

University of Sheffield

Universities' Report to STHFT Board of Directors

15th April 2015

1. Response to the Tooke Review

One of the 6 recommendations in the Tooke Report was the need for 'radical condensing of the number of departmental structures so that effort and resources are focused on a limited number of areas'. The report went on to say that 'choice of these areas should be informed by hard evidence of strength, competitive landscape and future relevance to medical advance. Growth should be pursued through networks and external, strategically informed collaborations, not just organic growth'.

As I mentioned in my last report the University has identified the 8 areas it is now seeking to consolidate its major long-term research planning on, following an analysis of research strengths and landscape in the wake of the Tooke report. Those areas include (i) the Mellanby Centre's work on bone disease and bone oncology, (ii) genomic instability, including its relationship to cancer, (iii) the Florey Institute's work on antimicrobial resistance and (iv) the work of Insigneo. In order to take the next step in the process, we have held an informal consultation with the 4 Medical School departments that make the major contribution from the Faculty to these 4 areas – Cardiovascular Sciences, Infection and Immunity, Oncology and Human Metabolism – to consider the benefits of a merger into two larger departments that can more easily promote the work in these areas which otherwise overlap between different departments. There has been departmental support for these changes and so we are now entering a phase of formal consultation. Any merger will take place in the new academic year.

2. National Student Survey (NSS) 2014 results

I mentioned in the September report that there had been a decrease in overall satisfaction in Medicine in the NSS scores with only 83% overall satisfaction (92% in 2013; 89% across the University). Staff in the Medical School has had a series of useful meetings with the Medical Director and other colleagues from the Trust and a number of changes have been put in place to address the concerns raised by students over their placements. At present the NSS 2015 is underway and the students are showing a good response rate. The survey closes at the end of April. The results of the NSS are collated by Ipsos-MORI and will be published on the HEFCE-owned website Unistats.com in the autumn.

3. Insigneo

The successful Polaris capital bid to MRC mentioned in my last report has realised a £7.5M grant for capital investment in MR imaging using hyperpolarised gas which will include the creation of a new hub for analysing imaging data - the digital disease phenotyping lab. This grant will allow a considerable broadening and further expedition of clinical developments and applications in the field of pulmonary disease research at a national level and consolidate Sheffield as an international centre of excellence for pulmonary imaging based medical research.

The award will further consolidate Sheffield's existing areas of clinical pulmonary imaging research in which we are recognised as UK leading and internationally excellent, and help

expand new priority areas driven by expertise in the recently established Insigneo Institute of in silico Medicine which focuses on precision medicine. The project sees the replacement of an existing 1.5T whole body MR scanner with a new system of the same field strength but with greater capabilities for hyperpolarised gas imaging and then the creation of image processing facilities. The image processing is being undertaken currently largely on standalone equipment spread across the University space on the Royal Hallamshire Hospital site. The creation of a centralised facility will make the most efficient use of resources and create an environment in which multi-disciplinary research can thrive.

There are three main capital parts to the project:

- Replacement of the current 1.5T whole body MR scanner in AU Radiology, C Floor RHH.
- Expansion of our hyperpolarised gas production and handling facility within the SIMFANI Building
- Refurbishment of 18, 18a Claremont Crescent for the Creation of a new image-processing laboratory.

The plan is for the latter building to open in December 2015. (MRC funds have to be spent by April 2016). The building will house around 25 staff to perform image analysis including meeting space. This will be a space for clinicians, analysts and engineers to interact in developing therapies and approaches to pulmonary lung disease from the increased data captured via the expanded MR facility.

4. Faculty Director of Engagement and Development

In March we appointed Sharon Oliver, ex-HEYH LETB, to the post of Faculty Director of Engagement and Development (FDED). This is a new position within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health: the FDED will play a key role in identifying key strategic NHS priorities and steering cross-Departmental developments to meet the needs of our stakeholders. The FDED will be a member of the Faculty Executive Board, working closely with the Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor, the Faculty Director of Learning and Teaching and other Faculty Officers and Heads of Department to ensure that our relationship with commissioning bodies is optimised and that we are in the best position to respond to the changing landscape of education and training in the NHS. The other main component of this role will be to work with colleagues across the University to promote the development of new courses related to health and social care, capitalising on the push for innovation and a better trained workforce which have emerged from recent reviews of the NHS. One of Sharon's first tasks will be to facilitate the development of a Physician Associate course which we hope to start in 2016.

5. Other posts

It is expected that interviews for the new Faculty Pro Vice Chancellor will be held in early May. My term has been extended to the end of September 2015. In addition we are seeking a new Dean for the Dental School, expected starting date August 2015.

