

**From:** President <[president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:president@imperial.ac.uk)>

**To:** xxxxxxx

**Date:** 19 December 2014 13:41:31 GMT

**Subject:** Strengthening our Health leadership roles at Imperial

## **A LETTER TO THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to you to set out an important change to our health leadership roles, which aim to promote Imperial's unique academic strengths in improving healthcare and to capitalise on new opportunities to advance them.

### *An Elevation of the Vice President (Health) role*

It is increasingly recognised that the major developments in health-related research and in the delivery of healthcare will come from concerted inter-disciplinary work involving a wide range of expertise from multiple and diverse sources. Healthcare is facing a range of challenges requiring new solutions and changes in the conventional paradigms. This has been increasingly recognised in recent years by those involved in the commissioning of health-related research and those responsible for the delivery of healthcare.

Imperial, through the development of its strategy for Health and Wellbeing, has strongly embraced the requirement for a new approach to health that transcends disciplinary boundaries. As a STEM university with a leadership role in medicine the College is in a unique position to develop in this area.

In order to support and grow the multidisciplinary paradigm in health, I am therefore pleased to announce the elevation of the role of Vice President (Health) to a College-wide leadership position intended to position Imperial as the leader in higher education institutions in this area.

Professor Kelleher's new remit as Vice President (Health) will include supporting and growing multidisciplinary approaches to health-related research across all of the College's academic disciplines. He will report directly to the President and be a member of the Executive Group of the President's Board. He will engage with healthcare partners in generating new strategic opportunities for the College.

To assist him in his responsibilities Professor Kelleher will convene and chair a new cross-College Health Cabinet which shall promote multidisciplinary work in health-related areas including for example innovative approaches to public health, cancer, musculoskeletal medicine, and to the use of data sciences in health-related research and healthcare.

This collaborative work will require strong external support and relationships. It is important to have a charismatic and engaging representative to lead the development of new opportunities. Thus, the Vice President will spend considerable effort and energy on developing the strategic relationships and partnerships, with both international and domestic institutions, that are essential to our mission. Such relationships will be critical for the planning and delivery of the objectives of the College strategy in Health and Wellbeing. The recruitment of a Vice President (Advancement) will be synergistic and supportive of the Vice President (Health) and Presidential efforts to attract sustainable lines of support.

*A Strengthened Focus on the Dean of Medicine role*

As this week's REF results have made clear, the Faculty of Medicine has a tremendous opportunity ahead of it stemming from the exceptional quality of its faculty.

Seizing these opportunities and meeting the challenges to the sector requires significant focus, energy and time. Thus, the elevation of the College-wide Vice President (Health) role will allow the appointment of a Dean of the Faculty who will report to the Provost and work actively to lead the Faculty's management and academic processes. The College will move swiftly to appoint a new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, who will join the President's Board, the Provost's Board and the College Council. The focussed Vice President (Health) role will commence upon the appointment of a new Dean.

The Vice President and the new Dean will work together to ensure that university-wide and faculty-centred initiatives are synergistic and that internal and external planning and communication are coordinated and consistent for the Faculty and for external stakeholders.

I very much look forward to working with Dermot and the new Dean when they are named, and I hope you will reach out to offer them your own support and engagement in their new roles.

With best wishes,

Alice Gast  
PRESIDENT