



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH RESEARCH

**D**oes economic growth lead to wellbeing? Emerging evidence suggests that in the case of developed countries such as the UK, the links between wealth, health and happiness are complex.

The Institute for Health and Human Development has been established at UEL to unpick the complex connections between physical, mental, social and economic health, as well as to investigate questions of inequality of health, wellbeing, work, leisure and consumption, and the development of sustainable and healthy communities.

The Institute is directed by Professor Adrian Renton - who joined UEL from Imperial College London in 2005 - and uses multidisciplinary research to guide and inform policy locally, nationally and internationally. We work with a range of partners including the London Health Commission, the Wellcome Institute, Strategic Health Authorities and universities worldwide, and are a key partner in the Well London partnership, which in 2007 won a £9.4m grant from the Big Lottery Fund to deliver integrated health improvement programmes in London's most deprived neighbourhoods.



**A**t the University of East London, we are committed to seeking solutions to problems of real world significance, and much of our research and scholarly activity is focused in applied areas relevant to our region, such as health, social care and sustainable development. At the same time, we constantly strive to link local and global perspectives and our researchers and research groups have attracted international recognition and made significant contributions to policy, planning and industry both at home and abroad.

We have recently established a number of interdisciplinary Research Institutes to focus on specific areas of relevant applied research



▲ Professor Adrian Renton, Director of the Institute of Health and Human Development

and bring high-profile researchers to UEL. Our London East Research Institute (LERI) focuses on issues of urban regeneration in Thames Gateway and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2007, LERI published a number of high-profile research and consultancy papers on various aspects of regeneration.

Our Sustainability Research Institute researches and develops innovative environmental technologies in energy, construction, waste reduction and recycling and biodiversity enhancement. Our SMARTlab Digital Media Research Institute aims to bridge the digital divide and develop new

technologies. Other key centres include the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict, the Centre for Social Work Research, in partnership with the Tavistock & Portman NHS Trust, and Continuum, the UK's leading research centre for widening participation policy studies. Within our academic schools, we have developed over 100 research centres and groups working on a vast range of programmes. Our researchers have attracted international recognition, and made significant contributions to policy, planning, and industry. This is reflected in the fact that the University of East London is rated in the top ten modern (post-1992) universities for research by the Education Guardian web site, and, with

preparations for the 2008 research assessment exercise well advanced, we are now looking forward to further enhancing our reputation for excellent research across a range of fields over the year ahead.

As well as conducting research and consultancy, we are working hard to create a culture in which all students and staff are engaged in the development and application of new knowledge. Our Graduate School was launched in 2007 to develop research and scholarly activity in all academic areas, win more funding from research councils and provide pastoral care and support to our growing numbers of postgraduate research students. ■