

Queen's Gender Initiative and the SMDBS Gender Equality Office



**'Supporting Research Excellence' –
a meeting of the Local Academic Women's Network
and
Launch of the Gender Equality Office in the School of Medicine, Dentistry &
Biomedical Sciences**

**Date: 14th September 2011 (10.00h – 16.00h and 16.00h – 18.30h)
Venue: Harty Room / McMordie Hall**

Queen's Gender Initiative (QGI) is hosting a meeting to be held at Queen's University Belfast on 14th September (10.00h – 16.00h) of the Local Academic Women's Network (LAWN), which was supported originally in Northern Ireland by the Athena Project to encourage the advancement of women in science, engineering and technology.

The particular purpose of the LAWN meeting on this occasion is to develop, within the context of equality considerations, knowledge and expertise around the challenges of leading high quality research.

Following on directly from the LAWN meeting, we will celebrate the recent development of a Gender Equality Office in the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences (16.00h – 18.30h).

We are delighted to have some key local speakers and to welcome Professor Dame Wendy Hall (University of Southampton), Professor Teresa Rees (Cardiff University) and Professor Guro Valen (University of Oslo) as visiting speakers.

Wendy Hall is Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton and Dean of the Faculty of Physical and Applied Sciences. One of the first to undertake serious research in multimedia and hypermedia, her current interests include applications of the Semantic Web and exploring the interface between life sciences and the physical sciences. Professor Hall also helps shape science and engineering policy and education. Through positions on many national and international bodies, she acts as an important role model for women in SET. She became a Dame Commander of the British Empire (DBE) in 2009 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in the same year.

Teresa Rees is a Professor in the School of Social Sciences and has recently completed a six-year term as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Cardiff University. In 2003, she became Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to higher education and equal opportunities. Professor Rees is particularly interested in gender mainstreaming and analysing how policies and practices can reproduce patterns of inequality. She is a long-term expert advisor to the European Commission on Women and Science, and is currently Chair of UK Higher Education Funding Council's Research Excellence Framework 2014 Equality and Diversity Panel.

Guro Valen completed medical training in Oslo and undertook a PhD in experimental surgery at the University of Tromsø. She then worked as a cardio-thoracic surgeon in Stockholm and developed an academic career at the Karolinska Institute becoming Director of the Crafoord Laboratory. Professor Valen is now Head of Physiology at the University of Oslo and research interests concern ischemic injury and the application of gene therapy, and also gender medicine. She sits on several national and international research boards and was recently appointed to the Steering Committee of the National Association of Public Health in Norway.

Hugh McKenna is Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation at the University of Ulster. As Professor of Nursing, he has held numerous clinical and managerial positions in mental health services. He has been elected to Fellowships of the American Academy of Nursing, European Academy of Nursing Science, the Royal College of Nursing and the Faculty of Nursing, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In 2008, he became Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for his work on health and community. Professor McKenna chairs a number of committees overseeing Health and Social Care Research and is current Chair of the Research Excellence Framework 2014 Sub-Panel 3 for Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy.

Tom Millar is Professor of Astrophysics and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Queen's University Belfast. His research is concerned with understanding the physics and chemistry of the interstellar medium and using this to probe fundamental processes such as star birth and star death. Professor Millar has recently launched a new STEM Academy and website to encourage more pupils to choose a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. He is also involved in QGI, acting as Chair of the SWAN Steering Group.

Patrick Johnston is Dean of the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences and Director of the Institute of Health Sciences at Queen's University Belfast. He is also the Founder and Director of Almac Diagnostics. He received his MB BCh degree in Medicine with distinction from University College Dublin in 1982 and attained his PhD in Medicine in 1988. Professor Johnston has published over 220 peer review articles and co-edited 5 textbooks in the area of pharmacogenomics, personalised medicine and drug resistance in colorectal cancer. He sits on a number of national and international scientific advisory boards and is on the editorial boards of several leading international oncology journals.

Barbara McDermott is Professor of Cardiovascular Pharmacology at Queen's University Belfast with research interests in receptor mechanisms that promote cell survival under stress conditions. She is a member of the QGI Women's Executive Committee and LAWN Convenor. She was Acting Director of QGI in early 2010 and co-ordinated the University submission for renewal of an Athena SWAN Charter Award. Professor McDermott was appointed Director of Gender Equality in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences in 2011.

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SMDBS Gender Equality Office



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PROGRAMME

**'Supporting Research Excellence' –
a meeting of the Local Academic Women's Network (LAWN)**

10.00h – 10.30h	Coffee and welcome
10.30h – 10.40h	Introduction – Vice-Chancellor
10.40h – 11.25h	'Supporting Research Excellence' Wendy Hall (University of Southampton)
11.25h – 12.05h	Hugh McKenna (University of Ulster)
12.05h – 12.45h	Tom Millar (QUB)
12.45h – 14.00h	Lunch
14.00h – 14.45h	'Equality and Diversity Considerations' Teresa Rees (Cardiff University)
14.45h – 15.20h	Panel discussion (Speakers and University leads)
15.20h – 15.30h	Thanks / Close of LAWN Meeting
15.30h – 16.00h	Tea

**School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Office Launch - Director of Gender Equality**



16.00h – 16.30h	Opening address Patrick Johnston (Dean, SMDBS) 'A Women-Friendly School' Barbara McDermott (Director of Gender Equality)
16.30h – 17.10h	Keynote speaker: Guro Valen (University of Oslo)
17.10h – 17.30h	Panel discussion (Guro Valen, Teresa Rees, Barbara McDermott)
17.30h – 18.30h	Wine reception

Registration form



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I will attend:	
LAWN meeting – morning session (10.00h – 12.45h)	YES / NO
BUFFET LUNCH (12.45h – 14.00h)*	YES / NO
LAWN meeting – afternoon session (14.00h – 16.00h)	YES / NO
DGE Office launch (16.00h – 17.30h)	YES / NO
WINE RECEPTION (17.30h – 18.30h)	YES / NO

* DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: _____

Forename: _____ Surname _____

Title: _____ Position: _____

Institution: _____ Email address _____

Please complete / send to lawndge@qub.ac.uk to confirm attendance.

Please go to www.qub.ac.uk/qgi for more information on this event.

Any queries please contact Cathy Tolan on 02890 973712.