The Oxford Challenge: Launching the Global Health Policy Programme

A new academic initiative which draws on the existing academic strengths of GTC and the wider University research community, has been set up to advance knowledge and excellence in implementing policy aspects of global health.

The Oxford Global Health Policy Programme at GTC led by Fellows Ken Fleming, Stephen Kennedy and Winnie Yip, was launched on 8 February with a special guest lecture by Lord Nigel Crisp, entitled The Oxford Challenge: How can Oxford help provide the evidence for improving health and healthcare globally for the benefit of the world’s whole population?

In introducing the programme to the wider Oxford audience, Professor Sir David Watson said: “Oxford has a long history as a centre of excellence in global health within the medical sciences, but the policy side is less well developed.

“This means that half the equation to delivering care solutions is often missing. GTC has set out a mission to create a platform to bring people together in the area of global health policy, using its position as a College where medical and social sciences come together,” explained Sir David.

Through speaker series, research projects, student-led seminars and journal clubs, the Programme aims to:

- facilitate the discovery of evidence on effective design and implementation of policies to achieve affordable and equitable access to evidence-based healthcare
- disseminate the findings to policy-makers and professionals to effect policy-making, implementation and changes in practice
- provide a platform to facilitate synergy in research and teaching among GTC members and between GTC and other academics with similar interests both within and outside Oxford.

At the launch Lord Crisp set out the challenge that the world faces. Although there is a strong knowledge-base of what innovations work, there is limited evidence about the best ways of delivering them. How can Oxford contribute to creating and disseminating such an evidence base? This is a multidisciplinary challenge, which requires input from anthropologists, engineers, economists, geographers, medical and policy scientists, and philosophers.

The Programme will focus on bringing people together through a shared interest in the big questions, generating debate and building a supportive network across the University.

For more information on the programme please see our website www.gtc.ox.ac.uk/academic/research-centres/global-health-policy-programme.html.
The inner game of GTC

Timothy Gallwey’s cult book, The Inner Game of Tennis, was published by Jonathan Cape in 1975. It reads oddly today: for example, there are several passages of only just below the surface misogyny. It did however, spawn the most remarkable host of imitators, notably in management studies. For a decade or two it had its own ‘inner game.’

Gallwey’s key insight was social: “Winning is overcoming obstacles to reach a goal, but the value in winning is only as great as the goal itself.... So we arrive at the startling conclusion that true competition is identical with true cooperation…. In true competition no person is defeated.” (p. 111)

Tennis is an odd game: it’s the only one I know in which – even at the top level – you have an obligation to ‘warm up’ your opponent. It works because the competitors observe conventions (like serving overarm) and are required to behave respectfully towards each other. Meanwhile you improve by matching yourself deliberately against opponents who are better than yourself.

I have used this idea myself to help to describe what goes on in higher education at its best (see my Managing Civic and Community Engagement, Open University Press, 2007, pp. 85 -110). The ‘inner game’ of higher education is the one we choose to play ourselves; not the one that we are required to play. It relies on looking at higher education from the ‘inside-out’ rather than the ‘outside in.’ This is the sphere of action of consenting adults, of self-imposed rules and conventions, of team work, and of magnanimity in victory and honour in defeat. It is a deliberate attempt to put on one side – for a moment – the anxieties about funding, about accountability, or about what ‘stakeholders’ say they want. The metaphor stresses the fluidity, the reciprocity and the provisional nature of much of the academic enterprise.

It also presses us to think hard about developments that might be damaging in this context, such as the drive for secure and frequent summative assessment, and how it can undermine the learning that comes from more generous and sensitive formative assessment, the very essence of the supervisory and tutorial systems.

And this is why and how a graduate college works. Students and fellows put themselves and their ideas on the line all the time. Guest players are invited in. Among the globally significant figures who have spoken at College-supported events this year have been Amartya Sen, Irene Khan and Jeffrey Sachs. Other teams like to use our facilities and tap our expertise. Examples last term were a group of Brazilian students and fellows put themselves and their ideas on the line all the time. Guest players are invited in. Among the globally significant figures who have spoken at College-supported events this year have been Amartya Sen, Irene Khan and Jeffrey Sachs. Other teams like to use our facilities and tap our expertise. Examples last term were a group of Brazilian

Music is another powerful inner game. We take pride in our outstanding performers, but we also take pleasure in others’ offerings – as in the musical evenings in the Lodgings and the series of Prom Concerts supported by Dr Elman Poole, which were inaugurated in the Common Room in November.

The main message of the inner game of GTC is a very traditional one. An academic community needs to be able not only to live with externally-driven demands such as ‘accountability’ and the relentless march of uniform ‘good practice’, but also to cling to its very special notions like mutuality, inquisitiveness, joy, fun, and even mercy. In the grace we say before College meals, this is what we mean by ‘sodalitas.’

The College is a site for other forms of games and recreation too. Sporting fashions change with a relatively fast turn over of students in residence, although we now have some remarkably stable fixtures, such as the Boat Club. At GTC this has been particularly successful in combining the highest level of commitment and performance with a strong ethos of welcome, participation and enjoyment. We have also taken pleasure in the performance of our stars, for the University as well as the College, in rugby, equestrianism, cricket, golf and chess.

The inner game of GTC

Principal

Professor Sir David Watson

IN TRANSIT GOES ELECTRONIC

After more than three years as a hard copy newsletter following its launch in October 2008, this is the very last GTC In Transit newsletter in hard copy: the newsletter is becoming an electronic publication later this year.

The new electronic version of In Transit means that GTC’s communications with its community of alumni, friends, students, fellows and staff will be helping to reduce our impact on the environment. The new format also offers an opportunity to make content more interactive and more timely, as lead-in times for the newsletter will be shorter.

If you are a GTC alum and want to continue to receive In Transit, please make sure that we have an up-to-date email address for you. You can complete the ‘update your details’ form at www.gtc.ox.ac.uk/alumni or email your contact details to alumni@gtc.ox.ac.uk.
The GTC gardens have been the stage for many College events and activities over the years – but perhaps none quite so strange or fun as a dance performance depicting the mating behaviour of fruit flies.

Last summer the gardens became a stage for Cedric Tan (DPhil Zoology) and two friends when they filmed their contemporary dance capturing the essence of the science as a work of art. Cedric’s film notched up the top score and was crowned winner in the Biology category of Science journal’s ‘Dance Your PhD’ competition, narrowly missing out to the overall winner of the competition, who won the Physics category.

For the past four years, the top academic journal has sponsored the international competition to see which scientists can best explain their graduate work through interpretive dance.

The idea behind the competition is that no one understands your PhD thesis better than you, especially if you are a scientist. So how can you explain your work to friends and family - why not dance it?

“My PhD project focuses on the mechanisms through which relatedness affects the sexual dynamics of the common fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster and the red jungle fowl, Gallus gallus,” explains Cedric.

“Individuals often migrate from their place of origin in a relatively slow pace and so related individuals frequently interact.

“Our dance depicts the social and sexual behaviour of the common fruit fly. Fruit flies are attracted by the smell of rotting fruit where they collect, feed and interact. Males compete against one another for female mates.

“In addition, males perform a sequence of courtship behaviours. First, they tap and chase the females. Then they encircle the females while playing a song by vibrating their wings. Next the males orient themselves at the rear of the females’ abdomen to lick their body. Finally, males attempt copulation. Females can reject the males’ advances with several responses such as flicking of wings and kicking,” he adds.

Cedric has been involved in modern dance for six years and has choreographed several dance performances. He is a member of the Oxford University Dancesports Blues team that takes part in competitive ballroom and Latin dance competitions.

A record number of 53 researchers entered the competition this year. Along with the winners of the other three categories, Cedric was awarded US$500.

