

Interprofessional Institute (Health & Social Care)

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.



"Our vision is to become international leaders in research and innovation in education, to ultimately improve professional practice and service delivery."

Professor Jan Fook
Director of IPI

About the Interprofessional Institute Health & Social Care (IPI)

IPI is one of three Institutes in the SouthWest London Academic Network. Its role is to seed and foster the development of new initiatives in interprofessional research, practice, education and consultancy in health and social care, across the three alliance members. It also aims to establish an international profile for the research of professional and interprofessional practice, and to translate this research closely into continuing professional development programs.

Core values of the IPI include: the integration of research, education and practice for quality services; inclusive approaches to understand emerging practices; a commitment to developing new approaches to practice development and working closely with a diverse network of stakeholders.

What activities does IPI offer?

IPI sponsors an expanding portfolio of new courses, designed to meet the changing needs of health and social care providers, and regularly organises seminars and workshops. New courses include:

BSc Biomedical Informatics

Informatics is the scientific study of data, information and knowledge and how they can be harnessed to improve health and medical care. The course explores the ways in which computers and IT can improve patient safety and the quality of healthcare delivery.

FD Health Informatics

This course enables healthcare services managers and staff at all levels to make effective use of the mass of clinical data made available through computerisation, to improve healthcare services. It includes a substantial work-based learning element, with students expected to be in employment in the sector.

FD Long Term Conditions

This new programme provides training for assistant practitioners across pathways of care, working with people with long term conditions. Its distinctive features are the focus on integrating skills from therapy, nursing and social care and employer engagement across the NHS, independent sector and social services.

PG Dip Physician Assistant Studies

This course supports the development of the new Physician Assistant role. Modules include: Basic Medical Sciences; Applied Pathophysiology and Clinical Reasoning; and Family and Community Health. Collaborative practice with other professionals is central to the programme.

Full details of these courses, plus new programmes, are available on the website (www.swlacademicnetwork.ac.uk/ipi).

IPI: Expanding Horizons Research

- IPI researches interprofessionalism in the health and social care sectors respectively, but also in the more difficult terrain across organisations and sectors.
- IPI is establishing a clearing house for resources on research in interprofessional practice and education. This will bring together and provide key reviews, and will also develop interdisciplinary and inclusive approaches to the study of interprofessionalism.
- New research funded by the National Institute for Health Research will benefit from the collaborative advantage of the SWan alliance. The research addresses the impact of teamwork on stroke outcomes and interprofessional collaboration in the care of older people living in the community. IPI is also supporting collaborative ventures with partner Trusts and local authorities and responding to major government policy initiatives such as Every Child Matters.



PhD Studentships

IPI 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. Studentships granted to date include topics ranging from 'Variation in the meaning of 'race' and 'ethnicity' across the health and social care professions: consequences for equitable policy and practice' to 'an automatic and accurate segregation of thoracic aortic aneurysms from X-ray CT angiography', and 'exploring the factors affecting the management of post-operative pain in children: a descriptive study'.

If you would like to discuss ways in which you can be involved with the IPI or its current or planned activities please contact Professor Jan Fook (jan.fook@rhul.ac.uk).

If you would like to be kept informed of IPI's activities, please email: ipi@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.

X(08.231)B