



Birkbeck, University of London and Institute of Hepatology announce new partnership

A new collaboration, between Birkbeck, University of London and the Institute of Hepatology, Foundation for Liver Research, was formalised in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Monday 6 June. The Institute has become affiliated to the College, in a move that will enable the two parties to build on their research interests and strengths, collaborate in areas of common interest and develop research and publications links which will have a positive impact on future Research Excellence Framework (REF) submissions.

The focus for the collaboration will be on scientific and educational activities. Institute academic staff will hold honorary titles at Birkbeck, and will be able to register for PhD studies at the College, contribute to the School of Science's teaching programme and participate fully in collegial activities.

Piers Pottinger, Chairman of the Trustees of the Foundation for Liver Research, signed on behalf of the Institute, and the Master of Birkbeck, Professor David Latchman CBE on behalf of the College. The event was attended by Professor Nicholas Keep, Executive Dean of Birkbeck's School of Science and colleagues, and Professor Roger Williams CBE, Medical Director of the Foundation for Liver Research with Trustees of the Foundation and staff from the Institute.

Professor Latchman commented: " We are delighted that this collaboration is going forward and particularly the establishment of two new PhD studentships, funded by the Foundation, to promote collaboration on specific studies. "

Speaking about the partnership Professor Williams said "I am much looking forward, along with staff of the Institute, to contributing to the scientific work and academic programmes of Birkbeck. The affiliation will be of great benefit to the Institute of Hepatology in our ambition to develop into a worldclass centre for basic liver research."

In the initial stages, a steering group will be established to manage, develop and promote the collaboration, to identify collaborative activities and initiatives, explore fundraising opportunities to support the collaboration and establish clear lines of communication with key stakeholders.

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About Birkbeck

Founded in 1823, Birkbeck has an unparalleled track record of successfully teaching mature students part-time, face-to-face in the evenings. Birkbeck enables 19,000 students from diverse social and educational backgrounds to participate in a broad range of higher education. Renowned for its world class research, it is a vibrant centre of academic excellence, and over 90% of Birkbeck academics are research active.

Birkbeck ranks among the top 200 universities in the world, according to the 2010-11 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The College has been awarded a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for its research into brain and cognitive development and in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise Birkbeck research was placed in the top 25% of multi-faculty institutions in the UK. Birkbeck has consistently performed well in the National Student Survey. More information at www.bbk.ac.uk

About the Institute of Hepatology

Founded in 1973, the Foundation for Liver Research is a charity dedicated to funding research to improve the understanding of liver disorders and through scientific research, to find new and improved treatments for those whose lives are devastated by liver disease. In 1997 the Foundation built a purpose-designed research Institute in central London and this is led by Professor Roger Williams, CBE, a world leader in the field of hepatology. The Institute provides four floors of state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for research scientists working within the overall theme of Mechanisms and Consequences of Liver Injury. More information on the Institute and its programmes of research can be found at: www.liver-research.org.uk