

April 2014 Issue number 2

## Update from the Research Staff Office

Hello and welcome to April's issue of the Research Staff Newsletter! I hope you all enjoyed the Easter break.

Early this month the first meeting of the University's Research Staff Working group took place. The group is in place to oversee university-wide support and provision for research staff and is made up of representatives from the Research Staff Office, Directors of Doctoral Studies, HR and Research Staff.

In its first meeting the group discussed and agreed a set of key priorities and underlying actions to take forward in the 14/15 academic year to improve support for research staff at Sussex. The four main priorities are to make improvements to: 'Induction', 'Communications and Interactions', 'Training and Development' and 'Appraisal' for research staff. Full details and all papers for the meeting are available through the Committee section of Sussex Direct under the Research Staff Working Group page.

Now the hard work begins in implementing all the plans! I really hope that you are already beginning to see a difference and will continue to notice improvements over the coming months.

Best wishes,  
Natalie James (Research Staff Officer, Research and Enterprise)

## Case studies show impact of Sussex research

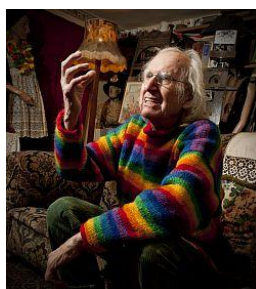
A series of case studies have been published online that demonstrate the impact of Sussex's research on the world outside the University.

The nine [case studies](#) showcase where Sussex research has produced significant and positive changes in society.

They include accounts of how Sussex researchers increased the number of life-saving organ donations; conserved the ecosystem of the rainforest and the livelihood of the communities who live within it; and restored an important artist to public prominence.

They will provide the basis for an expanded effort to create and demonstrate the range of impact from Sussex research for years to come.

If you have an example of Sussex research with impact that you think would make a good case study please email the details to [ref@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ref@sussex.ac.uk)



## Forthcoming Events....

[Exploring Academic Writing: for Science Researchers](#) – 8<sup>th</sup> May

[Exploring Good Research Conduct](#) – 14<sup>th</sup> May

[Getting Ethical Approval](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> May

[Doctoral School Summer BBQ](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> May

[Developing your Online Profile](#) – 28<sup>th</sup> May

[Exploring Academic Writing](#) – 30<sup>th</sup> May

[Presentation Design](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

[Your Career – Where Next? \(external event\)](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

[Research Staff Forum](#) – 4<sup>th</sup> June

[Covering your Research Costs](#) – 4<sup>th</sup> June

## **Come along to the Doctoral School BBQ!**

**(For Doctoral Researchers and Research Staff)**

Come and enjoy a drink on us at the Doctoral School's free Summer BBQ and meet other researchers from across campus!

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 15.30-18.00** East Slope Bar. Places are limited so [book your place](#) and get a free drinks voucher.

## Growing the Best and Brightest Report

### Excellent Researchers Drive Research Excellence

In a [new report](#) examining the drivers of research excellence (excluding funding) commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS); research managers consistently identified the primary driver of research excellence as excellent researchers.

In particular '*activities supporting the recruitment, development and motivation of researchers*' were found to be critical drivers of research excellence.

Collaborations with others were also seen as an important drivers of excellence. Research managers believed that personal relationships formed early in research careers can be critical in creating opportunities for later collaborations and help support larger scale collaborations. The report suggested that BIS and institutions could look at ways to facilitate more early career collaborations.

### Did you know...?

The [careers and employability centre](#) is not just for students. There is dedicated careers support for research staff from professional careers consultants [Jane Riley](#) and [Catherine Reynolds](#).

Jane and Catherine will be joining us at the next Research Staff Forum on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** (12pm, Fulton 202), where they can tell you more about the support they can offer when you are considering your career options.

## Sussex seeks applications to Research-Led Initiative fund

Putting on a conference? Looking for support for an event for researchers? Applications to the [Researcher-Led Initiative \(RLI\) fund](#) are invited from researchers of all career stages: doctoral researchers, research staff, and members of faculty.

The scheme aims to fund peer-led professional- development activities for Sussex researchers. The current call is for activities that are already in progress that you are seeking some support for; the funds must be spent by 31 July 2014.

The Doctoral School are keen to sponsor initiatives that benefit a broad range of researchers (across disciplines and career stages). You may seek funding for activities that expand, complement or build on current provision for researchers;

The Doctoral School are looking to support activities that:

- Enhance the professional development of researchers
- Can be opened up to researchers in more than one school
- Address areas within the [Vitae Researcher Development Framework](#).

Deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**.

## **Increase the reach of you research with Open Access**

There are different routes to Open Access but one simple way to start is to add your paper to [Sussex Research Online](#). Most journals will allow you to upload your final accepted version (the version after peer-review, not the published PDF). The Sussex Research Online team will check the copyright for you and apply an embargo if this is required by the journal – once this has passed your article is available for anyone to read. The most read Open Access item in Sussex Research Online in 2012/13 was downloaded 2,411 times so there's potential for your work to be discovered and read by a wide audience.

The benefits of Open Access for researchers can be greater visibility of your work, increased citations and the ability to share your research with those outside the academic community or without access to costly journal subscriptions. The Library Research Support team can advise you with all aspects of Open Access so if you have any questions at all please do get in touch with us at [library.researchsupport@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:library.researchsupport@sussex.ac.uk).

## **Contributions**

If you have an article or information you would like included in the Research Staff Newsletter please send it to [N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk)