

ALUMNI • NEWS



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Violence against women
Drones and zoonotic malaria
A malaria-free world?

Women in Science
On the Ebola frontline

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



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Edited & compiled by Alice Perry.

Cover Image: Laboratory test of Ebola virus. Image via Shutterstock.



Message from the Director

Welcome to the 2015 edition of Alumni News – and what a year it has been!

First, I'd like to thank you for your generous support of our successful Alumni fundraising campaign. The annual Alumni Fund has been growing momentum since it started. This year we exceeded last year's total, raising over £130,000. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our alumni and the commitment of our student callers, who have been inspired by speaking with alumni and hearing about how they have gone on to use the skills and knowledge they learned here in their careers. The funds raised will change people's lives, giving support to future students and supporting initiatives that will improve health worldwide.

One of the most shocking stories of the past year has been the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. The delayed reaction to the outbreak by the national governments and the international community cost many lives. I am not alone in calling for lessons to be learnt from this and for the international community to be better prepared to react quickly to future epidemics; in fact I have been chairing an independent Harvard-London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine review panel looking at these.



WELCOME

I am proud of the remarkable response from our community - staff, students and alumni, who volunteered to support Save the Children Fund, Médecins Sans Frontières, and the World Health Organization, among others, in their front-line response to this deadly outbreak. The UK government has rightly initiated an award for individuals who selflessly gave their time and their expertise travelling from the UK to work in difficult conditions in West Africa, and I felt honoured to be selected by TIME magazine Person of the Year 2014 as one of twenty Ebola fighters selected to represent the larger community of volunteers. At the time of writing, the epidemic appears to be under control; however, we can be certain that Ebola outbreaks will occur in future. To prepare for these, School staff are working on projects modelling the spread of the disease, contact tracing, social and behaviour studies, and trials of candidate vaccines.

Working in partnership is central to the School's mission. This last year has seen strengthened links with the Wellcome Trust Africa Centre for

Health & Population Studies which is a joint initiative with University College London and the University of KwaZulu Natal. The School is excited to be a partner in the Centre for the Control of Chronic Conditions which was launched in March, bringing together expertise in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Public Health Foundation of India and Emory University. We have also been developing a partnership with Sichuan University in Chengdu China and Nagasaki University in Japan.

Closer to home, the UK government has completed its assessment of the research capability in higher education institutions, the Research Excellence Framework. The outcome was announced just before Christmas 2014, with the School ranked among the top ten UK universities. This, along with our high performance in international rankings, continued success in bidding for research funding, producing high impact publications, and most importantly improving on health around the world, helps us attract the best students, the future leaders in public and global health.

Ensuring that the School provides a strong learning and teaching environment is critical. As part of our continuing adaptation to new technologies and delivery models we launched the first of our MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). More than 18,000 participants, including many alumni, joined to study 'Ebola in Context'. We are running free online courses in Eye Care and Maternal Health, with more in the pipeline. We are also working hard to raise the quality of the student experience, from prospective students to alumni, to meet the needs of students and future employers.

It is always a great pleasure and source of inspiration to meet alumni of our School. I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming year.

Professor Peter Piot



Violence: a hidden crisis

Current efforts to prevent violence against women and girls are inadequate, according to a series of five papers published in *The Lancet* and co-led by researchers at the School. Estimates suggest that globally, one in three women has experienced either physical or sexual violence from their partner, and that 7% of women will experience sexual assault by someone other than their partner at some point in their lives.

Despite increased global attention to the issue of violence perpetrated against women and girls, and advances in knowledge about how to tackle these abuses, levels of violence against women – including intimate partner violence, rape, female genital mutilation, trafficking and forced marriages – remain unacceptably high. This has serious consequences for victims' physical and mental health, and conflict and other humanitarian crises may exacerbate ongoing violence.

In their review of the latest evidence, the authors show that not enough is being done to prevent violence against women and girls from occurring in the first place.

Although resources have grown to support women and girls in the aftermath of violence (eg, access to justice and emergency care), research suggests that action to tackle gender inequity and other root causes of violence is needed

to prevent all forms of abuse, and thereby reduce violence overall.

Violence is often seen as a social and criminal justice problem and not as a clinical or public health issue, but the health system has a crucial part to play both in treating the consequences of violence, and in preventing it. Ultimately, working with the perpetrators of violence, as well as with the women and girls who are affected by it, is needed to change deeply entrenched societal norms on gender relations, and the insidious belief that women are inferior.



School recognised for world-leading research

The School was ranked in the top 10 of all universities in the UK and second in the UK on the key measure of research impact, reflecting how our work has influenced policy and the wider world.

The School has the largest volume of world-leading research in the UK in Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care according to the UK government assessments, which are conducted every six years.

The Lancet series urges policy makers, health practitioners and donors worldwide to take the following actions:

1. Governments must allocate necessary resources to address violence against women as a priority, recognising it as a barrier to health and development.
2. They must change discriminatory structures (laws, policies, institutions) that perpetuate inequality between women and men and foster violence.
3. They must invest in promoting equality, non-violent behaviours and non-stigmatising support for survivors.
4. They must strengthen the role of health, security, education, justice and other relevant sectors by creating and implementing policies for prevention and response across these sectors, and integrating violence prevention and response into training efforts.
5. They must support research and programming in order to understand which interventions are effective and how to turn evidence into action.



Drones help scientists understand emerging zoonotic malaria



Unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, can collect detailed information in real time at relatively low cost for ecological research, according to School researchers.

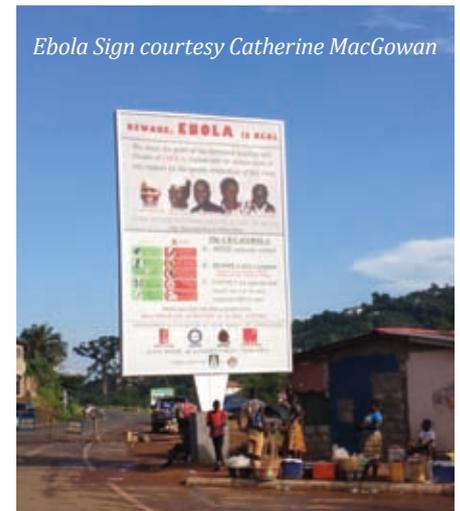
Kimberly Fornace, Research Fellow at the School and a member of the Monkeybar project team which is using drones to study emerging zoonotic malaria in South East Asia, said: “Drones can provide highly accurate information on changes to land, such as deforestation or changing types of agriculture. This

helps to understand the impact on the movement and distribution of people, animals, and insects that carry disease.”

The researchers are using drones to map changes in human, mosquito and monkey habitats and correlate how those changes affect human infection. Drone data are used alongside hospital cases, data on mosquito abundance and monkey and human movement to understand disease risks.



Kailahun, Sierra Leone courtesy Cyprien Fabre ECHO



Ebola Sign courtesy Catherine MacGowan

First interim results from Guinea Ebola vaccine trial suggest high protection



Ebola in Guinea courtesy ECHO

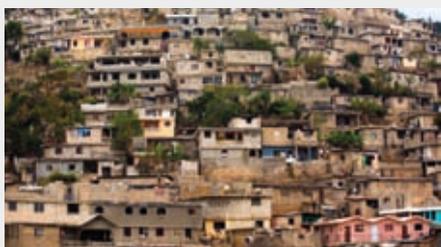
Tests of the experimental Ebola vaccine VSV-ZEBOV in over 7,500 participants in Guinea suggest that the vaccine provides high protection against the disease as early as ten days after vaccination, in adults who have potentially been exposed to the virus by coming in close contact with a recently infected person.

The research, published in *The Lancet*, suggests that the vaccine is safe, and also provides the first evidence that unvaccinated people may be indirectly protected from Ebola virus disease when the VSV-ZEBOV vaccine is delivered using a ring vaccination strategy.

Ring vaccination, which was used in the past to eradicate smallpox, is intended to create a buffer of protection to prevent the spread of the disease, by vaccinating and monitoring the contacts, and contacts of contacts (the “ring”), of each newly diagnosed Ebola case.

The trial is led by the World Health Organization with the Ministry of Health of Guinea, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and other partners.

Eliminating malaria on Hispaniola



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is leading a consortium of malaria partners, including the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, which aims to eliminate indigenous cases of malaria on the island of Hispaniola by 2020. Acceleration of malaria elimination efforts will begin with a \$30 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Hispaniola, which is made up of the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, is the only remaining island in the Caribbean where malaria is endemic. In 2013 there were more than 20,000 confirmed cases in Haiti, where the majority of Hispaniola's malaria cases occur.



HRH Countess of Wessex testing Peek on her husband Prince Edward during their visit to the School



HRH Countess of Wessex sees eye health projects in action

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex marked her 50th birthday by visiting eye health projects at the School.

Accompanied by her husband, His Royal Highness Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex, the Countess met staff and students working for The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust's avoidable blindness programme. The International Centre for Eye Health at the School is a lead partner of the Trust, advising on and implementing a number of its programmes to strengthen eye health care in Commonwealth countries.

The Earl and Countess also met the team behind Peek, the Portable Eye Examination Kit which turns a smartphone into a comprehensive eye exam tool that can be easily and affordably used in remote areas. After being shown how the kit worked, the Countess used it herself and looked inside her husband's eye, successfully capturing a clear image of his retina on the phone's screen.



TRAFFICKIN

First comprehensive study of
trafficked men, women and children

“Exploitation of human beings is age-old. Although it is disheartening to see that human trafficking exists in such proportions in the 21st century, it is encouraging that various forms of these violations are increasingly recognised for what they are: modern-day slavery.”

Cathy Zimmerman



Michael Hero / Shutterstock.com

“Our study shows there is no single profile of a trafficked person – we spoke to men, women and children of all different ages, from different countries, and with a range of experiences of exploitation.

“We believe the wide range of labour sectors in which abuse occurs points to the need for greater government regulation, stringent health and safety standards, and regular inspections of sectors that are susceptible to human trafficking.

Dr Cathy Zimmerman, study author and Senior Lecturer at the School

The largest survey to date of the health of survivors of trafficking has found high levels of abuse and serious harm associated with human trafficking. The findings reveal severe mental and physical health problems experienced by men, women and children trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia. The study, published in *The Lancet Global Health*, also highlights frequent physical and psychological abuse and extremely hazardous living and working conditions.

Recent estimates suggest that more than 18 million people worldwide are in forced labour as a result of trafficking, although the hidden nature of trafficking and the difficulties in defining it make estimates uncertain.

The new study was carried out by the School and the International Organization for Migration. The researchers carried out face-to-face interviews with individuals entering post-trafficking services in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. These participants had been trafficked to work in various sectors including sex work, fishing and factory work.

Researchers asked participants about their living and working conditions, experiences of violence, and health outcomes. They also measured symptoms of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Almost half of the participants had been physically and/or sexually abused and many suffered violence such as knife and dog attacks, burns, and choking. Almost two thirds reported symptoms of depression, and approximately two fifths reported symptoms of anxiety and/or post-traumatic stress disorder.

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One Step Closer to Eradicating Yaws

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine has demonstrated that the World Health Organization's proposed strategy to eradicate the neglected tropical disease Yaws could be effective. It showed that one round of mass treatment with a single-dose oral drug, azithromycin, greatly reduced the transmission and prevalence of Yaws on Lihir Island in Papua New Guinea.



Treating Yaws in Papua New Guinea

Yaws is a chronic neglected tropical disease which is related to syphilis but transmitted by nonsexual skin-to-skin contact. It mainly affects children in deprived regions and is caused by bacteria which affect the skin and bones, causing weeping ulcers and severe bone deformities. This highly contagious infection is prevalent in 12 countries in areas where people have poor sanitation and little access to healthcare services.



Professor David Mabey

Study author David Mabey, Professor of Communicable Diseases at the School, said:

"This is the most important study on Yaws for 50 years. It shows that if the resources were made available to provide and deliver azithromycin to all communities in which Yaws is endemic, the WHO target of eradicating this mutilating and disfiguring disease by 2020 could be achieved."

School alumnus wins British Council Education UK Alumni Award

Congratulations to School alumnus Dr Rajesh Babu Bhatchala, who has been awarded the Social Impact Award at the 2015 British Council's Education UK Alumni Awards.



The awards honour outstanding success in Entrepreneurship, Professional Achievement and Social Impact by alumni from China, India and the USA who have graduated from UK higher education institutions. Dr Bhatchala was presented with the Social Impact Award, which honours alumni who have made an exceptional contribution and commitment to creating positive social change and improving the lives of others.

After graduating from the School in 2009 with an MSc in Community Eye Health, Dr Bhatchala returned to India where he founded Drishti Vision for Life, a social impact enterprise that provides affordable eye care in under-served markets. He established a well-equipped district hospital in the rural Bangalore and Chickaballapur district and a new centre in Channapatna district opened in January 2015. Drishti Vision for Life plans to open centres across a further six districts in Karnataka.

Peter Piot wins prestigious Gairdner Award and Robert Koch Gold Medal

Professor Peter Piot



The School's Director Professor Peter Piot has received the prestigious Canada Gairdner Global Health Award. The award recognises scientific advancement that has made a significant impact on health in the developing world. Professor Piot was honoured for his work on the Ebola virus, his many contributions to HIV/AIDS research and his extraordinary leadership in the global response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially in Africa.

The Robert Koch Foundation has also awarded Professor Piot the Robert Koch Gold Medal for his work on the worldwide prevention of infectious diseases. Professor Piot receives the medal for his lifetime achievements, in particular for his co-discovery of the Ebola virus in 1976 and the establishment of preventative strategies to combat the spread of HIV in Africa.

The Foundation notes that Professor Piot's international activities led to achievements such as greater understanding about the heterosexual spread of HIV and facilitation of the investigation and implementation of preventive strategies against AIDS in African countries. He was engaged in negotiating substantial price reductions for antiretroviral drugs, which has resulted in the establishment of HIV prevention programmes in developing countries.



Professor Anne Mills

Leading health economist Anne Mills becomes a Dame

The School's Deputy Director & Provost, Professor Anne Mills, was made a Dame Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George in the Queen's 2015 New Year's Honours list in recognition of her services to international health.

During a 40-year career Professor Anne Mills has become a worldwide authority on health economics with a particular focus on creating efficient and equitable health systems in low and middle income countries.

She said:

"I feel truly honoured and delighted to receive this honour. As an economist and social scientist, it is particularly pleasing as people don't always think of the important role these disciplines can play in improving health. I am grateful to all the fantastic colleagues both here and overseas that I have worked with for many years, and look forward to continuing our efforts as there is still much to do to make progress to universal health coverage."

Dr Thomas Nchinda

Dr Thomas Nchinda, Diploma in Tropical Public Health 1973 and MD 1975, is a retired Professor of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon, who also worked extensively at the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva.

Dr Nchinda completed his MBBS at University College, Ibadan in 1963 before returning to Cameroon where he faced a resource-strapped medical setting. Working first as a Medical Officer at a regional hospital, he was soon promoted to the Director of Medical Services for the Federated State of West Cameroon.

Awarded a British Council Scholarship in 1972, Dr Nchinda chose to study the Diploma in Tropical Public Health at the London School of Hygiene &

Tropical Medicine before earning his MD by thesis in 1975. He recalls affectionately the friendships formed at the School.

“Four of us in the 1972-1973 Diploma in Tropical Public Health class became very good friends. We called ourselves for fun the ‘Gang of Four’ which included Dr Rolf Korte from Germany, Dr Gunnar Kvale from Norway, Dr Narayan from India, and myself. We read and worked together for one hour each day after classes.