Watch Cedric’s dance film at: http://vimeo.com/30211782

SIR DAVID, KNIGHT OF THE OBLONG TABLE

GTC Principal Professor Sir David Watson and former GCR publicity officer Josephine Scoble (DPhil Zoology) spent an afternoon playing pool on the green baize of private members’ club The Crown House – an aptly-named venue for a knight to have his ‘lesson’ of pool from former Oxford Blue and county player, Jojo.

The lesson was a result of the Promises Auction, which raised funds towards GTC’s proposed multi-purpose sports building, a project to build an on-site space for GTC clubs and societies, mainly sports, to use.

The Auction saw College members donating their talents to the highest bidder: Jojo donated a pool lesson and a cue and Sir David won the competitive bidding.

The afternoon of pool wasn’t so much of a lesson for Sir David who, having played in his youth at the University of Cambridge, demonstrated that he had not lost his ability to play a tactical game on the green baize. Jojo began the session by explaining the Black Ball rules to Sir David, who had not played them before, mostly having played classic ‘pub rules’.

Sir David soon had Jojo threatened after six games, with a 3-3 draw showing that he had quickly adapted to the unfamiliar cue and rules of the game. The battle went on, but sadly the fight was over for Sir David who couldn’t escape the Blues killer shark attack of a final 7-3 victory to Jojo.

Sir David says he’ll treasure his cue, and Jojo says: “It wasn’t so much a lesson in pool but an afternoon of great pool. Sir David is a good and tactical player and should get a table for his home – I’d love to practice with him!”
What now for the media in Libya?

Professor Robert G Picard, GTC Research Fellow and Director of Research at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), has been invited to provide advice to the Libyan National Transitional Council. Following the downfall of the Gaddafi regime, the Council is looking at the structure of the country's media system, media regulatory practices, and economic factors influencing media viability and operations.

Along with a small team of other experts, he met about 20 members of the Libyan National Transitional Council in Doha, Qatar in December 2011 for an initial briefing. “Libya is one of the largest countries in Africa, but has a small and dispersed population, which creates unique challenges in creating effective communication systems,” comments Picard.

“The structure of the country's economy and the number of small cities and towns create obstacles that must be overcome in creating economically viable media.”

An expert in media economics and policy, Professor Picard regularly works with governments and international organisations on policy and economic issues related to media. He also provided expertise in the transformation of state and party media in the Baltic states as they gained independence from the Soviet Union.

He adds: “This is an exciting opportunity for me at the professional level, but it is far more significant to the Libyan people who are trying to reform the institutions of their society and create a media system that represents the variety of peoples and voices in that country.”

MEDICAL AND HEALTH NEWS IN THE UK MEDIA

In December 2011 the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism launched Medical and Health News and Information in the UK Media: The Current State of Knowledge, a new report by Professor Robert G Picard and Minhee Yeo (DPhil Anthropology).

Media coverage of medical and health news is a central source of public information and plays a significant role in public awareness and perceptions of medical and health issues, risks, and treatments. This report reviews what is known about medical and health news in UK media and its effects, and shows that research on the subject is patchy, weak, and outdated. The report suggests a research agenda to better understand the roles and performance of UK media in conveying medical and health information.

The report can be downloaded free at: http://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/publications/risj.html

Professor Robert G Picard

Eco-preferable sanitary pads put to the test

An exploratory study, part-funded by GTC, is looking at environmentally-friendly alternatives to commercial, disposable sanitary pads for young girls in impoverished rural communities in Uganda.

GTC Fellows Paul Montgomery, Catherine Dolan, Sue Dopson, and Linda Scott have designed a study building on their earlier research, which shows that providing pads improves girls’ school attendance. Female achievement in school is known to have far-reaching effects on national development through an array of factors, from disease transmission to child nutrition.

The study, led by Catherine Dolan and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and Department for International Development, will investigate the effects of sanitary provision on girls’ education in Uganda. Population pressures and the emphasis on female education are putting a strain on infrastructure and girls’ latrines in schools are backing up at an overwhelming pace, requiring that schools seal, drain, or replace latrines at a prohibitive rate.

