UCLPartners
Academic Health Science Partnership **UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2011**

The November UCLPartners seminar was the first joint workshop of the expanded AHSS. It focused on our core objective to address the cultural and system barriers that delay proven new innovations getting into practice, and applied this to work on earlier diagnosis in cardiovascular, stroke, cancer, mental health and COPD, all areas of real progress across the AHSS.

Previous studies show it takes on average 17yrs to deliver a proven intervention into widespread usage (with only 3% rate of spread p.a.). This results in a major loss of life, significant morbidity and poor value – dwarfing the impact of virtually all new discoveries – and rightly creating a shift in focus for research funders, scientists and healthcare staff at time of financial constraint.

Dr Begley, UCLPartners Director of Innovation and Implementation, reported her research work with Prof Albury to identify the characteristics of a healthcare system that would enable faster diffusion of new proven interventions. Findings include the need to:

- *Provide granular, accessible comparative performance information*
- *Engage and empower patient and carer networks and organisations*
- *Build alliances across interfaces, between internal and external networks*
- *Strengthen and exploit provider autonomy*
- *Incentivise and reward scaling and spreading from the outset*
- *Actively decommission and disinvest*
- *Encourage competition*
- *Focus investment and risk capital*
- *Acknowledge necessary instability and fluidity.*

There was a shared commitment to systematically apply this learning to each project across the partnership, recognising that we need to better inform and encourage patients to act as empowered "pull through agents" for themselves and others, and to use the academic power across UCL, QM and City and other collaborations to examine how to leverage the most from these factors.

Despite many proven treatments for early phase tumours, we know that more than 25% of our cancer patients first present via A&E. We are working with National Cancer Director, Professor Sir Mike Richards, to develop a study that will investigate the specific reasons for individual delay and use the process and findings concurrently to drive improvements across our communities. A senior resource has been identified to support this work from within the partnership.

Continuing the focus on outcomes that matter to patients per £ spent, UCLPartners is supporting a further workshop on Value based healthcare, jointly with the GLA (venue City Hall, date Feb 29th 2012), which will be led by Profs Michael Porter and Tom Lee.

Prof Chris Fowler has been appointed to chair the UCLPartners education board, taking over from Sir John Tooke. The focus of the board's work over the next year will include establishing a local education and training board and its relationship to UCLPartners as a lead provider, ensuring we deliver a high quality programme for MDECs, and that we develop better multi-professional training, and enhanced career pathways for nurses, midwives and AHPs.

Finally a reminder that UCLPartners staff have moved to 170 Tottenham Court Road London W1T 7HA, which will provide better meeting room facilities to support the expanded partnership, and closer working with local and national groups focused on prevention and outcomes research.