

July 2008

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the summer edition of the SouthWest London Academic Network's e-bulletin. As the Alliance nears the end of its first full academic year of operation, we are pleased to report that several milestones have recently been reached: new PhD Studentships have been awarded, the first SWan Summer School has taken place and the SWan management team is at full strength.

Information in this issue includes:

- **Awards & Grants**
  - **Nine PhD Studentships announced**
  - **New awards for Innovation in Education & Research Technologies**
  - **Small Grants Scheme: IBLS/IPI update**
  - **IPI receives NIHR/SDO grants totalling £826,000**
- **Events**
  - **IBLS Summer School**
  - **ILMH Leadership Forum**
  - **IPI co-sponsors John Horder lecture**
  - **CLE runs first 3-way video conference seminar**
- **Appointments**
  - **Strategic Programme Manager**
  - **Director of ILMH**
  - **Director of IPI**
- **In the next issue.....**
  - **CLE Showcase Event**
  - **ILMH Autumn Managers' Forum.**

Full details of all these news items can be found on the Alliance's website: [www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk). If you have any further queries, please email [enquiries@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk).

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## **Awards & Grants**

### **SWan PhD Studentships: First awards made**

- Congratulations to the nine students who have been awarded a 3-year SWan PhD Studentship to start in October 2008! With more than 100 applications received, competition for places was stiff, the calibre of candidates high and the selection process necessarily rigorous.

In the true spirit of SWan, these are joint studentships, which unite the research functions of at least two of its member Institutions. Full details of the winning projects, students and their supervisors, are listed on the website: [www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/PhDStudentships](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/PhDStudentships).

A further call for PhD Studentships will be made in early 2009. Anyone interested, whether a supervisor or candidate, should first register with Samantha Blighe: [s.blighe@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:s.blighe@kingston.ac.uk).

### **Innovation Award Projects in Education & Research Technologies**

- The third award for this academic year went to a *Video Conference Usability* project, led by Royal Holloway's Professor Duska Rosenberg, that will evaluate the use of video conferencing technology - in the teaching and learning environment - to link up SWan's three member sites. The team's specific focus is on the creation of a Virtual Classroom, initially in Biomedical Sciences, for lectures, laboratory demonstrations and fieldwork.
- The final award winning project was for the creation of a *Social Networking* environment across the three Universities, accessible to all SWan students and staff. The system to be implemented, Elgg, has been designed specifically for educational use and has a strong emphasis on networking and collaboration tools. Dr Tim Linsey, head of eLearning at Kingston University, is leading the project.

### **Small Grant Awards**

- Small Grants of up to £2,000 have been awarded for six **IBLS** (Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences) and three **IPI** (Interprofessional Institute (Health & Social Care) projects. Full details of the nine projects are posted on the individual Institute's homepage of the Alliance's website ([www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk)).

### **Grants**

#### **National Institute for Health Research/Service Delivery and Organisation Programme (NIHR/SDO) Grants**

- IPI member Dr Ruth Harris of the Joint Faculty of Health & Social Care Sciences, together with team members at Royal Holloway, has been awarded an NIHR/SDO grant of £430,000 to 'evaluate teamwork on outcomes and the patient experience in hospital and community settings'.
- Professor Vari Drennan, also an IPI member, is the recipient of an NIHR/SDO grant of £396,000 to look at 'the effectiveness of interprofessional team working for community-dwelling older people'.

## Events

### IBLS Summer School

- The Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences (IBLS) held its first ever Summer School, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July 2008, at Royal Holloway. This residential event offered graduate science students an opportunity to broaden their skill set through a series of fascinating lectures and workshops. It also provided opportunity for them to network over a rain-drenched evening barbecue!

External speakers included Dr John Hands from London University, who spoke about 'Producing a clear and effective PhD' and Karen Gardner, from Carpe Diem communications agency. She persuaded volunteers to participate in a mock press conference on animal testing as part of a media training exercise.

A detailed run down of the day's events is posted on the SWan website ([www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ibls](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ibls)).



Profs Peter Scott (KU), Sean Hilton (SGUL) and Stephen Hill (RHUL) support the event



Students enjoy the opportunity to network

### ILMH's First Leadership Forum

- The Institute of Leadership and Management in Health's (ILMH) inaugural Leadership Forum took place in mid-April 2008 at St George's. Mrs Julie Dent, former Chief Executive of the South West London Strategic Health Authority, spoke to an invited audience of healthcare managers about 'The Future of Clinical Leadership in the NHS'. Her full speech may be viewed on the website ([www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ilmh](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ilmh)).

### IPI co-sponsors John Horder Lecture

- On 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Interprofessional Institute of Health & Social Care co-sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> annual John Horder lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine. Guest speaker at the well attended event was James Galloway MD, Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General for the US Public Health Service. His presentation on the topic of Collaboration in Public Health will be posted on the website ([www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ipi](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ipi)).

## Collaboration & Learning Environments (CLE) busy on the events front

- In early June, the CLE organised a well attended e-learning event at Royal Holloway, during which the *Wimba Collaboration Suite* – ‘the next step beyond course management systems, such as Blackboard and Moodle – was launched.
- One month earlier, the CLE team held its first three-way video conference seminar. Professor Betty Collis spoke from Kingston on ‘Knowledge Sharing for Professional Learning’. Colleagues at George’s and Royal Holloway were able to watch simultaneously. Please check out the website for details of how to view this recording. ([www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/cle](http://www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/cle)).

## Appointments



- SWan has a new Strategic Partnership Programme Manager: **Ms Celia Cornwell** (see photo left), who joined the Alliance in early June 2008. Her remit is operational management of the Alliance’s activities. Celia works at each of SWan’s three member

Institutions and may be contacted either by email: [c.cornwell@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:c.cornwell@kingston.ac.uk) or Blackberry (07919 911053).

Celia has the unique distinction of having moved hemispheres to join SWan! She was previously employed by Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia, as Director of International Strategy and Development.

- **Professor Christine Edwards**, former Head of the School of Human Resource Management within the Faculty of Business and Law at Kingston University, was appointed Director of the Institute of Leadership and Management in Health (ILMH) in spring 2008.

Prof. Edwards has played a key role in developing and promoting ILMH’s new ‘Leadership in Management and Health’ course. The MSc will receive its first cohort of students in September 2008.

- **Professor Jan Fook** will move from Southampton University to take up the position of Director of IPI in September. The Alliance welcomes her on board!

### In the next issue.....

- Showcase CLE event for BioMedical Science BSc students on 19<sup>th</sup> November. Demonstration of video conferencing of teaching sessions and presentation of optional third year modules available from partner institutions to SWan students.
- ILMH’s Autumn Leadership Forum. If you’re interested in participating, please email: [ilmh@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:ilmh@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk).