

## International Review of Mathematical Sciences 2010 – a report to COPS

EPSRC is conducting a review of Mathematical Sciences research and postgraduate training in 2010. It is similar in intention and scope to the IRM conducted in 2003/04: the main differences are that this time the scope includes OR and more of Theoretical Physics, and it is managed by EPSRC itself, not by the mathematical sciences community through CMS. However, the review is not only of work for which EPSRC funding would be appropriate - the scope is roughly that of the 3 RAE subpanels in Pure, Applied and Statistics/OR. It can be expected to take a particular interest in how the mathematical sciences community and the research councils have responded to the last review.

**The purpose of the review is to benchmark the best of UK research against the best internationally - it is NOT about the whole spectrum of UK research, and it is NOT about comparison of departments.** I can't emphasise this enough!

The review has a UK-based steering committee, chaired by Tim Pedley (DAMTP Cambridge), principally consisting of representatives of the mathematical sciences learned societies - I am the RSS representative. This committee has selected the international review panel, and designed the review week, and will commission the documentation.

The international review panel consists of 16 distinguished scientists:

Prof. Margaret Wright (Chair)	USA
Prof. Peter Hall (Deputy Chair)	Australia
Prof. Cheryl Praeger	Australia
Prof. Andrew Granville	Canada
Prof. Patrick Huerre	France
Prof. Dr. Willi Jäger	Germany
Prof. Dr. Stefan Müller	Germany
Prof. Anthony Davison	Switzerland
Prof. Stephen Fienberg	United States
Prof. David Ryan	New Zealand
Prof. Gary Horowitz	USA
Prof. Zhi-Ming Ma	China
Prof. Dr. Andreas Schuppert	Germany
Prof. Dusa McDuff	USA
Prof. Ruth Williams	USA
Prof. Bob MacPherson	USA

.. these include 3 statisticians (Peter Hall, who is deputy chair of the panel, Anthony Davison, and Steve Fienberg), and experts in probability/functional analysis (Ma), applied probability (Williams), discrete OR (Ryan) and optimisation (Wright); I think this is a pretty satisfactory constitution so far as statistics and cognate subjects are concerned.

The written evidence to be presented to the panel will include responses to a questionnaire that will be sent to all university departments and learned societies, and will be widely available to others. There will also be tabulations of grants and other information about research funding. At the request of the panel chair, and in spite of some resistance from EPSRC, there will be 'landscape documents' to be drawn up by representatives of the research community - I hope that this will be organised by CMS and I will suggest that the RSS and COPS be asked to prepare a landscape document on statistics. Details of what these documents should cover are under discussion in the steering committee.

The panel will conduct the review in the week 4 to 11 December 2010. During this time they will spend 3 days (6/7/8 December) travelling the country, visiting 9 regional centres (Edinburgh, Durham, Manchester, Warwick, Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol, UCL and Imperial) where they will meet representatives of local university departments. The 35 universities that will be invited to these events have already been contacted, and have been invited by EPSRC to a briefing meeting on 11 June.

I am sorry that I cannot attend the COPS meeting to report on all this personally, or to take questions. Please address any concerns or questions to me at P.J.Green AT bristol.ac.uk.

Peter Green