Institution: University of Bath

Unit of Assessment: 26: Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism

a. Overview

In RAE 2001, Sport, Health and Exercise Science (SHES) at Bath was just 15 months old and was described as having "outstanding potential" within a "research intensive Faculty and University Environment". Bath was accordingly awarded Research Capability Funding from HEFCE to further develop SHES via investment in new staff, equipment and laboratories. In RAE 2008, Bath was considered to have developed "a research environment of international standing" and had more than doubled the number of staff returned (11 compared to 5 in 2001). At the time of RAE 2008, SHES was still relatively young with all-but-one Category A staff in the first 5-10 years of their initial academic appointment and four early career researchers. Since RAE 2008, SHES has continued to grow, mature and diversify in strategically important areas. In REF 2014, we have again doubled the total number of staff (n=22), grant income has increased 10-fold to over £4 million and we have more than quadrupled the total number of papers produced by staff from Bath.

Research Structure

In 2003, we changed our research focus and structure from a traditional, discipline-based approach comprising physiology and biomechanics (as described in RAE 2001) to an interdisciplinary, thematic approach as set out in our strategy for Research Capability Funding (monitored by HEFCE from 2003 and described in RAE 2008). We have maintained this approach and there are two main research groups:-

- **Active lifespan**
- **Integrative human performance**

The purpose of **Active Lifespan** research is to understand the role of physical activity in relation to health and wellbeing at all stages of life. This research is driven by the lifelong health and wellbeing agenda coupled to related policy and practice needs. The purpose of **Integrative Human Performance** research is to understand the factors limiting human function and performance. This research is driven primarily by the needs of the elite performer and/or the needs of organisations where physical function is critical to effective and successful operation.

Shortly-before the census date for RAE2008 we took the opportunity to diversify and broaden research within SHES through new academic appointments enabled in part by (i) a growing undergraduate programme in Sport and Social Sciences and (ii) the integration of academic programmes in Sport and Exercise Medicine and Sports Physiotherapy (MSc). Thus, the growth in the number of staff in the current submission represents both the consolidation of existing areas of research and the addition of new areas (diversification). Research spans both fundamental and applied perspectives and encompasses the natural, social and behavioural sciences.

b. Research strategy

The University's broad strategic vision is "To provide an environment that promotes scientific excellence at all levels and maximises the application and impact of our research." Within this context, the aim for SHES research is **"To maintain a research programme of international excellence which meets the needs of society by advancing knowledge of how physical activity, exercise and sport are related to human health, wellbeing and performance".**

The Active Lifespan and Integrative Human Performance groups have focussed on the following strategically-important interdisciplinary themes:-

Active Lifespan: *Psycho-Social Determinants of Behaviour and Behaviour Change*
This research aims to (i) understand the factors that underpin physical activity behaviour and (ii) intervene to change behaviour for improved health and wellbeing. This research has attracted funding from MRC, ESRC, NIHR, and The Leverhulme Trust – including the on-going International Study of Childhood Obesity, Lifestyle and the Environment (ISCOLE). This multi-national $6.5 million project in children from 12 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, North America and the Pacific is the largest trial on childhood obesity in the world to date. Research in this theme is conducted by **Cumming**, **Gillison**, **Standage** and **Stathi** (all in post prior to 2008).

Active Lifespan: *Wellbeing, the body & society*
Research in wellbeing, the body and society aims to understand the relationships between physical activity and the broader social, political, economic, and technological contexts in which they are situated. This research centres on pedagogical, sociological, and physical cultural studies approaches and has been established at the University of Bath since 2007 and has already attracted grants from the British Academy and Women Win (Netherlands). Research in this theme is conducted by **Silk** (appointed in 2007), **Rich** (appointed 2010) and early career appointments **De Pian**, **Manley** and **Millington** (appointed 2011-2013).

Active Lifespan: *Chronic Disease, Obesity and Ageing*
Research in chronic disease and obesity seeks to understand the mechanisms by which physical activity protects against chronic disease and the role of novel interventions in reducing risk. Research in this area has been supported by funding from BHF, BBSRC, NIHR (Research for Patient Benefit), and MRC (National Prevention Research Initiative). Research in this theme is conducted by **Betts**, **Holman, Stokes**, and **Thompson** (all in post prior to 2008), **Vollaard Earnest** and **Turner** (appointed 2011-2013).

Integrative Human Performance: *Sports Performance*
Research in Sports Performance aims to understand the limits of sports performance and improve athletic performance. These investigations have been supported by funding from sports governing bodies such as UK Sport and UK Athletics. Research in this theme is conducted by **Betts, Salo, Stokes,** and **Trewartha** (all in post prior to 2008), **Arnold** and **Preatoni** (appointed in 2012).

Integrative Human Performance: *Injuries, Illnesses and Disability*
Research into injuries and illnesses aims to maintain, enhance or re-establish human function in sports performers and personnel employed in arduous occupations. This theme has attracted research grants from the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Rugby Football Union (RFU), RFU Injured Players Foundation, Arthritis Research UK and the Fire Service Research & Training Trust. The International Rugby Board (IRB) also funded a £500k Bath-based project designed to develop and evaluate a modified scrum engagement sequence and this research led the IRB to announce a trial of new laws in all 117 rugby-playing countries around the world. Research in this theme is conducted by **McGuigan, Stokes** and **Trewartha** (all in post prior to 2008), **Bilzon** (appointed in 2008) and **Preatoni** (appointed in 2012).

Evidence of achievement of strategic aims since 2008

A key part of our strategy outlined in RAE 2008 was to “sustain the current rate of progress” in terms of growth and development of SHES at the University of Bath. Since 2008 we have:-

- doubled the number of Category A staff at Bath (n=22 in REF 2014).
- recognised the achievements of existing staff via internal promotions – eight staff have been promoted to Senior Lecturer or Reader.
- increased external funding for research 10-fold with a portfolio that now spans most of the research councils, several research charities and industry – including funding from various international agencies and organisations.
- developed active and demonstrable research collaborations with academics from over 30 countries around the world – with a particular emphasis on creating interdisciplinary teams.
- helped to shape the international research agenda via editorial roles for international journals, directorships and membership of scientific boards for learned societies and organisations, appointments at overseas Universities, plus invitations from international conferences.
- conducted research which has impacted upon the work of international, national and local agencies, companies and organisations – with impacts ranging from government cost-savings of millions of pounds per year through to assisting athletes to win medals in global competitions.
- established (i) an MRes in Health and Wellbeing in conjunction with the Universities of Bristol and Exeter (accredited by the ESRC as part of the South West Doctoral Training Centre) and (ii) an MSci (undergraduate masters) in Sport and Exercise Science in order to improve preparation and training for a career in research.
- diversified our research so that we are capable of enhanced interdisciplinary research that is committed towards progressive social change and individual (bodily) and societal wellbeing.

Future Strategy

Our strategy over the next five years is:

- To substantially grow sustainable areas of research and to sustain all present research activity so that we substantially increase the number of academic staff within SHES.
- To maintain our thematic approach to research focused on coherent research-intensive groups (and collaborations) so that we have the critical mass and inter-disciplinary skills, knowledge and methods to coherently tackle complex questions that are of national and global significance.
- To ensure that we have a balanced portfolio of research which spans fundamental mechanistic research (that pushes the boundaries of knowledge) through to highly-applied translational research that directly benefits key users and/or stakeholders (impact).

