

AUTUMN 2013

ALUMNI • NEWS



LUNCH?

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Mobile Technology: a health care revolution?

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Global Mental Health Scholarships

International Development - what works?

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



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Edited and compiled by Alice Perry





Professor Piot meeting students working on the Alumni Fund telephone fundraising campaign

This year's students have been very active in fundraising and volunteering, not least as ambassadors for the School

In 2013 the School led the bicentenary birthday celebrations of John Snow, who is regarded by many as the father of modern epidemiology.

Snow's systematic approach to the cholera outbreak in Soho set in motion the methodological approaches used today for public health research. To mark his bicentenary, the School had a programme of events, including two symposia and an exhibition (see page 6), reflecting his legacy and looking to the future. Particularly inspiring were symposium presentations on topics that went beyond the classic boundaries of epidemiology, such as Robert May's analysis of the ecology of the financial markets.

Innovation is a key theme for this issue of Alumni News. This year, we have already seen impressive developments in areas including diagnostics, such as self-testing for HIV, vaccines, and the use of mobile technology for mapping and surveillance of a range of diseases and health issues. Our researchers are also making more proactive use of mobile technology, such as how text messaging is proving effective in helping people quit smoking, and how smart phones can be used to diagnose eye infections (see page 17).

I am particularly pleased that progress has been made in attracting scholarships to support students coming to the School, including for the MSc in Global Mental Health and the East Africa Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (see pages 12-13). Other developments include the launch of a new, open access, on-line module in nutrition, which was developed with support from the UK's Department for International Development.

This year's students have been very active in fundraising and volunteering, not least as ambassadors for the School, communicating with prospective students via email and blogs, as well as face-to-face at events. The students' enthusiasm and skills in advocacy will undoubtedly stand them in good stead in their future careers in public health.

We know many alumni are also active in volunteering, as well as very generous in giving to the School. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you at events all over the world, and as our global network of alumni chapters continues to grow, I look forward to meeting many more of you over the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Piot'.

Peter Piot
Director



Lifestyle is a key factor influencing health

Non-Communicable Disease: prevention “more important than life or death”

Proposals designed to prevent non-communicable diseases such as “fat taxes” will have wide-ranging effects on the economy and health, but wider research is needed to avoid wasting resources on ineffective measures.

Writing in *Science* magazine, Dean of the Faculty of Public Health and Policy, Professor Richard Smith, says that effective prevention of the increasing problem of non-communicable diseases will require changes in how we live our lives. This will in turn lead to significant economic changes across populations, industries and countries.

With increasing numbers of people in the developed and developing world

suffering from ill health associated with both genetic and lifestyle factors, the problem is more than just a medical concern.

But unless evidence is provided about who and what is positively or negatively affected, it is impossible to know which policies will benefit both economies and health.

Professor Smith calls for global studies concerning the whole economy and suggests lessons should be learned from infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, where clear demonstration of the overall economic impact played a key role in securing funding initiatives at the highest level.

Gates funding for healthy growth research

School researchers have been awarded \$1.7m from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Achieving Healthy Growth programme to study the causes of poor growth among children in Africa.

Achieving Healthy Growth is part of the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative, which aims to overcome persistent bottlenecks in the creation of new and better health solutions for the developing world.

David Mabey, Professor of Communicable Diseases, and colleagues will use the grant to investigate the causes of environmental enteropathy, a disorder of the small intestine which has been implicated in the poor growth of many children in low-income countries.

Air pollution link to heart attacks

Patients recovering from heart attacks are less likely to survive if they live in an area with high levels of road traffic pollution, according to a new study published in the *European Heart Journal*.

There is growing evidence that exposure to fine particulate air pollution is linked to the development of heart disease, but few studies to date have looked at its effect on survival after heart attacks. The study, carried out by School researchers, is the largest yet to investigate this association.

The researchers also found that patients from poorer backgrounds often live in more deprived areas with higher levels of air pollution, and after being diagnosed with heart problems, tend to do less well than patients of a higher socioeconomic status.

Mosquitoes desensitised to DEET

Mosquitoes are able to ignore the smell of the insect repellent DEET for up to three hours after being exposed to it, according to research published in *PLOS ONE*. The authors tested changes in responses to DEET in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which are notorious for biting during the day and are capable of transmitting dengue fever and yellow fever viruses.

They found that a brief exposure to DEET was sufficient to make some mosquitoes less sensitive to the repellent. Three hours after the exposure, these mosquitoes were not deterred from seeking attractants like heat and human skin, despite the presence of DEET.

PROTECT



Understanding impacts of human trafficking

New research programme will shape how the NHS identifies and cares for trafficked people

School researchers, in collaboration with King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry and the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, have been awarded £449,990 by the UK Department of Health for research into human trafficking.

The overarching aim of the PROTECT (Provider Responses, Treatment, and Care for Trafficked People) research programme is to provide evidence to inform the NHS response to human trafficking, specifically in the identification and referral of trafficked people, and safe and appropriate care to meet their health needs.

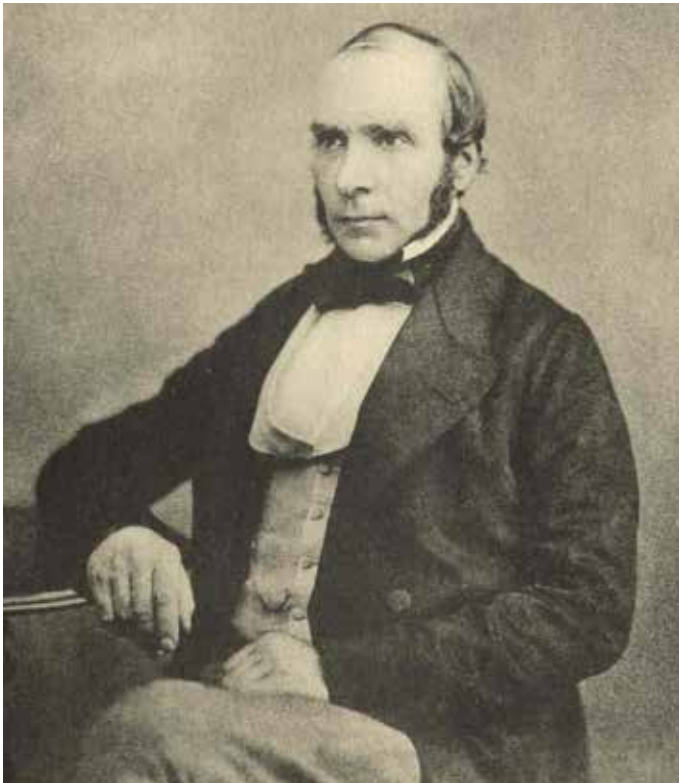
Dr Cathy Zimmerman, project lead from the Gender, Violence and Health Centre at the School, said: "Our findings will address this evidence

gap and ultimately help trafficked people receive safe and appropriate healthcare."

Reports estimate there are 2,600 sex-trafficked women in England and Wales, but measuring the true scale of human trafficking is difficult. People are trafficked for forced sex work, domestic servitude, and into various labour sectors, including the agricultural, manufacturing and service industries. Previous research from the School and King's revealed that women who had been trafficked for sexual exploitation experienced violence and poor physical and mental health. However, the research also found that there was very little evidence available on the health consequences of trafficked children, men or people trafficked for other forms of exploitation.

Celebrating John Snow's Bicentenary

Inspired by the pioneering work of medical detective John Snow, who traced the source of a deadly cholera outbreak in 1850s London to a water pump in Soho, the School opened its doors to the public with an exhibition in 2013 to celebrate his work and legacy.



John Snow, courtesy LSHTM Library & Archives

Historical treasures and newly commissioned artworks inspired by science were displayed in and around the School. Presented in the style of a disease mapping 'detective' trail, exhibition highlights included a pop-up water-based cocktail bar, weekly street performances, and disease maps from the School's archives showing how scientists have tracked disease outbreaks around the world from the early 1900s to the present day. The exhibition also featured the work of world-renowned culinary artists Bompas and Parr, whose work 'Scent of London' revealed the city's invisible architecture and cartography of smell.

John Snow (1813–1858) is considered the founder of modern epidemiology – the study of the patterns and causes of health and disease in populations. His work laid the foundations for better sanitation in the capital and still influences public health research and policy today. The exhibition, which ran from 13 March to 17 April, was curated by Artakt of Central Saint Martins College of Arts & Design. The exhibition was supported by a Wellcome Trust People Award and Arts Council England.

Historical items on display from the archives of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the Wellcome Library, the Museum of London and the London Metropolitan Archives included rare maps and printed ephemera relating to cholera outbreaks at the time.

Shah Ebrahim, Professor of Public Health, said: "Scientists at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine are still influenced by the work of John Snow today. As world leaders in epidemiology and with hundreds of staff across the globe working to improve health worldwide, we're proud to follow in Snow's footsteps."

Other School events to celebrate the John Snow bicentenary included:

Mapping disease: John Snow and Cholera

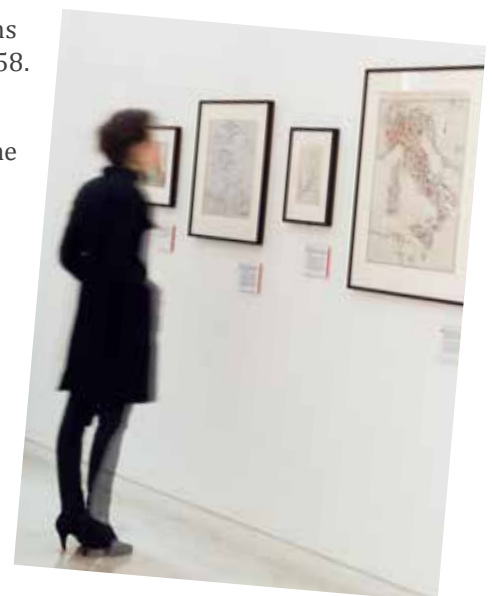
The School hosted a celebration of John Snow's 200th birthday with a public lecture and drinks reception with historian and journalist, Sandra Hempel on 15 March. This was followed by an all-day scientific symposium looking at historical aspects of his work on 16 March.

Snow's legacy: Epidemiology today and tomorrow

This two-day conference gathered leading international researchers in a contemporary evaluation of John Snow's legacy and an exploration of how epidemiology is influencing education, criminology and economics. The event closed with an apology to John Snow from the Lancet for not recognising his contribution to the understanding of cholera transmissions in his obituary in 1858.

A conference gala dinner was held at the Wellcome Trust on 11 April, with after-dinner speaker Jon Snow, the Channel 4 newscaster.

John Snow bicentenary exhibition, courtesy Ben Blossom



London Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases Research launched



Leprosy clinic in Addis Ababa, courtesy Saba Tsefayealert

The School has teamed up with London partners to launch a new research initiative to tackle neglected tropical diseases which affect more than one billion of the world's poorest people.

As part of this effort, the UK government announced £195 million of funding to support the control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases, protecting more than 140 million people. This includes the provision of £10.6 million to complete the global mapping of blinding trachoma, which is being conducted by School staff working with a partnership of researchers and NGOs led by Sightsavers.

Research on the changing National Health Service in England

Researchers from the School's Department of Health Services Research and Policy have been undertaking research concerning the restructuring of the National Health Service (NHS) in England. The research started under the previous government and continues under the UK's current coalition government. This is a subject of keen interest in the UK, as it affects the efficiency, quality and equity of healthcare provided to NHS patients.

Completed work includes a series of investigations concerning the policy of broadening the types of healthcare providers serving NHS patients to include organisations which are independent from the NHS; and also to encourage those organisations which remain in the NHS to increase their autonomy (that is, become what are called 'NHS foundation trusts'). Together with colleagues at Bristol and Leeds Universities, researchers at the School have been undertaking a series of studies funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) to examine the extent, nature

and effects of increasing the diversity of providers.

As the financial climate becomes more constrained in England, and the policies in the government's Health and Social Care Act 2012 come into effect, further changes to the structures of the NHS will occur.

Researchers in the Department of Health Services Research and Policy will be investigating these changes through their NIHR-funded Policy Research Unit in Commissioning and the Healthcare System, a partnership between the School and the universities of Manchester and Kent. This unit works with the English Department of Health to inform the development of policy on commissioning, and how it can improve services and access, increase effectiveness and respond better to patient needs.

Introducing the International Diagnostics Centre



Rapid diagnostic tests for Malaria in Tanzania, courtesy ACT Consortium

The School has launched the International Diagnostics Centre, a global research collaboration hub, created to undertake innovative research on the development and deployment of new diagnostic tests that enable patients to be diagnosed faster, more accurately and cost effectively.

The first of its kind in Europe, the International Diagnostics Centre will be a revolutionary focal point, forum and centre for learning, addressing the diagnostics priorities and challenges of today. With collaborators in more than 100 countries in Africa, Asia and South America, the centre is uniquely placed to facilitate and accelerate access to quality assured diagnostics in the developing world and improve patient care and to inform disease control strategies.