In addition, the Western community is concerned about pad disposal, and NGOs and government agencies are promoting alternative methods. However, there is little knowledge about whether these methods work. Professor Scott explains: “Despite environmental concerns, it’s unclear how feasible and acceptable eco-preferable alternatives – including cloth – are for girls.”

GTC is helping fund a study into the alternatives, including inexpensive papyrus ‘MakaPads’. An invention of Moses Musaazi, an engineering professor at Makerere University in Kampala, they use natural, locally-available and recycled materials and are more than 90 per cent biodegradable.

Moses has also invented a simple incinerator that burns waste down to ash which African communities use as fertiliser: incinerators will also be installed in schools as part of the study.

The research team will give a sample of girls one pack of papyrus disposable pads and one of three cloth pad kits, and look at how they perform, the cost, and practical issues such as washing and drying – the main challenge with cloth pads.

For more information, visit Linda Scott’s blog at www.doublexeconomy.com

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Paul Montgomery and Sue Dopson in the field in Africa
Bacteria control Dengue virus

The infectious tropical disease Dengue fever affects roughly 50 million people a year.

Primarily transmitted by the Asian tiger mosquito Aedes albopictus in tropical regions, there is as yet no vaccine or effective treatment against the disease. Dengue can in some cases be life-threatening and its spread is primarily controlled by reducing wild mosquito populations.

In addition many standard control strategies such as bed nets, which prevent the spread of other mosquito-transmitted diseases like malaria, are ineffective because tiger mosquitoes bite humans during the day.

Researchers looking for innovative ways to control Dengue fever include GTC student Marcus Blagrove (DPhil Zoology), whose work explores how infecting mosquitoes with a bacteria stops their offspring from spreading the disease. The findings were published in the highly-acclaimed journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) in October 2011.

Marcus and his fellow researchers examined how a particular strain of Wolbachia bacteria affects mosquitoes. These bacteria normally infect insects such as fruit flies, and have been found to provide complete resistance to Dengue virus.

When they infected A. albopictus mosquitoes with the wMel strain of Wolbachia bacteria, they found that the bacteria completely blocked the transmission of Dengue virus. They also found that the wMel-positive mosquitoes invaded the wild population rapidly through the mechanism of ‘cytoplasmic incompatibility’, in which non-infected embryos died quickly after fertilisation.

The researchers concluded that these effects of the bacteria could be utilised to replace wild mosquito populations with Dengue-resistant ones.

Marcus and his colleagues are currently conducting experiments in the laboratory to explore strategies to replace wild populations with Dengue-resistant ones.

Research paper exploring the incidence of breast cancer in nuns.

The paper, The Plight of Nuns: Hazards of Nulliparity, co-authored by Dr Roger Short, GTC Visiting Senior Research Fellow, and Wexler Professorial Fellow in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Melbourne, and his colleague Dr Kara Britt, was published in The Lancet last December.

It shows that the world’s 94,790 nuns pay a price for their charity because they have a greatly increased risk of breast, ovarian and uterine cancers over the general population: this is a hazard of their nulliparity, the fact that they have not borne any children.

Epidemiological studies of breast cancer have directly linked the number of menstrual cycles to increased risk. Reproductive factors such as breastfeeding are also known to protect against ovarian and endometrial cancer.

Professor Short spent time in the late 1990s at Green College completing a book. One evening at dinner at Sir Richard’s house, Sir Richard mentioned that he had been deeply impressed by a paper published in about 1715 by an Italian physician Bernadino Ramazzini, describing the distressingly high incidence of breast cancer in the nuns from his local convent.

Sir Richard believed that this finding – which has since been abundantly confirmed – probably represented ‘the dawn of Epidemiology’.

Professor Short says: “I was so impressed with what Sir Richard said, coming from the discoverer of the link between smoking and lung cancer, that I thought that one day I should try and follow up the story.”