Dr Thomas Nchinda outside his Douala home

Dr Thomas Nchinda in academic robes

We did our revision together for the 1973 examination. We all did doctoral work afterwards and later in life became successful in different ways.”

“My degrees at the School helped me a lot. With my Diploma and MD and strong Epidemiology training, I was recruited as Lecturer in the Medical School in Yaoundé, Cameroon in 1975 where I became Professor and Head of Department of Epidemiology and Community Health and was also responsible for all student research in the Medical School.”

“In 1983 I was recruited and worked in the Tropical Diseases Department of WHO where we helped build research institutions for tropical diseases research in developing countries, training researchers to carry out tropical diseases research in these institutions for their own national needs and in order for them to join the international effort at controlling diseases.”

“Some of the teachers at the School became my good friends. I found out later that it was the recommendations of the late Dean Gordon Smith and the late Patrick Hamilton that helped clinch my recruitment to WHO in Geneva. Much later I came to work in Geneva with Professor Anne Mills as one of our external consultants. The School always welcomed and helped train our grantees.”

Dr Nchinda’s proudest moments come from following the career progression of his distinguished

former trainees, fondly referred to as ‘Professor Nchinda’s children’. Dr Traore returned to his native Mali where he became Director General of Public Health; Dr Lindi Makubalo is currently Health Adviser in the South African Mission in Geneva; Professor Fred Binka is now Vice-Chancellor at the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ghana; Professor Isabella Quakyi, Founding Director of the School of Public Health at the University of Ghana; and the late Dr Peter Ndumbe, also a School alumnus, who was Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Yaoundé.

“It was a pleasure seeing many of my former trainees - especially those who went through the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine - emerge as great academic and scientific leaders in their countries, regionally and in the world.”

Dr Nchinda’s advice to current students is straightforward.

“Current students should work very hard to absorb as much knowledge as possible that will equip them for work in this world that continues to see parasitic diseases remain great scourges and newer viral diseases emerge and become scourges in the world.”

“I have now fully retired and, at my age, I wish for the School to grow from strength to strength in furthering the research training of scientists and researchers from Africa and other developing countries.”

*Dr Thomas Nchinda and Mrs Sue Block-Tyrrell*

Alumni Chapters

The School has an international network of Alumni Chapters which provide graduates around the world with opportunities to meet, socialise and get involved in their local communities. The Chapters are run by volunteers from our alumni and distance learning community. See the full list of all our Chapters on our website: www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni

A few highlights of our Chapter events throughout the past year include:

**Singapore Alumni Chapter Launch
Event - June 2015**



**Atlanta Alumni Chapter Brunch
May 2015**



**Toronto Chapter Drinks
April 2015**



**Lusaka Alumni Chapter Meeting
April 2015**



**Japan Alumni Group Lecture and
Social - February 2015**



**Islamabad Chapter Meeting
December 2014**



**Basel Alumni Chapter meeting
November 2014**



**Launch of the Dhaka Alumni Chapter
September 2014**



Alumni Events

Each year we host a full calendar of alumni events, from garden parties and gala dinners to informal drinks, receptions and seminars.

A few highlights from the past year include:

Alumni Fund Thank You Reception, London UK - July 2015



This reception, which took place in the School's beautiful art-deco library, was held as a thank you to the many alumni who have so generously donated to the Alumni Annual Fund.

Distance Learning Reception, London UK - March 2015



Almost 200 people from over 40 countries attended the annual celebration of the School's distance learning community.

Geneva, Switzerland May 2015



The Geneva Alumni Reception brought together School staff, alumni and distance learning students. The reception coincided with the ACT Consortium drug quality meeting.

Brussels, Belgium April 2015



The School's Director Professor Peter Piot hosted a reception at the BELvue Museum.

Austin, Texas, USA April 2015



This fundraiser and brunch was hosted by the President of the American Friends of the School in order to raise money for the American Friends Scholarship Fund.

New York City, USA February 2015



The School took part in a number of prestigious events in New York City. The Mayor of London Boris Johnson and key dignitaries from the UK and USA were in attendance.

Glasgow, Scotland November 2014



An alumni reception was held during the European Public Health Association Conference in Glasgow.

New Orleans, USA November 2014



The Annual Alumni Reception was the largest to date. Over 300 people attended this event, which is always a highlight of our events calendar.

Cape Town, South Africa October 2014



We held an informal alumni drinks reception during the Third Symposium of Health Systems Research in Cape Town. Professor Anne Mills hosted the event.

Barcelona, Spain October 2014



Staff, students and alumni attending the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease World Conference on Lung Health joined students and alumni for a lively event in Barcelona.

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

Our annual Alumni Fund Telephone Fundraising Campaign was held from November 2014 to March 2015, with fantastic results.

The campaign raised over £130,000. We are extremely grateful to all of our alumni who have contributed to the Alumni Fund over the years: your donation really does help to transform lives, whether it's supporting scholarships for talented students or funding the School's work in areas such as maternal, reproductive and child health, gender violence or non-communicable diseases.

We've had another full calendar of events, including a fundraising garden party in Pennsylvania, an Alumni Thank You party at the School, and receptions in a variety of countries including South Africa, India, Ghana, the USA, Belgium, Spain and Switzerland. We've also got some exciting events planned over the next year – we'll let you know about these in our regular e-newsletters. You can also check our website and social media pages for more information.



