higher ranking publications should be sent to John Trowsdale or Nabeel Affara along with any markers of esteem, prizes, membership of educational boards, grant committees or other committees.

ALL

4. **Research**4.1 Reports from Divisions

- (i) Immunology: A divisional report was circulated together with a list of *Immunology in Pathology* seminars, inviting those from other divisions to attend the seminars. Brian Ferguson would be replacing Jim Kaufman as organiser of the seminars next year. Louise Boyle would be applying for a Senior Fellowship to be based in Pathology after March 2014. There were a good number of published papers throughout the division
- (ii) Virology: A steady stream of good papers was reported and congratulations were extended to Steven Graham on the publication of his two recent papers. Several grant applications had been submitted.
- (iii) CMP: The division had 15 published papers in the past period, one in particular from Heike Laman in *Nature NeuroScience*, which was quite an achievement. There had been a number of grant applications to the MRC.
- (iv) Histopathology: A list would be produced of publications for the next meeting. Several grants had been applied for and a number of PhD students had started.
- (v) MPD: Vassilis Koronakis had been awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award for 1.8m over 7 years. An MRC grant had also been awarded. A number of papers had been published; in particular Gillian Fraser and Lewis Evans had a paper published in *Nature*.

4.2 Core research technologies

- (i) An Illumina Affymetrix microarray platform and two new gene typing machines were now available for use in the Department. A request had been made to acquire an Illumina 500 (type machine) for high throughput sequencing – the result would be known next March.

- (ii) Proteomics. There was a discussion on whether there should be a SILAC facility in house as an increasing number of people were using SILAC. Ian Goodfellow had a link with the Bristol SILAC facility. It was noted there was a recognition by the School to keep up to date with core facilities.

5. Staff appointments

5.1 Clinical Lectureship in Histopathology

No suitable candidate had yet been found for the vacancy in Histopathology since Mark Arends had left. It was suggested contacting the Clinical School to request re-advertising the position without clinical duties, taking a lead in either teaching or research rather than both. It was noted teaching would be preferable at this time.

5.2 Lectureship in Clinical Virology

Dr Suzanne English had been appointed to the Lectureship in Clinical Virology and was now in post.

5.3 NIHR Lectureship in Histopathology

Dr Raza Ali had been appointed to an NIHR 4 year position in Histopathology.

5.4 Temporary Lectureship in Microbiology / Parasitology

The 5 year temporary Bacteriology lectureship had been given to Dr Shona Wilson and approved by the School.

5.5 Research Group Leader

A 4 year fixed term position had been awarded to Dan Humphreys who would take up the post next year when his current funding ended.

5.6 Lectureship (ex-Brown)

Dr John Doorbar had been appointed as Director of Research in Virology. Dr Doorbar and his group will be funded by the MRC until 31 March 2017. He has also successfully applied for the recently advertised University Lectureship in Virology (ex Dr TDK Brown). Once he has his formal offer regarding the Lectureship, he will apply for leave of absence to 1 April 2017, allowing the Department to request appointment of a temporary lecturer for the leave of absence period.

6. Teaching6.1 Part 1B

Discussions were being held regarding the timetable when the options ceased. Charles French-Constant had agreed to be the external examiner in Part 1B.

6.2 Part II

Examiner lists had been circulated. The BBS intake would be reduced this year. New exam questions would be required; it was noted care should be taken not to use practical questions too often. All divisions were expected to contribute to exam input.

6.3 Clinical

The final medical exam had finished and all 6 people had passed. A decision over responsibilities would soon have to be taken and the group was advised this matter had been raised at the last Clinical meeting. More people were needed to teach because of the greater number of students. It was noted the 5 or 6 positions in Histopathology were all funded in full by the School of Biological Sciences and this had been raised with the new Regius.

6.4 Graduate education

- (i) Christine Watson would take over as Chair of this committee when Heike Laman went on sabbatical. The departmental PhD studentship competition would be advertised in November.
- (ii) The BBSRC would be holding an open day on 4th December; they have 30 students this year and PIs were invited to have a stand if they wanted to recruit a student from this cohort.
- (iii) PIs should submit a rotation project to Jane Duncan if they wanted to be a candidate supervisor for 4 years. An email had been received from BOGs reminding PIs that there must be an interview for studentships, with an interview panel of 3 people.

ALL

7. Appraisal7.1 Academic Appraisal

Academic appraisals were about to begin again this year. It would be the same format as last year.

7.2 Contract research staff review and development

Appraisals for contract research staff were currently underway.

8. Departmental Committees8.1 Memberships 2013-14

Memberships of committees were being updated and adjusted to ensure a more even spread of committee work. It was noted that some roles such as the Graduate Education Officer and the Chair of the Teaching Committee required much more work than other roles and were too large for one person. Consideration of commitments outside of the Department was also needed. PIs were asked to send this information to their Divisional Secretary to collate.

ALL

8.2 Information and Resources Committee

The role of this committee was being considered and its remit might be expanded. As well as the IT remit the committee looked at equipment requirements and it was proposed that a member of each division should represent the different areas of the Department.

8.3 Laboratory Medicine Committee

This committee had not met last year. Peter Collins agreed to look at the composition of the committee and to nominate a new chair. It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been set for September 2014.

VPC

9. Refurbishment projects9.1 3rd Floor

Space released from the BSU was being given to the Department to develop microscopy and FACS on either side of the corridor. A grant had been awarded from the Wellcome Trust for half the cost of a new FACS machine. The design of the new facilities had been completed with an estimated cost of just under £1M. Tendering for the work would start in November and if all went according to plan work would commence in February/March next year.

9.2 Electron microscopy

Space had been made available on the ground floor for this facility to be accessible for all in the Department. A person would be appointed to run this facility.

9.3 Library

Old books and journals already held in the UL would be removed. David Brown would be looking at which books should be retained.

9.4 Downing site

ACTION

It was reported that the plans for the redevelopment of the Downing site from 2003 were being revisited by the School. Although early days there was a view that with the possible re-siting of the Department of Geography this would allow for development of the site with a focus on biological sciences. The original plans also involved the demolition of the Microbiology and Molteno buildings and construction of new laboratories in their place. If the plans were still regarded as viable then the creation of more space on the site would potentially allow for the virology division to return to the Downing site. Decamp space could be made available in the Centre for Stem Cell Research if its proposed move to the Addenbrooke's site takes place.

10. **Safety**

There were no issues to report.

11. **Finance**

(i) Research grant expenditure was rising from 8.6m in 2011/12 up 15% in the following year to 12.3m, congratulations to all. The financial position of the Department was improving but this should not be seen by the School as accumulation of reserves. A contribution would also be needed towards works on the third floor. Despite commitments to PhD studentships and Pathology Research Fellowships, finances were good.

(ii) Internal auditors had visited the Department and recommended minor points. Alan Kirby would make the report available to those who wished to see it.

AK

(iii) There had been a change in Research Income Policy relating to RCUK PI time following a Resource Management Committee review, a condition of which was that the work of the PI would directly benefit. The intention was to distribute funding to grantholders. The Head of Department would consider the situation and circulate a policy.

GLS

(iv) A BBSRC document had been received which showed that Cambridge University had excellent success rates for grant applications, Pathology was highlighted with a 46% success rate.

12. **Athena SWAN**

The Athena SWAN Working Group had met several times recently and would be making its submission for bronze award in November.

13. **Date of next meeting**

Friday 24th January 2014 at 11.30am in the Greaves/Dixon rooms.