

King's College London School of Biomedical Sciences

Culture change has happened at King's College London. Individuals are recognised not only for their world-class research, but also for generating other outcomes from their excellent science. Outputs include industry collaborations, partnership with King's spin outs and opportunities to engage young people with science.

The School of Biomedical Sciences at King's College London is one of Europe's largest centres for biomedical research and teaching. It has strong partnerships with industry and healthcare organisations and one of the best graduate employment rates in the UK.

Impact is delivered through research collaboration and consultancy with industry and the public sector, spin-out company formation, two-way researcher mobility with industry, championing public understanding of science (including the more challenging aspects), enterprise training for early career researchers and schools outreach.



Researcher at the School of Biomedical Science, King's College London

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Delivering Impact

Our intent was to embed impact into the lifeblood of the School. Although delivery of impact was already strong, its penetration was limited within the School. We have promoted culture change by creating a vision for change, offering tangible examples, encouraging ownership of the agenda and finding ways to engage researchers at all levels.

Our activities have been directed into:

- establishing the Impact & Industry Group within the School management structure to lead and support delivery of impact
- increasing researcher mobility with industry e.g. creating a new suite of MScs with industry and increasing the numbers of internships, CASE studentships and KTPs
- bringing cohesion and growth to public engagement
- celebrating examples of open innovation with industry
- implementing new key performance indicators (KPIs) that acknowledge public engagement and innovation as core academic activities in the School

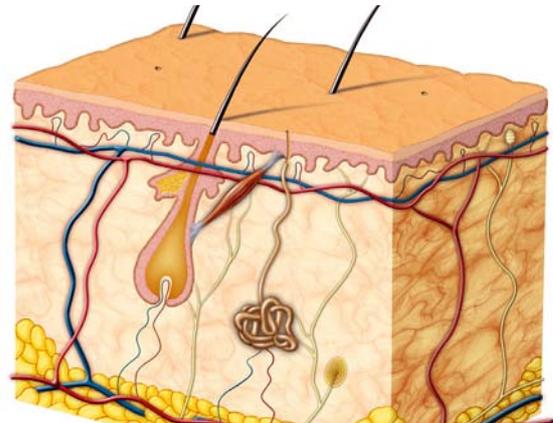
The Industry and Impact Group will continue, embedded within the School management structure. Giving a cross-divisional range of researchers' ownership of the innovation and impact agenda has already made a real difference.

We are now working closely with our innovation team in King's Business to:

- increase the number of Academic Innovation Fellows in the School
- develop open innovation resources to make us more accessible
- kick start a Centre for Public Engagement with Science based on partnership with others
- engage with industry advisers to develop an academic drug discovery/development translational capability

Improving transdermal drug delivery

MedSpray™ technology optimises topical and transdermal drug delivery by aiding drug absorption across the outermost skin layers. Co-invented by Professor Marc Brown from the King's spin-out MedPharm Ltd and Dr Stuart Jones, Senior Lecturer in Pharmaceutics; some of the initial development of this drug delivery technology was conducted in collaboration with King's. The technology was successfully validated through phase IIa clinical trial in 2009. This trial, partially funded by government investment, has led to a worldwide licence of MedPharm's first product based on MedSpray™ technology. The King's MedPharm partnership has subsequently generated two more topical drug delivery technologies and funded three PhD studentships. Dr Jones was awarded the GSK Emerging Scientist Award 2010.



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Skin cross-section: MedSpray™ is a drug delivery technology that aids drug absorption across the outermost layers of skin

Scientists in Sport - engaging young people

In Oct 2009, Julie Keeble (a BBSRC Centre for Integrative Biomedicine Fellow) was appointed Co-coordinator of Outreach for the School and has made a phenomenal change – within five months she had recruited more than 70 STEMNET ambassadors and started a series of open days for sixth-formers.

In July 2010 we hosted a “Scientists in Sport” open day, attended by 170 pupils and 20 teachers. This was born out of our relationship with GSK to provide drug testing at the London 2012 Games which King's Business realised was a great opportunity to connect with GSK's community activation team. It has been so successful that GSK and King's will roll this programme out to other universities.



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School students learn about the science behind anti-doping testing, which King's will deliver for the 2012 Games

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The BBSRC Excellence with Impact 2011 scheme ran from 2008 to 2010. It was developed to reward and esteem those university departments most active in embedding a culture that recognises and values the achievement of impact alongside excellent research.