The response to The Lancet paper has been astonishing: the paper has received over 11 million hits online and the authors were invited to the Vatican on 18 December to present the opening address at a conference of obstetricians and gynaecologists.
With the help of its dedicated members and support from the Annual Fund, Green Templeton Boat Club (GTBC) had a successful summer and autumn, competing both domestically and abroad.

Last summer, the Club entered a number of regattas – including Staines, Henley Town and Visitors, and City of Oxford Royal Regatta – taking home an impressive five titles for the men and three for the women, and defeating more established clubs.

The men’s combined summer squad was set up and run with the collaboration of coaches Alex Rhodes and Charlie Simpson and the participation of other colleges. Charlie Simpson joined as part of the men’s coaching staff and Michael Smets joined the women’s coaching staff, while Allan French continued to develop the women’s squad.

Autumn saw remarkable results for both squads. The women rowed to victory in Autumn Fours, the first time a GTBC crew has won an event outright. A men’s four competed at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, USA, in a first international Club appearance where they were placed 19 out of 48.

The squads also competed in the Fuller’s Head of the River Fours (women 15 out of 46 and men 32 out of 65), Christ Church Regatta (novice eights men making the quarter finals and women the third round), Wallingford Head (women seven of eleven), and Fairbairn Cup (combined men’s eight crew with Hertford, 17 out of 69).

For more information visit www.gtbc.org.uk

After another successful season, the young Green Templeton Squash Club (GTSC) has climbed to the top rungs of Oxford’s inter-college league.

The Men’s team has been promoted to the top-ranked Premiership Division and is now ranked as one of the six best college teams.

Men’s Captain, Akshay Kotak, comments: “I think the main reason for our success is the commitment and fervour of our players and coach. We’ve got some very healthy competition brewing amongst our players to be part of the team and represent GTC.”

The Women’s team also had an excellent Michaelmas term. Undefeated in their league matches, they finished first in Division I. Alysia Garmulewicz, Women’s Captain, is new to the sport and loves the team support: “The practices and workout sessions run by the team members create a sense of community. As an individual sport, this gives GTSC an extra edge against other colleges. It’s the people that make GTSC awesome.”

With the growing interest in competing for GTC, the squash club has now added second teams for both the Men and Women. All four GTSC teams are competing at full-strength this Hilary in the inter-college league.

GTC student Emma Pepperell (DPhil Clinical Laboratory Sciences) was part of the four-strong Oxford team which triumphed over Cambridge at this year’s Varsity Equestrian Match for the first time in eight years.

The competition, which took place at Brooksby College in Melton, Leicestershire, requires each team member to ride two dressage tests and two show jumping rounds on unknown horses.

Emma is President of the University Riding Club this year and hopes to lead the team to a repeat of their success.

Seonsam Na (DPhil Anthropology) represented the University in a British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Table Tennis Trophy Cup against the University of Southampton to take Oxford to the quarter-finals of the Cup.


RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Clinical Teaching Associate Dr Neel Burton has published Aristotle’s Universe (Acheron Press 2011) and The Art of Failure: the Anti Self-Help Guide (Acheron Press 2011), which was runner-up in the British Medical Association Board of Science Award for the Public Understanding of Science.

Professor Martin Seeleib-Kaiser is the co-editor of The Age of Dualization (OUP 2012), a comparative study which provides insights into why Nordic countries experience lower levels of insider-outsider divides in relation to poverty, social exclusion and inequality. The book has been called a ‘timely and significant contribution to current debates’.

The Modernisation of the Public Services and Employee Relations (Palgrave Macmillan 2011) by Dr Ian Kessler (co-written with Stephen Bach of King’s College London) provides an integrated and up-to-date account of changes in work and employment in the public services.

Associate Fellow Charles Foster is currently working on a new book Medical Law: A Very Short Introduction, which will be published by OUP in 2012. His most recent book is In the Hot Subconscious: An Indian Journey (Westland 2012).

