

## **Director of Research Report for Strategy Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016.**

Two internal activities have taken place since the last Strategy Committee meeting:

- **Research lunch** – on 28<sup>th</sup> November Mark Parsons came and gave a talk about opportunities with EPCC, both in terms of their resources and potential research collaborations. This was seen as a precursor activity for EPCC moving into DTI/TBC.
- **Fellowships Workshop** – on 12<sup>th</sup> December I organized and ran a workshop on fellowship opportunities, particularly aimed at early stage researchers (ie covering most schemes but not ERC Advanced Grants or EPSRC Established Career Fellowships). James Cheney and Chris Heunen gave talks and answered questions about their experiences with RS, ERC and EPSRC respectively. This was attended by approximately 25 members of the School and seemed to be greatly appreciated.

The next Research Lunch on 30<sup>th</sup> January will focus on Biology and potential joint research. There will also be another Workshop early in the New Year on a topic yet to be decided (suggestions welcome).

The Accredited Centre of Excellence -- Cyber Security Research bid has been submitted (12<sup>th</sup> December).

The Quantum Technologies Innovation Chair application for Dominique Unruh was submitted on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Dominique will be interviewed at EPSRC in early February and we plan to hold a mock interview in Edinburgh before that.

An agreement has been signed with Huawei for a research lab based in the School which will fund a number of moderately sized projects on topics related to Huawei's work over the next three years. Details of the application process are being worked out now but a call for expressions of interest will be made early in the New Year.

There will be a REF-readiness exercise run by the University Centre at the beginning of January. This will result in us being sent data on publications and impact in the School as currently captured in PURE. We will then have to produce a response by March on how ready we are and what mechanisms we are putting in place if necessary.