Priority Developmental Areas

We will prioritise the development of the following areas of research:

- We will continue to expand our fundamental research into the role of physical activity in the prevention and management of chronic diseases (with specific emphasis on growth and support for diabetes & ageing research).
- We will further expand our ability to translate existing strengths in basic human biological sciences research into novel interdisciplinary behavioural and societal intervention programmes designed to enhance physical activity, public health & wellbeing.
- We will nurture and support our growing portfolio of research in specific clinical populations (e.g., physically disabled, people with diabetes); including intervention studies in these populations. This will be supported through investment in new bespoke research facilities including a planned £15 million clinical research facility and associated infrastructure.
- We will further develop our research focus on injury prevention and rehabilitation in elite sport and occupational settings. This will be enabled by (i) our existing partnerships (e.g. Rugby Football Union), (ii) local opportunities associated with the £30 million Sports Training Village based on campus, and (iii) our involvement in the Arthritis Research UK Centre for Sport, Exercise and Osteoarthritis.
- We will support the recent investment in academic staff in the '*Wellbeing, the body & society'* theme (which includes three early career researchers) to ensure that this research thrives, is sustainable, and further expands inter-disciplinary research within SHES.
- We will work with our new Pro-Vice Chancellor for internationalisation to further extend our international collaborations and networks to achieve global impact through research and knowledge exchange with key partners (e.g., University of Sao Paulo, Brazil).

c. People:

As a research-intensive institution, the University of Bath places a great deal of emphasis on recruiting, retaining and nurturing excellent researchers.

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Recruiting and rewarding excellent researchers

In RAE 2008, all-but-one of the staff returned were within the first 5-10 years of their initial academic appointment and four were early career researchers. The staffing strategy since RAE 2008 has been to create an environment to enable existing staff to grow and develop their research, and to make new appointments from all over the world in strategically important areas. All staff returned in RAE 2008 have been retained with the exception of Riddoch who retired in 2011. Since 2008, 11 new academics have been appointed: Bilzon – MOD (2008), Rich – Loughborough (2010), Vollaard – Herriot-Watt (2011), Earnest – Pennington (2012), De Pian – Loughborough (2012), Manley – Durham (2012), Arnold – Loughborough (2012), Preatoni – Bath (2012), Millington - Toronto (2013), Turner – Birmingham (2013). Two appointments were at Senior Lecturer level (Bilzon, Rich) and one at Professorial level (Earnest). Eight appointments were at Lecturer level; including six early-career appointments. Five staff have been promoted to Senior Lecturer since 2008 (Betts, Cumming, Gillison, Stokes, Trewartha) and three to Reader (Silk, Standage, Thompson). Thus, there is a range of staff at various levels. Performance in research is

a central component of annual performance reviews and 27 academic and research staff have received performance-related financial awards since 2008 based in part on success in research. All Category A staff are on permanent contracts. New appointments represent strategically important areas of research that enable the strengthening and/or diversification of our research portfolio.

Several honorary appointments contribute to the wider research culture in SHES including; Christian Cook (UK Sport), Mike England (Community Rugby Medical Director and co-investigator on an IRB-funded project), David Andrews (Visiting Professor, University of Maryland), Paul Bennett (a local research-active GP and partner in several grants). Professor Simone Fullegar (Griffith University, Australia) is currently a visiting professor and will take up a full-time appointment at Bath in early 2014.

Providing protected time to develop and undertake research
As a research-intensive University, teaching contact time for all academic staff is moderate. Innovative teaching technologies (e.g. virtual learning environments) minimise the teaching-related administrative load. Colleagues have access to a range of support staff, including a postgraduate administrative team, technical staff, dedicated IT staff and website / public relations support. New early-career colleagues are included in a university-wide probationary system that provides monitoring and guidance for early career researchers and mentoring from senior academics in external departments. Early career and probationary staff are automatically enrolled on the Bath Course in Enhancing Academic practice delivered by Academic Staff Development; and research-related staff development workshops and training are available to all staff (e.g., supervision of research students). Early career and probationary staff are given lower teaching loads (~ 60 hours of contact time per year) and minimal administrative duties. Mentoring of early career researchers is an important element of research support within the University during the three years after appointment. A workload model is used to monitor and adjust workloads on an annual basis in line with research commitments and successes.

Providing resources to enable staff at all levels to develop their research
Resources are made available to all staff to allow them to attend conferences, laboratory and exchange visits and to foster research collaborations (all academic staff have received direct financial support to support these activities since 2008). In some cases, staff have received additional support to transfer experimental techniques to Bath (such as adipose biopsy, skeletal muscle biopsy and 3D ultrasound techniques from the University of Oxford, the University of Maastricht and Griffith University (Australia), respectively). In other cases, staff have been supported to work with third sector organisations such as the charity Changing Faces. The University has a funded sabbatical scheme which involves relief from all teaching and administrative duties for 6-12 months plus funding to the Department for replacement teaching costs. This is available to all academic staff 3 years after probation. In the current cycle, Dr Thompson received a 12-month sabbatical spent at the University of Oxford and Toulouse (France) in 2009-10; Dr Standage spent six months at the University of Rochester (US) in 2010; Dr Stokes received a 12-month sabbatical spent at McMaster University (Canada) and the University of Liverpool in 2011-12 and Dr Trewartha spent six months at Griffith University (Australia) in 2013.

The Researcher Development Unit (RDU) provides training opportunities for research staff and doctoral students; and works closely with the Careers Advisory Service (which provides a dedicated careers advisor for researchers). The RDU supports early career researchers and academic staff by providing development opportunities that enable them to get the most out of their research activities. The University established a Research Staff Working Group in order to implement the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. This Working Group reports directly to the University Research Committee and, in recognition of achievements in this area, the University was awarded HR excellence in research award from the European Commission (one of 15 Universities to have gained this award). The University has supported staff requests to return to work on a reduced contract with a reduced administrative load to enable research following a period of maternity leave. The University received the Athena SWAN bronze award in 2009 (recognising good employment practices for women).

Monitoring research quality and integrity
Standards of research quality and integrity are maintained via compulsory internal peer-review of

grants via a University-wide Peer Review College. In addition, prior to embarking on any discrete research or applying for funding, the Principal Investigator must complete a compulsory description of the ethical implications of the research and, where relevant, secure agreement from the University to take on the role of research sponsor (under the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care). The Department for Health has its own ethics committee which reports directly to the University ethics committee. Research is monitored by the Departmental Director of Research who, in addition to chairing Departmental Research Committee meetings, also organises an annual research away day. This research away day allows all academic and research staff to engage in evaluating and refining research strategy as well as share good practice.

ii. Research students

Students in SHES are part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate School and the ESRC South-West Doctoral Training Centre (SWDTC). This overarching infrastructure provides the foundation for a vibrant research community in which research students are provided with research training at masters and doctoral level. Workshops and academic courses provided by leading academics across the SWDTC form the basis for generic research skills training as well as specific training in a variety of methodology and analytical approaches. These sessions are supplemented by annual research presentations as well as informal presentations to research groups. The Graduate School manages recruitment, admissions, subject-specific and generic skills training, research seminars and social activities in conjunction with Departmental Directors of Studies (research). Furthermore, research students are offered over 100 free University-wide training courses via 'PGSkills' (provided by the Researcher Development Unit). Since 2008, research students in SHES have accumulated attendance at more than 600 training events provided by PGSkills and satisfaction ratings for PGSkills training is consistently above 90%. Student progress and research training is assessed annually by written report and by oral and written examination at confirmation of PhD status. All research students are provided with a high-quality physical working environment, including a personal computer with full access to the university network and library resources. The University has provided exclusive space for research students to work and socialise (The Graduate Centre) and the English Language Centre offers free English language training to international students. The Postgraduate Association (part of the Student's Union) organises an annual conference as well as a range of social programmes and other opportunities for research students. The University supports research student attendance at national and international academic conferences and other training opportunities via a Faculty fund (which has supported 100% of requests from research students within SHES to date).

Students registered on MPhil/PhD/EdD/DHealth research degrees within SHES have grown within the current cycle (Table 1). These are distributed across Active Lifespan and Integrative Human Performance groups and the majority are externally and/or self-funded, including funding from agencies such as BBSRC, ESRC, MOD, Lawn Tennis Association, RFU, English Institute of Sport, UK Sport, Ministry of Education (Taiwan) and Ministry of Education (Saudi Arabia). All students are supervised by at least two academic staff.

