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Launch of the Peter Sowerby Chair in Philosophy and Medicine at King's College London

This evening, the Principal of King's College London, Professor Sir Richard Trainor, hosted a reception to celebrate the creation of the Peter Sowerby Chair in Philosophy and Medicine at King's College London.

The new Chair will develop groundbreaking work on the relationship between philosophy and medicine. The Chair's responsibilities will include implementing a programme of teaching and research that seeks to understand the wider cultural and philosophical questions relating to health and medical practice, as well as establishing an events programme to engage with the public and healthcare professionals to promote a better understanding of the patient-physician relationship.

The post will be funded by a major grant over ten years from the Peter Sowerby Foundation, a new grant-making body established by the settlor to further his interests, principally in health-related issues. The aim of this project is to foster a generation of undergraduates who share Dr Sowerby's interest in the crossover between the fields of philosophy and medicine.

David Aspinall, Chair of Trustees at the Peter Sowerby Foundation said, *"This project represents a landmark for the Foundation. For one of our first major awards, we have partnered with one of the country's leading academic institutions to invest significant resources in developing work on the relationship between philosophy and medicine, the results of which can have far-reaching positive implications across the profession."*

Professor Sir Richard Trainor, Principal of King's College, London said, *"We ~~we~~are delighted that the Peter Sowerby Foundation ~~was~~is prepared to invest in King's College ~~London~~ for the long term in this important area of study. The work of the new Chair of Philosophy and Medicine builds ~~on~~ work that we have already started and we look forward ~~to~~ a fruitful relationship with the Foundation over the life of the project."*

ENDS

Notes to editors

The Peter Sowerby Foundation was established in 2011 with multi-million pound endowment by GP and medical entrepreneur Dr Peter Sowerby, and makes grants to charities working within the areas of medical research and healthcare provision, education, community and environment.

[Peter Sowerby Foundation](#)

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King's College London is one of the top ~~320~~ universities in the world (~~2011/2012~~2013 QS World University rankings), the Sunday Times 'University of the Year 2010/11', and the fourth oldest university in England. The Department of Philosophy is one of the largest and most distinguished in the country and university league tables consistently place it within the top 3 philosophy departments in the UK.

In 2009, King's College London launched the Philosophy of Medicine project, following a grant from the Wellcome Trust, under the leadership of Professor MM McCabe, Professor David Papineau and Dr David Galloway. The activities have included an Intercolated BSc in Philosophy and Basic Medical Sciences, an MSc in the Philosophy of Mental Disorder, and an MA in Philosophy and Medicine.