Our Alumni chapters are thriving. Our ever growing community of chapters around the world are run by alumni and distance learning student volunteers who organise a variety of social and networking events. We are really encouraged by the interest and commitment our alumni show in coordinating and participating in these chapters. Please contact us if there is no chapter in your area and you would like to help set one up.

We always want to hear what our alumni are up to. If you have some news to share or you'd like to write a blog or profile for our website, please get in touch. If you're in the area, perhaps you could share your experiences with our current students by giving a careers talk at the School. Just let us know!

If you have moved or any of your details have changed, it's easy to update these via our online community (www.alumnionline.lshtm.ac.uk). Once you're signed up, you'll be able to directly contact any of the alumni already on there – there are more than 1,000 members and it is ideal for catching up with former classmates or making new connections. You'll also receive regular updates on School and Alumni events, news, networking opportunities and job vacancies.

Thank you to everyone who has made this such a great year!

Alice Perry, Head of Alumni

Martha Crowley, Alumni Officer



Lorenzo Patoia / Shutterstock.com

FIT CITIES

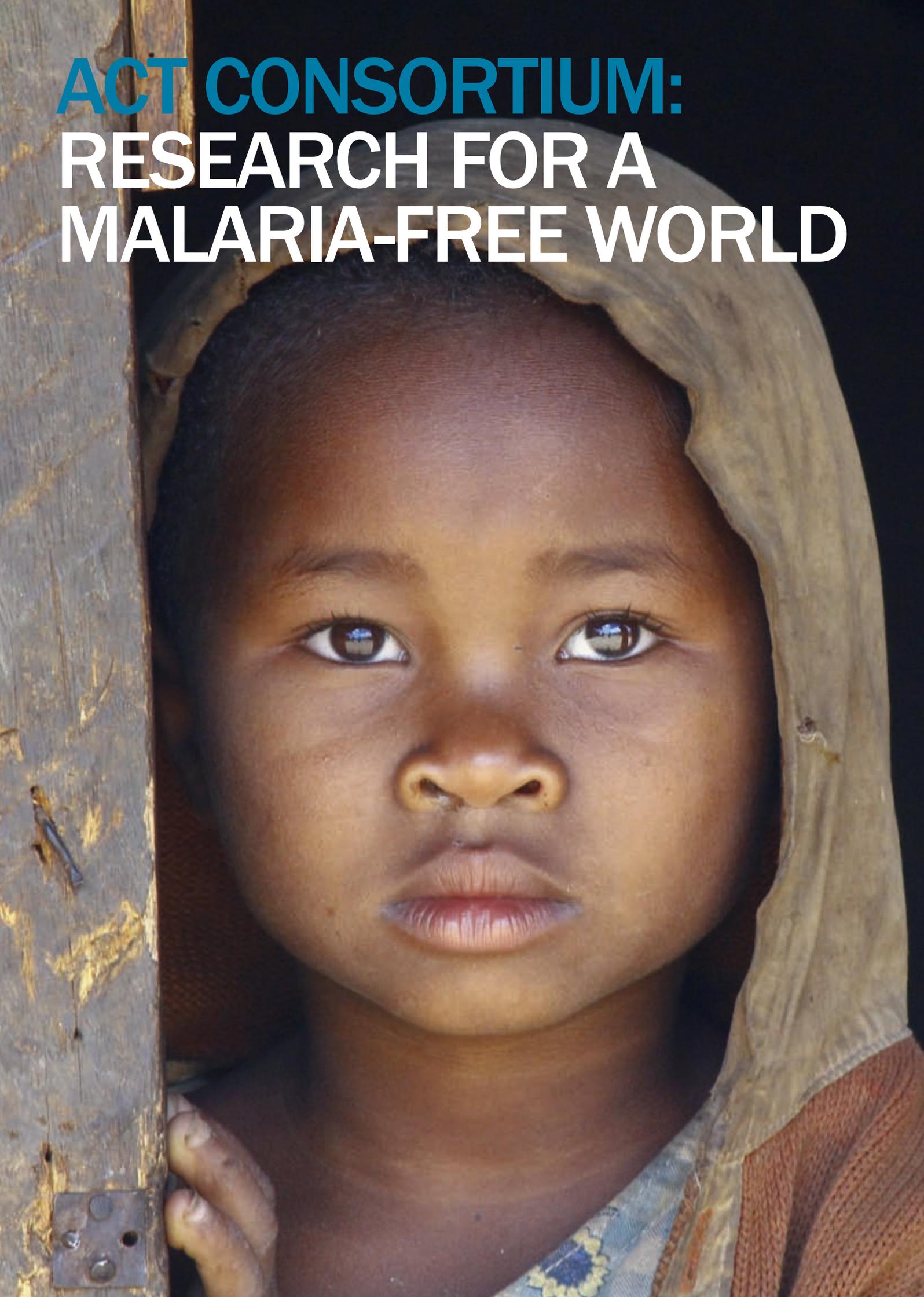
'Fit Cities' is an international collaboration made up of hundreds of planners, designers, developers and public health professionals. The aim is to explore how building design and policy decisions could make communities healthier, helping to prevent diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

London and New York have both hosted summits to take this agenda forward. Recent initiatives include schemes to encourage people to use stairs in buildings; increasing urban parkland; vast new networks of cycle lanes and bicycle hire initiatives; the explosive growth of farmers' markets; schools growing food; community allotments and more.

