

# The Institute of Biomedical & Life Sciences

## About the SouthWest London Academic Network

The SouthWest London Academic Network (SWan) links biomedical, life science, health and social care students and researchers with practitioners and employers, to develop the leading professionals of today and the future. Using virtual learning technologies, and innovative research, SWan brings together the energy, ideas and expertise of Kingston University, Royal Holloway, University of London and St George's, University of London. SWan draws on the complementary strengths of its partners to create new ways of addressing the major social and scientific issues of the day.



*"The SWan Institute of Biomedical & Life Sciences is an exciting development. It draws together world class research and teaching teams from three top universities to provide a powerhouse of innovation and scholarship. Our students have increased breadth and flexibility of learning opportunities, enhanced career opportunities and an overall outstanding university experience. And our research teams have access to leading edge facilities and collaborative opportunities."*

**Professor George Dickson,  
Director of IBLS**

## Institute of Biomedical & Life Sciences (IBLS)

The Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences (IBLS) is one of three SWan institutes. It brings together the strengths, diversity and excellence of biological and medically-related research and teaching that has flourished at Kingston, Royal Holloway and St George's for the past 100 years. Using state of the art informatics, learning and research technologies, IBLS harnesses world class expertise and facilities to generate a vibrant environment of scholarship and innovation. There are over 250 academic leaders and 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students researching and studying in areas under the remit of IBLS.

- Clinical & Translational Sciences
- Biotechnology & Basic Life Sciences
- Medicinal, Pharmaceutical & Natural Products Chemistry
- Neuroscience, Human Cognition & Mental Health.

IBLS also has complementary technical expertise and research facilities spanning the Biosciences spectrum from molecular genetics, through cellular and organismal biology, to behavioural and population sciences.

If you'd like to find out more about IBLS activities and how the Institute might benefit you, please contact the IBLS Director, Professor George Dickson ([g.dickson@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:g.dickson@rhul.ac.uk)) or email: [ibls@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:ibls@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk).

## IBLS Research & Innovation

IBLS academic staff and their teams are housed in modern laboratories with state of the art equipment. The annual research budget of the three SWan partners is in excess of £40 million, and includes contracts from governmental agencies, medical charities and industry partners (eg Medical Research Council, National Institute for Health Research, Biotechnology &

Biological Sciences Research Council, National Environment Research Council, Department of Health, Food Standards Agency, European Commission, Wellcome Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, British Heart Foundation, GSK, Wyeth, Syngenta). Research strengths span basic, applied, pre-clinical and clinical bioscience and synergistic research activity and can be grouped in several broad areas:

- Genomics, Nanotechnology & Gene Therapy
- Bio-informatics & Mathematical Biology
- Epidemiology, Ecology & Evolution
- Neuroscience & Cell Signalling
- Cognitive Psychology & Mental Health
- Infection, Haematology & Immunity
- Nutrition & Sports Science
- Cardiovascular Sciences
- Plant Molecular Sciences & Synthetic Biology
- Medicinal & Natural Products Chemistry.

For further information, please contact Professor George Dickson ([g.dickson@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:g.dickson@rhul.ac.uk)) or Professor Peter Bramley ([p.bramley@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:p.bramley@rhul.ac.uk)).

## IBLS Postgraduate Training

Across the SWan partners there is an expansive range of PhD and Masters Programmes for students wishing to study bioscience subjects, including Masters level research intensive courses in Biological and Biomedical Sciences. In 2008 there were over 300 research postgraduate students (MPhil, PhD, MRes) and over 200 taught postgraduate students (MSc courses of various types) studying in areas under the remit of IBLs. These students benefit from the vibrant and leading-edge environment generated by IBLs, the outstanding facilities, the industry and employer contacts, and the excellent joint research training programmes.

For further information, please contact Professor Paul Andrews ([pandrews@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:pandrews@sgul.ac.uk)).

### IBLS Undergraduate Teaching

Important advances in our ability to treat illness, and thus improve the quality of life for people worldwide, increasingly rely on a deep understanding of the biological basis underlying disease. Whether we are concerned with cancer, psychiatric disorders, infections, or a myriad of other afflictions, research into the molecular mechanisms underlying normal and abnormal biology is shedding new light onto exciting therapeutic opportunities. It is these fast moving areas of modern scientific investigation that form the basis of the BSc in Biomedical Science(s) and other bioscience programmes available from IBLS partners.

The BSc in Biomedical Science(s) is one of the UK's largest programmes, with an entry cohort of over 300 students. It offers a comprehensive suite of degree pathways and advanced level study options across the medical research spectrum, outstanding teaching provision and enhanced career opportunities for students. For further information and brochures on IBLS Undergraduate courses, please contact Professor David Mackintosh (d.mackintosh@kingston.ac.uk), Professor Alan Gange (a.gange@rhul.ac.uk) and Dr Alan Johnstone (a.johnstone@sgul.ac.uk).

### PhD Studentships

IBLS is a participant in SWan's PhD programme. The Institute offers a limited number of studentships for relevant projects that unite the research functions of at least two of its partner universities.

**If you would like to be kept informed of IBLS activities, please email [ibls@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk](mailto:ibls@swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk) and we'll add you to our mailing list.**

## The SWan Alliance

### Kingston University

With four campuses and more than 20,000 students, Kingston University is the largest provider of higher education in south west London, offering an extensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes both in the UK and overseas. The University is renowned for its teaching excellence, has established itself as a growing force in research and is widely respected as a pioneer in e-learning.

Kingston has long-standing links with St George's, University of London, running a joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences. One of the country's leading providers of health and social care training, the Faculty provides courses in nursing, midwifery, radiography, physiotherapy, social work, paramedic science, biomedical sciences and continuing professional development.

### Royal Holloway, University of London

Royal Holloway is one of the UK's leading teaching and research university institutions, ranked in the top ten for research in the latest Research Assessment Exercise. One of the larger colleges of the University of London, Royal Holloway has a strong profile across the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.

The University's 8,000 students work with internationally renowned scholars in 18 academic departments. Over 20% of students are postgraduates and 22% come from 130 different countries. Widely recognised by its iconic Founder's Building,

Royal Holloway is situated on an extensive parkland campus in Egham, Surrey, only 40 minutes from central London.

### St George's, University of London

St George's, University of London is a dual faculty institution, which dates back over 250 years. It has built a strong reputation for innovation and quality in medical education – the pioneer of vaccination, Edward Jenner, was based at St George's – and is also recognised globally for the quality of its medical research, particularly in infection, cardiovascular disease, genetics, mental health and epidemiology.

The University is co-located with St George's Hospital in south west London and is the only institution to provide training to a full range of more than 2,600 healthcare and sciences students on one site. As well as providing courses in medicine and biomedical sciences, the college also offers courses in midwifery, nursing, physiotherapy, radiography and social work in conjunction with Kingston University.

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