6. Northern Health Science Alliance

The Northern Health Science Alliance (NHTSA), of which the Trust and the University are partners, has developed into a strong lobbying force and is functioning well as a platform for promoting research strength in the North and co-ordinating multi-partner bids. In January the NHTSA was awarded £3m through the HEFCE Catalyst Fund to match the existing NHTSA member commitments. This funding will provide the NHTSA with resource to grow for the next five years. The NHTSA has a negotiation ongoing with Mark Walport, the Chief Scientist, and

HM Treasury over a proposal to develop 'Health North'. This comprises three interlocking themes of precision medicine, health informatics and learning health cities. You will be aware of our ongoing work on the first two themes; the third builds on the use of health data across the North to impact on the health of our population and improve health outcomes. Following advice that we focus a bid to Treasury around the latter, we have been given £20m in the recent budget to be deployed across the NHSA with four hubs or 'arks', one in each of our four AHSN regions. It is anticipated that additional funding opportunities related to the remaining two themes of the Health North initiative will be forthcoming in due course. The Faculty Director of Research and Innovation is closely involved with NHSA and our Gateway Business Manager is seconded 0.2fte to represent the University's research interests with the NHSA.

7. Clinical Research Academy

The Clinical Research Academy has just launched. Through this, STHFT clinicians will have funding to spend a day a week working with ScHARR and related groups in the Faculty over a 3 year period to build up major NIHR grant applications. If successful, this would see a step change in successful NIHR grant applications. Additional space within the Faculty is currently being sought to accommodate clinicians for this to succeed. The national budget for clinical medicine research is £1.5 billion. Sheffield currently captures 1.2% of this budget. Each additional 1% = £15million of additional potential income. Using ScHARR, we can aim to increase our market share of this large national budget. It is essential that we enable the exploitation of ScHARR's expertise to earn a greater share of the clinical medicine budget.

Professor Tony Weetman

Report to STHFT Board of Directors from Sheffield Hallam University
15th April 2015

REF

In December the Research and Evaluation Framework results were released. According to the national Research and Evaluation Framework, Sheffield Hallam University's research programme was ranked in the top five of all UK modern universities. Overall, 65% of our research received the prestigious 4* and 3* rating as world-leading and internationally excellent. 71% of research in health (Subjects Allied to Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Pharmacy) was rated as 3* or 4*.

The Health and Wellbeing Research Institute

Research activity in the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing has been re-organised into a research institute. This builds on increasing collaboration across health, bioscience and sport research.

Dr Heidi Probst will be starting work on the NIHR i4i funded project in March. The aim of the project is to refine, produce and undertake preliminary testing on a support bra for immobilising breast tissue during breast irradiation for women that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. This project is in collaboration with colleagues in ACES, Sheffield Teaching Hospital, University of Salford, University of Sheffield and commercial partners Panache. The total income is around £576,000 subject to minor adjustments with the funder.

Professor Karen Collins is part of a grant funded by Macmillan Cancer Care to evaluate a Sheffield Physical Activity Pilot 'Making it easier for local people affected by cancer to be physically active.

Simon Stevens (Chief Executive of the NHS) visited SHU in December 2014 to sample our Wellness Service and to hear about results from a study of the benefits of the programme for NHS staff that took place in STH, Bradford, and Airedale. Within the Physical Activity and Health theme, new projects have been confirmed with Durham University and Preston City Council. Likewise, within the Sport Science theme, we have extended our sport-specific strength and conditioning training to over 100 clients accessing this service across 8 sports.

Sports Industry Research Centre is completing its study of the economic impact of the 2014 Ryder Cup and has a new contract in place with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club to conduct an extensive piece of research for the 2015 Open Golf Championship to be held at the home of golf, St Andrews.

We have started a four year contract to evaluate the outputs and outcomes of the Rugby Football Union's *All Schools* project, which seeks to integrate the sport's core values into schools that traditionally have not played rugby. This project builds on our other schools' work for the Youth Sport Trust. Our schools' work is underpinned by two substantial contracts with Sport England evaluating the impact of the School Games intervention and independent validation of the School Games 'Mark' awards.

Biomedical Science Research Centre (BMRC)

A change in name from Biomedical Research Centre to Biomolecular sciences Research Centre (Still to be referred to as BMRC) has been agreed.

Allied Health Professions (AHP)

We educate 30 Paramedics, 40 Physiotherapists, 34 Occupational therapists, 40 Operating department Practitioners, 36 Diagnostic Radiographers and 47 therapeutic radiographers per year. These practitioners make a significant contribution to the NHS workforce across Yorkshire and the Humber.

We are delivering a range of short courses on a multi professional team basis to contribute to transforming the workforce and preventing admission to hospital.

Nursing and Midwifery

We are on target for March 2015 starters for adult and child nursing. We continue to manage a very volume of applications for nursing and midwifery courses.

January 15 saw a number of students successfully completing with 15 advanced diploma adult nursing, 15 child nursing, 11 mental health nursing and 38 health visitors qualifying. 96% are already employed in the NHS, with the vast majority working in Yorkshire and the Humber.

We have recruited two Advanced Practice cohorts this academic year working closely with NHS partners. 120 students are expected to qualify. Most of these are existing practitioners within Yorkshire and the Humber.

K Bryan
March 2015.