Integration and co-ordination between stakeholders is central to delivering the Fit Cities agenda, particularly through connecting local government, non-profit organisations, higher education institutions and local communities.

The School is involved in a number of these initiatives through projects and research targeted at promoting active transport, addressing the health inequalities in high-income country urban environments and tackling obesity. Researchers have also been exploring how the regeneration associated with the London 2012 Olympics will leave a lasting legacy for health in East London.

ACT CONSORTIUM:
**RESEARCH FOR A
MALARIA-FREE WORLD**



The ACT Consortium, an international research collaboration, has been working since 2007 to answer key questions on malaria drug delivery. Now in its final year, ACT Consortium members are fully engaged in making sure that their research outputs can help to inform policy in malaria-endemic countries.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through a grant awarded to the School and with more than 20 partners worldwide, the Consortium carried out 25 studies in 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

Research themes include:

Targeting & Access

Malaria is the most common reason given for illness and admission to hospital in many African countries. However, malaria is often either over-diagnosed or misdiagnosed in the absence of proper testing. In addition, only a fraction of those who need malaria drugs receive them.

Quality

Fake medicines generate huge concern. In the past, the media has reported that a very large percentage of antimalarials on the market are counterfeit. The Drug Quality project of the ACT Consortium analysed over 10,000 samples of ACTs using a robust methodology that allowed the collection of drug samples in a way that is representative of where patients buy their medicines. Results are reassuring, but even one single fake drug is one too many. Substandard and degraded drugs are also a cause for concern, since the wrong dosage of an active ingredient could increase the risk of developing drug resistance.

Safety

Despite the wide scale use of ACT medicines, little is known about their long-term effects. It is important to consolidate the safety profiles of these drugs to document both known and previously unobserved side effects.

Non-malaria febrile illness

Non-malarial causes of fever can be dangerous but are frequently misdiagnosed as malaria. This wastes malaria treatments and leaves potentially serious causes of fever untreated.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Robust, representative and timely data are needed to monitor and accelerate progress of malaria control. Rapid diagnostic tests have the potential to improve the quality of data, but approaches to monitoring malaria will need to change as control improves.

Women in Science exhibition: a view from the Archives

The kernel of the idea for a 'Women in Science' exhibition came from the School's Athena SWAN Committee, and preparation began in 2014.

The School's archives hold a wealth of examples of women who supported male pioneers of tropical medicine and public health, but who were never acknowledged as scientists in their own right: we were keen to give them some well deserved exposure!

We were fascinated by photographs of Miss Amy Loring, who worked at the Ross Institute, Putney, at its establishment in 1926.



Miss Loring in a lab at the Ross Institute

She went on to marry its Director, Sir Malcolm Watson, and pictures show them on an expedition together in 1937.



Miss Loring and Sir Malcom Watson on expedition in 1937

Another gem from the archives is the Carpenter journal. Amy Carpenter, with her entomologist husband, Geoffrey, kept a wonderful jointly written journal which recorded their life in Africa in the 1920s, during Geoffrey's time as specialist officer concerned with Sleeping Sickness in Uganda. It is clear from much of the journal's content that Amy both deputised for Geoffrey at his clinic and accompanied him on safari. Here is an extract:

"G had 3 dreadful days trying to get all the Sleeping Sickness returns done and he succeeded. This finished a very strenuous 3 months for both of us, we treated 1859 new cases, 2323 re-attendances and 2512 injections were given"

At the same time as working with her husband, she kept the household together, entertained a stream of visitors and hosted a giddy round of social events.

Pages from the Carpenter Journal



Anne Hardy, Honorary Professor of the History of Public Health, examined the School's student registers for 1900, the first year women were admitted. Information in the registers showed that three women enrolled on the course in Tropical Medicine, which lasted for 3 months:

- Anne Helen Crawford, 26 from County Derry, went on to work in Manchuria in Northern China and then in Zenana Mission House, Bombay, India
- Emily Crooks, 24 from County Antrim, went on to work at the Irish Presbyterian Mission Church in Bombay and then Manchuria in Northern China
- Hon. Ella Campbell Scarlett-Synge, 35 from London. It is believed that she went to work in Seoul in Korea



Early students in lab c.1900



Gwen Knight, Research Fellow in Infectious Disease modelling, undertook some data mining of the earliest School prospectuses 1899-1920, looking for every instance of the use of the term 'Miss' or 'Mrs', ('Ms' being a not-yet invented term!). She was able to convert her work into a graphical comparison of these early female alumni with the current position. She found that between 1900-1920, only 6% of students were female, as compared with 58% in 2014.

Other elements of the exhibition look at more recent pioneering female academic staff such as Margot Jefferys (1916-1999) a medical sociologist who began her career at the School in the 1950s, and Jenny Roberts (1938-2014), one of the first health economists. The exhibition also includes interviews with current staff on the highs and lows of being women in science, and in a bold move, a unique model of the School's building has been created, replacing part of the iconic frieze of 23 male names with those of female scientific pioneers, as voted for by School staff and students.

Events associated with the exhibitions included a sell-out conversation, held in the John Snow Lecture Theatre between Professor Dame Anne Mills, Deputy Director & Provost and Professor of Health Economics and Policy, and Director of WHO, Margaret Chan (available as a podcast) and a session of lunchtime nostalgia – with tea and cake – called *Archive Alive: Peter Mine*, in which Rebecca Tremain, PA to Director of ACT Consortium, Victoria Cranna, Archivist and Penny Dimond, actor, dramatised some moments from the women's stories found in the archives.

LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.
63rd Session, May-July, 1920.

Male and female students c.1900



Gifts for Professorial Chair in Global Health and distance learning scholarships

The School has received a generous philanthropic gift from Worldwide Support for Development to support a Professorial Chair in Global Health. The post is currently held by the School's Director, Professor Peter Piot, who will now be known as the Handa Professor of Global Health.

Worldwide Support for Development is a Japanese non-profit organisation that supports international co-operation, social welfare, universities and academic institutions. Its Chair is businessman and philanthropist Dr Haruhisa Handa.

The gift follows a 2014 donation from a sister organisation, the Handa Foundation, to support distance learning scholarships. The Handa Foundation is a non-profit organisation which undertakes to build hospitals and schools in various countries across South East Asia. The World Mate Emergency Hospital in Battambang, originally established to provide free care to land mine victims, is its flagship charitable hospital.

This generous funding enabled four Cambodian students to study for their MSc in Public Health, paying for their tuition, project fieldwork and various costs associated with study.



“We look forward to working closely with Professor Piot and the School in developing solutions to some of the world’s biggest global health threats such as the Ebola virus and HIV/AIDS. The Professorial Chair in Global Health at the School will contribute to world leading research in epidemiology, public health and health concerns which affect hard-to-reach populations around the world.”

Dr Handa

Sir Tim Lankester, Chair of the School's Council, and Dr Haruhisa Handa attended a signing ceremony in Lesotho to establish the Handa Chair in Global Health





The School's recent Alumni Fund Telephone Fundraising campaign raised over £130,000 for scholarships, research travel grants and the School Centres.

We are very grateful to Professor Sir Andy Haines and the Jan and Belinda Pethick Foundation for generously matching gifts made to this year's campaign.

We would like to thank all our alumni who have made gifts to the School in the past year:

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John Ziegler
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Luisa Zuccolo

The First 500 and the Director's Circle



Established in 2012, the First 500 giving circle was created to honour and thank the first 500 donors who give £500 to the School. Gifts to this year's Alumni Fund telephone campaign have helped us to reach a landmark one hundred members.

The Director's Circle is for people who have given a total of £10,000 or more to the School. Director's Circle members are invited to exclusive events, such as the private lunch recently hosted by HRH Prince Philip, the School's Patron, at Buckingham Palace.



Prince Philip speaking with Director's Circle Members at a drinks reception before the Director's Circle lunch at Buckingham Palace

*Professor Peter Piot, Director of the School,
with Prince Philip at the Director's Circle
lunch at Buckingham Palace*



On the Ebola frontline

Since the Ebola outbreak was first reported in March 2014, hundreds of medical professionals have travelled to West Africa to help with efforts to combat the Ebola virus and treat those with the disease. They include a significant number of School staff, students and alumni. Alumni Officer Martha Crowley spoke to some of our staff and alumni about their experiences of working with Ebola control efforts in Africa, as well as closer to home.

Dr Claire Ferraro

Dr Claire Ferraro studied MSc Control of Infectious Diseases in 2011 as an intercalated year out of her medical degree. Between December 2014 and April 2015 she volunteered with the King's Sierra Leone Partnership, a long-term health system strengthening partnership in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She worked as a doctor in the Ebola Holding Unit at Connaught Hospital, Freetown, but also became increasingly involved in non-Ebola projects such as helping to establish the National Infection Prevention & Control Programme. Claire completed the London Marathon on 26th April, dressed in a personal protection equipment isolation suit for the first 10km, in order to raise awareness of the impact of Ebola on health services in Sierra Leone. Together with two other volunteers Claire raised over £15,000.

Dr Veronica Sawicki

Dr Veronica Sawicki completed the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the School in 2010. She first visited Sierra Leone eight years ago and since then has spent approximately three months of each year working in the small town of Madina in the north-east of the country, where she and her husband have set up a charity which aims to improve the health and well-being of the community. More recently they have been involved in a number of new projects such as an Ebola Neighbourhood Watch, where trained local volunteers visit villages and homes to provide information about Ebola as well as advice about hygiene, safe burial practices and the avoidance of traditional healers. The charity has also been supporting an educational project which has provided radio education for more than 5,000 children. This is especially needed as, because of the Ebola outbreak, schools in the area have been closed for almost a year, pushing up teenage pregnancy and prostitution.

Dr Tom Boyles

Recent staff member Dr Tom Boyles is a consultant at Cape Town's main teaching hospital. He volunteered in Freetown, Sierra Leone in November and December 2014. Tom says the most difficult part of his work was deciding "which patients to choose to isolate ... there are more patients needing isolation than there are beds available and somehow we have to decide who is admitted. Choosing one patient over another under these circumstances has got to be the toughest decision I've ever had to make as a doctor or a human being."

