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QUEEN SQUARE NEWS

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS

As mentioned in the last Newsletter **Professor Tarek Yousry** took up his appointment to the first established Chair of Neuroradiology in the United Kingdom in October 2001. He was recruited from the University of Munich. His appointment and that of **Professor Martin Koltzenburg** from the University of Wurtzburg to a new joint Chair with the Institute of Child Health into Pain Research are tangible signs of the international ambitions of the Institute. We believe that as science becomes more international and relies increasingly on intellectual collaborations of the highest standards we cannot afford to recruit other than the very best candidates to our established positions, which implies a field that is itself international. The third established Chair, that in Neuropsychiatry marks the end of a process that began with **Dr. Eliot Slater**, one of the fathers of British biological psychiatry. He was not accorded professorial status at Queen Square, despite funding being available, as a result of arcane considerations in the 1960's. The appointment of **Professor Ray Dolan** to the UCL Kinross Chair of Neuropsychiatry is particularly welcome in this respect and also because it signals with some formality the renewed interest in a biological understanding of brain dysfunction in psychiatric disorders. The Institute is pleased that advances in functional imaging pioneered in the FIL have led to the extra impetus needed to make the case for this Chair.

The scientific strength of the Institute has been greatly enhanced by the arrival in 2001 of the MRC Prion Unit with **Professor John Collinge, Charles Weissmann and Elizabeth Fisher**. This Unit has been incorporated into the new Research Department of Neurodegeneration which will have a major role in unraveling ways of treating a major cause of morbidity in our ageing population.

The strength in our research continues to be indicated by our finances. The turnover for the Academic Year 2000-2001 was some £19.04 million which is an 11% increase on the previous year. Our annual research grant increased by 90% over the past seven years from £5.2 million in 1994 to £9.9 million in 2001.

This year has seen an additional two major awards which suggests that our optimism for the future is not misplaced. The first is a successful bid to the Joint Infrastructure Fund for £2.7 million for new and improved scanning facilities for the Functional Imaging Laboratory. The second is UCL's commitment to contributing £1 million from the Science Research Investment Fund towards a new initiative to establish a Clinical Investigation Unit at Queen Square. This project along with a plan to establish a Chair in Functional Neurosurgery, are the major projects that will occupy the Institute in the next Academic Year.

ACADEMIC HONOURS AND PROMOTIONS

There have been a number of honours and promotions bestowed on the Institute staff. Although in the last newsletter we reported the election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of **Professor Hugh Bostock** in May 2001, we omitted to

mention that **Professor Chris Frith** was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, in May 2000. As a neuropsychologist specialising in schizophrenia, Professor Frith's research focuses on the relationship of brain function to higher cognitive processes. We also omitted to mention the promotion of **Dr Rolf Jager** on 1st March 2001 and **Dr Simon Heales** on 1st January 2001 to clinical and non-clinical Readerships, respectively.

RAE 2001 results – top rating, but little extra money, for IoN.

Another very pleasing item of news is that in December 2001 we heard the news that the Institute obtained 5*A score in the Research Assessment Exercise- the maximum possible score. Unfortunately, this outstanding achievement only translates into an extra £26,000 of HEFCE funding in the 2002/03 year.

RETIREMENTS AND CHANGES AT THE INSTITUTE

We have lost some major figures from the Institute. **Professor David Landon** as mentioned in the last Newsletter retired in September 2001 after 37 years with the Institute. He is owed a great debt of gratitude for his work in the development of the Electron Microscopy Unit, and particularly for the eight years he served as Dean of the Institute. **Dr. John Darling**, Senior Lecturer in Neurosurgery, has been appointed to a Chair of Biomedical Science at the University of Wolverhampton; **Dr. Sue Daniel**, Senior Lecturer in Neuropathology, has moved on to fulfil new ambitions; **Dr. Neil Branston**, Reader in Neurophysiology, has retired. We wish them all the best. **Professor Simon Shorvon** has been seconded to the National Neuroscience Institute in Singapore as Director. This prestigious appointment has been matched by that of **Professor Louis Lim** who has taken leave of absence to take up his appointment as Executive Director of the Biomedical Research Council of Singapore. These appointments present us with opportunities both in terms of research and teaching that we hope to exploit in the future. They further underscore the international ambitions of the Institute as a centre of excellence for clinical neuroscience research.

As a result of Professor Shorvon's secondment to the Neuroscience Institute in Singapore as Director, **Professor Martin Rossor** has been invited to take up the Headship of the Division of Clinical Neurology and transfer to the established Chair from 1st May 2002.

New Dean/Director. **Professor Richard Frackowiak** has been appointed Vice-Provost Biomedicine in UCL effective from 1st September 2002. He will be succeeded as Director (as former Deans of the Postgraduate Institutes are now known) by **Professor Roger Lemon**. The new head of the Sobell Department will be **Professor John Rothwell**.

OTHER NEWS

MISS MOLLY JENKYNS

Many of you who trained in the Academic Unit with **Roger Gilliatt** in the 70's and 80's will remember his secretary Molly who helped to smooth the path for so many young doctors. Sadly she died as a result of cancer a few weeks ago. I shall miss her greatly as following her retirement I had continued to meet her on a regular basis, visiting museums, art galleries etc. and I was always impressed by her knowledge of so many things in the art world; she was a good friend. Her sister Pat worked for many years as David Marsden's secretary at the Institute of Psychiatry, but he only realized she was Molly's sister after she had been in the post for 5 years.

I am afraid I have no Alumni news to relate; do please continue to let me have newsworthy items for the Newsletter.

QUEEN SQUARE CD ROM

If you would like to purchase a copy of the CD Rom comprising 60 images of Queen Square and its staff, past and present, please send a cheque for £15 sterling plus £2 for postage, payable to University College London to Mr. George Kaim, Head of the Audio Visual Services Unit at the Institute and he will send you a copy.