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Sum of FTE	24	28	31	39	58

Table 1: PGR students registered on doctoral programmes within SHES (FTE)

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Income

Research income in the entire cycle for RAE 2008 was £400k and this has risen more than 10-fold in the current cycle (>£4 million since 2008; ~£200k per FTE). Sources of funding include: Research Councils (BBSRC, ESRC, MRC), National Institute for Health Research (RfPB), research charities (British Heart Foundation, The Leverhulme Trust), UK Government (Ministry of Defence, UK Sport), sport governing bodies (UK Athletics, Rugby Football Union), Industry (GSK, Unilever, Coca Cola, Optimal Performance Ltd, AstraZeneca), local healthcare providers (BANES NHS Trust) and global agencies (International Rugby Board, NIH (US)). The majority of external funding (~60%) has come via a competitive process involving external peer review.

All research-active staff are expected to secure funding as required to be able to carry out their research. The University's Research Development and Support Office (RDSO) provides integrated support and guidance for all staff (research, innovation and knowledge exchange). The RDSO operates both pre- and post-award services, including advice on grant preparation and submission procedures, project costing and financial management. The RDSO also provides specific research development training such as workshops on funding proposals. Staff can also request financial support from the University (via RDSO) at the time of making a grant application (e.g., to allocate a University PhD studentship and/or purchase specialist equipment). The Department for Health at the University of Bath hosts the local office of NIHR Research Design Services (RDS) who provide assistance with the preparation of grant applications. The Department for Health also hosts Bath Research and Development (a partnership between the University and BANES, Swindon & Wiltshire PCTs) and this partnership has already helped to secure funding for a Research Nurse to support SHES research (2013). In addition, with help from the University Alumni Office, we recently secured over £500k to support the appointment of two research fellows and purchase of specific equipment to support our emerging DisAbility, Sport and Health initiative (DASH).

Infrastructure and Facilities

The University of Bath is a thriving, research-intensive institution, with a well-established research infrastructure. Library, computing and online services provide comprehensive coverage of academic publications and electronic resources. The library allocates a representative to SHES. The University maintains a repository for publications from academic staff (OPUS), which also offers 'green' open access to ensure the widest possible audience. Bath University Computing Services offer support to staff and research students, including training in specific computing packages and software as well as providing a repository for archiving data. All research staff and research students are provided with their own personal office space; including a dedicated PC.

In addition to generic infrastructure for research, the University provides various dedicated research laboratories:-

Applied Biomechanics Suite

This facility is equipped to study human motion and muscle dynamics. Equipment includes automatic motion capture systems (CODA and Qualisys), force plates, an isokinetic dynamometer, high speed video cameras, multiple digital video cameras, timing systems, laser distance measurement system, telemetry and hard wire EMGs, a Telemed ultrasound, MEMs inertial motion tracking technology (Xsens) and a dedicated Linux server for computational analysis. Much of this equipment is mobile and can be used for field-based research. This facility includes a video analysis laboratory, with four Vicon Motus motion analysis systems.

Psychology suite

A dedicated research facility equipped with digital cameras for behavioural analysis, a data entry scanner, advanced statistical software, physical activity monitoring devices, and a separate room devoted to qualitative data collection (interviews and focus groups).

Applied physiology laboratories

There are three exercise physiology laboratories that are dedicated to research. Equipment includes a variety of ergometers, treadmills and a variety of related analytical equipment for monitoring physiological responses to submaximal exercise (including bespoke equipment for specific populations such as a wheelchair-ready treadmill). These laboratories also include power testing equipment (e.g., Keiser) and field-based testing equipment (e.g., Actiheart Physical Activity Monitors, COSMED portable expired air analysis, Continuous Glucose Monitors).

Metabolic research laboratories and metabolic kitchen

These two laboratories are equipped with hospital beds and associated equipment for the assessment of metabolism and blood flow under resting and postprandial conditions (including adipose and muscle sampling).