The publication of an enlarged and updated edition of The History of a Genetic Disease by Emeritus Fellow Professor Alan Emery gave a lecture.

Professor Robert Picard, GTC Research Fellow and Director of Research at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, has published Media Clusters: Spatial Agglomeration and Content Capabilities (Edward Elgar 2011), which explores the underlying challenges of media firm agglomeration and implications for policymaking.

Lorraine Pe Symaco (DPhil Education 2003) is the co-editor of Education in South-East Asia (Symposium Books 2011) which is the first of its kind to comprehensively cover and discuss the systems and issues in the region.

Alex Budzier (DPhil Management Studies) contributed an article on IT research, Why your research project may be riskier than you think, to the Harvard Business Review which was published in September 2011.

GTC Fellow Professor Jeffrey Aronson has published a number of books this year including The Oxford Handbook of Practical Drug Therapy (OUP 2011) with Duncan Richards, John Reynolds and Jamie Coleman, and the sixth edition of internationally renowned Stephens’ Detection and Evaluation of Adverse Drug Reactions (Wiley 2011) co-edited with John Talbot.

Professor Gerald Elliott (Associate Fellow) published two research papers in 2011, his eighty-first year, including Along the road not taken: how many myosin heads act on a single actin filament at any instant in working muscle? (A review) with C Worthington for Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology.

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

There have been a number of staff changes at Green Templeton since the summer.

The Development and Communications Office welcomed David Humble-White as Annual Fund Manager in October. David previously worked at Brasenose College and replaces Eleanor Bracey who left in September for a new role in the Development team at University College.

Alumni Relations Co-ordinator Amanda Broughton-Francis, a familiar face to many alumni, left us in February: Rachel Lindenbaum is covering the role on a temporary basis.

Also new to the Development team is Tayma Cannon, Conference and Events Manager, who previously worked at the University of Reading in the External Affairs department. Tayma succeeds Romola Coope who left in September to start her own typing and administrative support business. Romola had previously been personal assistant to Dr Colin Bundy, immediate past Principal of GTC, and Sir John Hanson, the Warden of the former Green College.

Also supporting the work of the Development and Communications Office are intern Janna Papageorgiou and postgraduate assistants Minhee Yeo (DPhil Anthropology) and Nadine Levin (DPhil Anthropology).

Sarah Gauntlett has been appointed to the role of Domestic Bursar and is heading up the catering, front of house, maintenance, domestic and accommodation functions and also the Lodge team. She came from Kellogg College where she was Domestic Bursar for the last six years.

Ruth Loseby is the new part-time Academic Projects Manager and supports the various GTC academic initiatives in their research and event activities.

We also said farewell to Tim Jones, Treasurer, last October after four years in the post. Kathleen Scroggins has been heading the Finance Department pending the arrival of new College Accountant Janet Lambert who joined us in early March. Janet joins GTC from Oxford-based charity Platform 51.

Finance Assistant Jan Parker retired in December, after 22 years at Green College and GTC.

The IT Office has been fortunate to have the support of Bob Sampson over the last six months. Bob, an experienced IT project manager, has been helping in a number of major projects including network storage, wireless network rollout and an infrastructure overhaul, on a contractual basis.
COLLEGE MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS AND ACCOLADES: HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS

Fiona Powrie, Professor of Gastroenterology and GTC Fellow, has been awarded the 2012 Louis Jeantet Prize jointly with Matthias Mann for their research into why the immune system, which protects against pathogens, does not attack beneficial bacteria which live in the intestine.

Associate Fellow Alison Brimelow has been awarded the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany – the highest tribute the FDR can pay to individuals for services to the nation – for her achievements as the first woman President of the European Patent Office.

Three GTC MBA students received special awards at the MBA graduation ceremony at the Said Business School last autumn. Matej Cresnik and Erica Mackey (above right) both received a Dean’s Commendation for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to the success of SBS, while Ellen Bracquine (above left) was awarded the Dean’s Prize for outstanding academic achievement.

