

February 2008

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the second SouthWest London Academic Network *Bulletin*. Since the last newsletter, published in autumn 2007, there has been much activity and we hope to give you a flavour of recent developments. Information contained in this issue includes:

- **Awards and Grants: First Winners announced; Opportunities still available**
- **Successful events**
- **New Courses for Autumn '08**
- **Who's New**
- **In the Next Issue.....**

All this information, and more, can be found on the Alliance's website: www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk. If you have any queries about the content of any of these news items, please contact Samantha Blighe: enquiries@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk.

Awards & Grants

SWAN Innovation Awards: First winners announced; Deadline closes 29th Feb.

- Congratulations to the first two winners of the Alliance's *Awards for Innovation in Education & Research Technologies*.

Colleagues at Kingston and St George's have received funding to help create a *Virtual Clinic* which is designed to enrich existing teaching and learning, and was conceived from the real-world needs of staff and students.

Ian Sheeler, Project Lead, commented that: "The framework which the SWAN Alliance provides has enabled us to leverage the best talent and expertise across all three partner institutions. As a result, our team will greatly benefit from the help of subject matter experts from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines throughout the design, build and trialling phases of the Virtual Clinic. We look forward to sharing our findings and recommendations with the rest of the SWAN community and beyond."

The second award has been made to a Kingston/Royal Holloway venture for the development of a *full blended learning set of modules* for the MSc in Leadership and Management in Health. Dr Tim Linsey,

Project Lead, remarked: “We are very pleased about this award because it will facilitate integration of a range of innovative learning technologies within SWAN. This will provide an enhanced and flexible learning environment for students who would otherwise be severely limited in their options to pursue such a course.”

Full details of the winning Awards are available on the Alliance’s new ***Technology Support*** webpage (www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/technology).

- The scheme remains open to all colleagues who wish to pilot new types of technology or interactive e-learning content. Full details are posted on the homepage of the website (www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk). The deadline for all applications for the academic year 2007/2008 is **29th February 2008**.

Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences (IBLS): Grants of £2,000 available

- Through its Small Grants Scheme, IBLS is offering awards of up to £2,000 to enhance collaborative research and the generation of joint research grant and contract income across the Alliance’s three institutions. Interested applicants should check out the Latest News section of the IBLS homepage (www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ibls) for details of how to apply.

Events Update

- Congratulations to IPI for sponsoring a hugely successful December conference, entitled ‘Unhealthy professional boundaries – working together in health and social care’. The event, held at Goodenough College, Central London, attracted over 160 delegates from 12 countries; more than 40 UK universities attended.
- All three member universities successfully showcased their research at the St George’s Research Day in early December. Professor Sean Hilton, Chair of the Alliance’s Board of Management, opened proceedings. His speech is available for viewing on the homepage of the website: www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk.

New Course Developments: Recruitment underway for autumn ‘08

- **MSc in Leadership and Management in Health**

The Institute of Leadership and Management in Health (ILMH) has launched this MSc specifically to meet the needs of those working in health and social care services in the public, private and voluntary sectors in the UK and abroad. This is a flexible, modular course which will combine the latest research into health sector leadership and management with the practical application of new knowledge and skills to work-based situations.

The course is available on either a full-time (1 year) or part-time basis (2 years). Full details are posted on the website: www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ilmh/courses.

- **Postgraduate Diploma – Physician Assistant Studies**

This course, run by the Interprofessional Institute (IPI), is designed to support the development of the new role of Physician Assistant. It is open to graduates in life sciences or health related subjects and includes both theoretical and clinical components, as well as problem based learning, lectures, tutorials and supervised clinical teaching, supported by some e-learning.

During the course, students will experience a breadth of clinical settings. This will provide them with the expertise, on qualification, to undertake first-contact medical care in general practice, emergency departments and general medical wards. Further information may be accessed via the following link: www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ipi.

- **Foundation Degree in Health Informatics**

This new Foundation Degree, managed by IPI, is designed to enable health service managers and staff at all levels to make effective use of the mass of clinical data made available through computerisation. The course includes a substantial work-based learning element, as students are expected to be in employment in the healthcare sector.

The course covers both the underpinning technology and the applications of health informatics. Among the many issues it explores are how information systems can be used to achieve the aims of health service strategy and how technology can be used in healthcare e.g. in e-health programmes and telemedicine. Further details are posted on the website: www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ipi/courses.

Who's New

- Simon Fitch, a familiar face to some of you, joined the Alliance in December 2007 as Interim Strategic Programme Manager. He can be contacted either by phone (07770 556 593) or email: sfitch@hscs.sgul.ac.uk.
- Support for the Alliance and its Institutes has been enhanced by the appointments of:
 - Marie Gallagher, PA to Professor George Dickson.
Tel: 01784 276 326. E-mail: marie.gallagher@rhul.ac.uk
 - Natasha Moseley, Administrator for IPI
Tel: 0208 266 6431. E-mail: nmoseley@hscs.sgul.ac.uk
 - Samantha Blighe, Communications/Admin. Assistant for the Alliance
Tel: 020 8725 0259. E-mail: s.blighe@kingston.ac.uk.

In the Next Issue.....

PhD Studentships

- Following an overwhelming response to this call, the Alliance is in the process of reviewing applications. Further news to follow.

New Appointments

- A number of key posts are expected to be filled in spring 2008. They include the Programme Manager and Institute Director positions for ILMH and IPI.

If you have queries about any of these news items or are interested in simply finding out more about the Alliance, please check out our website (www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk) or contact us directly: 020 8725 0259.

We look forward to hearing from you.