Biochemistry laboratory

This is a 'wet' laboratory, equipped for blood and tissue handling, biochemical analysis and cell culture. The techniques used in this laboratory range from automated spectrophotometers to quantitative real-time RT-PCR for gene expression and genotyping.

The University continues to invest in SHES laboratories and research and has invested over £6.5

million into SHES since 2008. This investment ensures that all staff in SHES are now in a single location (except staff who use the standalone Applied Biomechanics Suite which was opened by Lord Coe in 2007). This investment includes strategically important items of equipment designed to enhance research capability in the current cycle, including: an isokinetic dynamometer, Qualisys motio analysis system, high speed cameras, Randox Daytona automated spectrophotometer, Keiser resistance exercise equipment, Lode cycle and arm ergometers, a Parvomedics metabolic cart and HP Cosmos Saturn treadmill. SHES has a capital replacement plan for all major items of equipment. The University provides two technicians to support research. Further research space is available within the Sports Training Village (which has received over £30m of investment since 2004), and this is particularly relevant to research in Integrative Human Performance.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

A global network of academic collaborators to support excellent research
Academic staff from SHES have established collaborations and a global network of academic partners as demonstrated by co-authored published papers and/or joint grants in the current cycle. Our thematic approach fosters interdisciplinary research, and many of the collaborations have been established in order to combine unique expertise for the benefit of a specific project:

- **International:** Staff collaborate with academics from over 30 countries around the world and every major continent, including 10 separate locations within the USA (Texas, Washington, South Carolina, Harvard, Pennington Biomedical, Maryland, Michigan, Rochester, and Massachusetts), six from Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Montreal, McMaster, Ottawa and Saskatchewan), eight from Australasia (Adelaide, Auckland, Deakin, Queensland, Monash, Otago, Sydney and Wollongong,) and 16 from Europe (Aarhus, Coimbra, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Ghent, Karolinska, Las Islas Baleares, Limerick, Madrid, Milan, Maastricht, Padova, Porto, Rome, Toulouse, Trondheim).
- **National** & **Local**: Staff collaborate with colleagues from over 20 institutions throughout the UK and with colleagues across the University in 9 different academic departments across all four faculties.

One notable interdisciplinary project is the International Study of Childhood Obesity, Lifestyle and the Environment (ISCOLE). This multi-national $6.5 million research project started in 2011 and is designed to determine physical activity in children in 12 countries across the five major worldwide regions. This project involves over 60 research personnel (e.g., epidemiologists, psychologists, nutritionists, paediatricians) from all over the world and Bath is the sole UK partner. Another significant interdisciplinary project which started in 2012 is Mi-PACT and involves staff from physiology, psychology, social marketing, public health, and medicine. This £600k project is being led by Bath and is funded by the National Prevention Research Initiative.

Industry, third party and other user involvement in research
SHES staff have established collaborations with various industrial partners, the third sector and other users of research (see Impact Statement: REF3a). These partnerships have enriched the environment via (i) the provision of direct support (i.e., funding for staff, research students and consumables), (ii) the commitment of non-University staff to join research teams/groups to shape the research agenda, (iii) the hosting of University staff and research students within their organisations for extended periods (up to 6 months) and (iv) the co-ordination of jointly sponsored workshops and other events. These partnerships are reciprocal and staff have taken various positions within external organisations ranging from advisory roles to paid consultancies. These include the International Olympic Committee, International Rugby Board, LOCOG, Department of Health, Ministry of Defence, Department for Culture Media and Sport, All-Party Groups within Parliament (UK), Overseas Government Committees (e.g., Finland), multinational industry (e.g., Unilever), UK Sport, Rugby Football Union, and local healthcare providers (e.g., NHS Trusts).