Medical students Kitty Jackson and Eleanor Pett jointly scooped the GTC Emanuel Lee Essay Prize 2011 for their accounts of their medical elective placements in the Peruvian Amazon and Tanzania respectively.

GTC Fellow Professor Robert Walker, who is based in the Department of Social Policy, was awarded an MBE for services to social policy research in the New Year Honours 2012.

Sean Grant (DPhil Evidence-Based Social Intervention) received the 2011 Teresa Smith Award for the highest distinction mark for the MSc thesis in Evidence-Based Social Intervention.

Professor Paul Wordsworth, GTC Fellow, has been elected to give the Heberden Oration at the Annual General Meeting of the British Society for Rheumatology in Glasgow in May 2012.

Suzanne Holsomback (MPhil Social and Cultural Anthropology) has been elected Vice President (Women) of the Oxford University Student Union, the first time a GTC student and a graduate student has been elected.

Angela Coulter (Common Room Member) received the Donabedian International Award 2012 from the Avis Donabedian Foundation in Barcelona for her leadership and contributions in the field of patient-centred care.

Maja Korica (DPhil Management Studies 2011) won the 2011 Diana Forsythe Award for the best peer-reviewed paper at the intersection of medical informatics and social sciences published in 2010. Her co-winner Eamonn Malloy was a GTC Fellow at the time the research project began.

Associate Fellow Professor Paul Robertson has received an honorary doctorate from the Peninsula College of Dentistry and Medicine. Paul Robertson is a distinguished violinist who has performed throughout the world for nearly forty years as leader of the internationally renowned Medici String Quartet.

Charles Foster, an Associate Fellow, was named professional discipline junior barrister of the year at the Chambers Bars Awards in October 2011.

Professor Sarah C Darby, GTC Fellow based in the Clinical Trial Service Unit, has been made Honorary Professor in Radiotherapy at the University of Southern Denmark.

Associate Fellow Kathryn Bishop is one of six new Civil Service Commissioners appointed in December 2011. The Commission regulates appointments to the Civil Service.

Professor John Sear has been made an Honorary Fellow of the College of Anaesthetists of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa for contributions to anaesthetic clinical pharmacology and studies on the impact of cardiovascular disease on anaesthesia.

The winning Primary Care Team of the Year in the 2011 British Medical Journal annual awards was led by Green College alumnus Dr Arun Aggarwal (Medicine 1984). He is a partner at the Rainbow Surgery in Ramsay, Huntingdon where the practice team are in the top one per cent for patient access and patient satisfaction in the national GP survey.

Seven GTC fellows were successful in the University’s recent Recognition of Distinction exercise and become Professors: Sir David Watson becomes Professor of Higher Education; Richard Gibbons becomes Professor of Clinical Genetics; Carolyn Hoyle becomes Professor of Criminology; Elisabeth Hsu becomes Professor of Anthropology; Paul Montgomery becomes Professor of Psycho-Social Intervention; James Worrell becomes Professor of Computer Science, and Winnie Yip, a GTC Research Fellow, becomes Professor of Health Policy and Economics.

A number of Clinical Medicine students have also been recognised recently: Catherine Taylor has been awarded the Medical Women’s Federation Prize 2010-11 Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Megan Kershaw has been awarded the Sir John Stallworthy Prize for Best Clinical Performance 2010-11 Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Adam Ali has been awarded the Peter Tizard Prize in Paediatrics 2010-11.

Hanae Gourier has been awarded the Martin Wronker Prize in Medicine for the recent Part 1 exams.

Sarah Wheeldon has been awarded the OSCE Prize for overall performance in her exams.

Anna Francis has been awarded the Patrick Mallam Memorial Prize in Clinical Medicine 2011.

John Pearce Memorial Prize in Surgery 2010-11 Proxime accessit has gone to Katy Day and Nicola Martin.