And back in London:

Dr Felicity Fitzgerald

Dr Felicity Fitzgerald qualified as a paediatrician in 2006 and graduated from the School with an MSc in Infectious Diseases in 2010. She is currently studying for a PhD in Infectious Diseases at the UCL Institute of Child Health. She also volunteered for the King's Sierra Leone Partnership, from November 2014 to February 2015, and has been blogging about her experiences for the Daily Telegraph. Felicity writes of her surprise at the level of responsibility local junior doctors have had to take on in the Ebola crisis. She met Dr Mohammed Boi Jalloh, who, despite working as a House Officer – the most junior of medical posts – as recently as June 2014, was, just three months later, supervising the opening of an Ebola Treatment Centre. Felicity admits that, as a House Officer, “If I had been asked to take on even a fraction of the burden these [doctors] have carried, I expect I’d have been sick in a corner and run away ... They are now amongst the most experienced Ebola doctors in the world, with neither the fanfare nor the back-slapping the international volunteers have had.”

James Whitehorn

James Whitehorn, a Clinical Research Fellow at the School, worked as a Clinical Advisor at the Kerry Town Ebola Treatment Centre in Sierra Leone in early 2015. James was part of a team providing medical care to confirmed and suspected Ebola patients. James says: “At times the experience was harrowing, but I am very glad I went. I was there from January to February and there is no doubt that things were quieter than they had been, but we were still seeing significant numbers of cases. In addition, we were seeing more patients who met the case definition but did not have Ebola; they had things like malaria and typhoid.”

Rebecca Glover

“I’m not in Sierra Leone, Guinea or Liberia and I do nothing with patients, fluids or medics,” explains Rebecca Glover, who last year graduated with an MSc in the Control of Infectious Diseases from the School (and was also part of our fantastic University Challenge team). That doesn’t mean that she isn’t helping with the Ebola control efforts. In her first role since graduating, Rebecca works for the School’s Ebola team at the Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases, which contributes to the global Ebola information base. Her responsibilities include working on the Janssen Ebola vaccine trial, inputting data from the Guinean Ministry of Health and carrying out qualitative and quantitative research into community resistance in Guinea, which can include physical or verbal attacks or threats. Rebecca will soon be heading out to Sierra Leone to carry out data collection and collation.



From Leprosy to earthquake: action-packed time in Nepal for nursing scholar

When nurse and School alumnus Lindsay Baigent won the first Dr Maggie Burgess Travel Scholarship she was excited about getting started caring for leprosy patients in Nepal's Anandaban Hospital.

After a 20-year career in the National Health Service, the Lincoln mother-of-two relished the opportunity to return to hands-on nursing and the chance to gain valuable developing world experience.

But on 25 April this year, three weeks into her eight-week placement, she faced an unexpected challenge when a devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck.

Army Reservist Lindsay completed the Diploma in Tropical Nursing course in January 2015 funded by the Army Reserves and, with two tours of Afghanistan behind her, she immediately made herself useful at

the hospital as quake victims arrived, adapting to the unfolding situation and the limited resources and equipment.

"I tried to take some control," she said. "By then I had acclimatised to some of the cultural differences and earned the trust of my colleagues, and I think they'd worked out that I was a do-er. It was never an option to leave at that point. I would have felt like I was abandoning people."

By coincidence, the woman whose generosity allowed Lindsay to do her good work was also in Nepal, trekking in the Himalayas, when the earthquake struck.

Maggie Burgess, a Diploma in Tropical Nursing alumnus who now lectures on the course, was with a group 3,300 metres up a mountain raising money for Promise Nepal, the leprosy charity she founded, when she heard the terrifying sound of the "earth cracking" and saw "boulders the size of London buses" crashing down the mountain.

Everyone in the party survived unhurt but they were stranded for a week before being lifted off the mountain in a helicopter.

"It was absolutely terrifying," Maggie said. "The noise rose to an amazing crescendo and then there was an



“It’s humbling to work with people who have so little,” she said. “And it was such good fun. I really felt part of a family and that they cared. I learned so much about working overseas. You’re a guest and you need to adapt and respect what they are doing. The great thing about Anandaban is that the most important thing is to care, be kind and give people time. I am very grateful to Maggie for this opportunity and I’m just excited now about what I’m going to do next.”

Lindsay Baigent



Lindsay Baigent and Maggie Burgess

almighty boom – the next mountain just fell into the river below.”

Canada-born Maggie, like Lindsay, is passionate about helping people, and her commitment to leprosy and the Promise Nepal charity stemmed from her focus on result-orientated medicine and long-term love for Nepal. When she heard Professor Diana Lockwood on the Diploma in Tropical Nursing talking about leprosy - a disease which was curable and for which drugs were available - and the fact Nepal was the 4th most endemic country, she thought: “Surely there was something I could do. I just wanted to help.”

Having organised a programme of volunteers to leprosy clinics for many years through her charity, Maggie decided to create a formal link with

the School by pledging a generous donation to establish the Dr Maggie Burgess Travel Scholarship.

Lindsay had her first experience of leprosy during a trip to India for a sponsored cycle ride in aid of Lepara as a newly qualified nurse in the 1990s and it was brought back to her at the start of the Diploma in Tropical Nursing course when Maggie lectured on it. So she had the interest and enthusiasm, but also proved through her application to have

the personality, tact and diplomacy to enable her to make a valuable contribution.

Maggie hopes the scholarship will encourage more students to focus on a neglected tropical disease like leprosy, increase knowledge and put the disease on the map again. With a competitive job market for overseas work, Maggie also believes the experience provided by her scholarship fund will boost career opportunities for scholars.



Alumni Office
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT
Phone: +44 (0)20 7299 4772
Email: Alumni@lshtm.ac.uk

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