Wider and collaborative PGR training
In addition to direct supervision of research students, members of SHES play an active role in wider research student training and development. Together with the Universities of Bristol and Exeter, staff from SHES contribute to ESRC-accredited South West Doctoral Training Centre (SWDTC). Furthermore, SHES staff have served as external examiners for over 50 research students at many Universities across the UK since 2008 and internationally at Canterbury (New

Zealand), Cape Town (South Africa), Leuven (Belgium), Limerick (Ireland), Maryland (USA), New South Wales, Queensland (Australia), Valencia (Spain) and Putra (Malaysia).

Academic roles and engagement – Since 2008 staff from SHES have:

- Held over 40 different editorial roles for academic journals, including: *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology, International Journal of Sport Science and Coaching, Sports Biomechanics, Journal of Sport and Social Issues, Journal of Sport and Tourism, Sociology of Sport, Qualitative Methods in Sport Studies, Leisure Studies, Motivation and Emotion, Stress and Health, Psychology for Sport and Exercise, Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology, Journal of Sport Sciences, Cities Culture & Society, Sociology*
- Served as peer-reviewers for well over 150 different academic journals, as well as the UK research councils (BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC), NHS (National Institute for Health Research, HTA Programme), national research charities (e.g., Diabetes UK, Leverhulme Trust), and international agencies (e.g., Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; National Institutes of Health, US; Swiss National Science Foundation).
- Delivered over 60 invited talks and keynotes at conferences and universities around the world. Examples include: Congress of the European College of Sport Science (Portugal), Asian Research Institute Conference on Sports Mega-Events in Asia (Singapore), FIMS International Congress of Sport and Exercise Medicine (Malaysia), European Congress of Sport and Exercise Medicine (Madeira), National Conference in Sport Psychology (Greece), IRB Medical Conference (Ireland), and International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (Italy).
- Participated in more than 100 different academic conferences across the globe – often with several staff attending the same event.
- Joined the Board of Directors, Scientific Board or Conference organising committee for various associations and bodies, including; the International Society of Biomechanics in Sport, International Olympic Committee, Biomechanics Committee of the Society of Experimental Biology, Political Studies Association, and North American Society for the Sociology of Sport. In addition, staff have supported and engaged with colleagues around the world via more than 50 active memberships of numerous professional organisations.
- Received over 20 awards and/or prizes for their research at various academic conferences including examples from the Active Lifespan group (e.g., British Society of Gerontology Stirling Prize) and Integrative Human Performance group (Hans Gros New Investigator Award, International Society of Biomechanics in Sports).
- Been made fellows of the Royal Society of Medicine, American College of Sports Medicine, British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences, International Society of Biomechanics in Sports and the Society of Sport and Exercise Medicine (Malaysia).
- Hosted international visitors during their extended sabbaticals, including: Professor Rich Ryan on a 6-month visiting Professorship funded by the Leverhulme Trust (Rochester, US), Dr Bridget Munro on a 3-month sabbatical (Wollongong, Australia) and Dr Rahuman Booso on a 12-month period of study leave (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka). Professor Ryan delivered a series of 'Leverhulme Lectures' around the UK as part of his visit.
- Produced over 400 original papers, 9 books, 25 book chapters and invited reviews (monographs) in prestigious journals such as *Physiological Reviews*, *International Review of Sport and Exercise Psychology*, *Sports Biomechanics*, *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, *Sociology of Sport Journal,* and *American Behavioural Scientist*.
- Following on from the British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES) annual conference a few months before the start of the current cycle (September 2007), in 2010, Bath organised the 6th European Youth Heart Study Symposium, the annual BASES Biomechanics Interest Group and the Transnational Working Group of the Study of Gender and Sport Conference. In 2012, Bath organised the 39th Adipose Tissue Discussion Group and in 2013 the Sport special interest group conference of the Political Studies Association. Collectively, ~1000 researchers from over 25 countries have visited Bath for a conference in the past 6 years.
- Hosted academics from all over the world as part of our research seminar series – including academics from every continent and experts across the breadth of SHES research. In addition, Bath has also co-ordinated seminars from various third parties such as UK Athletics, British Olympic Foundation, Youth Sport Trust, Gatorade Sport Science Institute and many more.