Diagnostics success at the School includes:

- Pioneering work to assess the cost-effectiveness and utility of non-laboratory based rapid diagnostic tests for malaria.
- A recent study with collaborators in Malawi on self-testing for HIV which established an important foundation for the introduction of self-testing in high HIV prevalent populations.
- Recent research into new rapid diagnostic tests for syphilis which resulted in 100% of the study countries changing policy and recommending prenatal rapid test screening, saving thousands of lives.

Happy First Birthday to LSHTM Research Online

It is over one year since LSHTM Research Online was launched. This is a freely accessible online database of research conducted by School staff.

Our download statistics show that we have visitors from all over the globe. We also have an eTheses area which is currently being populated with pre-2013 theses that have been digitised by the British Library's Ethos project. We currently have over 50 full text theses on open access, with more being added every week.

LSHTM Research Online is one of over 2,170 repositories world-wide which contribute to the growing Open Access movement, to facilitate the open exchange of scholarly research. Increasing access to research will result in greater impact and promote the School, our research and principles across the world.

<http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/>



Medical entomologist Dr James Logan took part in the Wellcome Collection's 'Who's the Pest?' season in April 2013, bringing together bug enthusiasts, food scientists, chefs and designers to look at the wonderful world of insects. A key theme Dr Logan discussed was eating insects. Grasshoppers are high in protein and considered a delicacy in some countries. Insects are already eaten in 80% of the world's nations and are seen by many as the answer to providing food for the growing global population.



HIV self-testing boosts antiretroviral therapy

People in Malawi are three times more likely to report they have HIV and start antiretroviral therapy if they are able to self-test and begin treatment at home, according to a new study.

The findings show that self-testing for HIV can substantially increase the rate at which people begin antiretroviral therapy, but only when it is combined with home assessment and initiation of HIV care.

The findings are part of the first large-scale self-testing study in Africa, conducted by researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Clinical Research Programme and the College of Medicine, Malawi. The study was funded by the Wellcome Trust.

MESSAGE FROM:



SRC celebrating at their end of year party

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The 2012/2013 academic year has been an exciting one for the School's Student Representative Council.

The Student Representative Council is made up of close to 70 elected representatives from all masters and research programmes, and an executive board of four students. The representatives elected Dr Ajibola Omokanye as Chair, Jeb Dunkelberger as Vice Chair, Dr. Guillaume Dedet as Treasurer and Marykate O'Malley as Secretary. Within the Student Representative Council there are also sub-committees responsible for specific areas, such as careers, alumni relations, the year book, socials and charitable outreach.

The School has undergone numerous renovations in all major areas throughout the past year. The Student Representative Council has represented the student body in ensuring the best possible plans for current and future students.

Professor Peter Piot and the School's wonderful staff have taken a strong stance on ensuring student representation in all levels of the system. The Student Representative Council and students have been asked to participate in everything ranging from quality assurance within

our educational system to overseeing plans for the new student common room and bar area. This balance of administrative oversight and student representation has been shown in the new push for surveys and focus groups on future planning for departments such as Careers, External Relations and Registry.

We have also been able to plan multiple events that were advocated by our own students. This included events for World AIDS Day, Doctors Without Borders, a Winter Canned Food Drive, World Cancer Day, celebrating national holidays, an end of term celebration and more.

The Student Representative Council is pleased with the progress made this academic year. We feel we have successfully shifted focus from being a "student voice", to providing two-way representation between staff and students. The Student Representatives and Executive Board have worked hard over this past year, but our student body is the one to give great thanks to, making our jobs easy with a multitude of ideas, and high energy brought forward every day.

Thank you to the Class of 2013 and congratulations on a wonderful year

Opinion:

Disunited states of health in Europe

While some countries have excelled, others have withdrawn services due to the financial crisis.



Political failures, squandered opportunities and professional indifference have led to the health of European citizens facing crisis, according to new research. Shortfalls caused by withdrawn services due to the financial crisis, failure to adapt to new health challenges, and a lack of will to implement public health policies are outlined in the Lancet Series on Europe.

Led by Professor of European Public Health Martin McKee, researchers identified a range of disparities in access to health and preventive care services, and in health outcomes across Europe, including:

- Differences in male life expectancy between eastern and western Europe are now greater than 40 years ago
- Public health efforts are at risk of disruption and deregulation from EU law

- Countries of the former Soviet Union face a health crisis due to alcohol and tobacco-related disease
- 6,000 children's lives could be saved annually with "achievable" improvements in child health services, with the UK performing worst on child health in Europe
- Migrant health is being threatened as progressive health policies disappear
- "Alarmist" concerns about ageing European society must not be used to justify welfare cuts
- Public health voices must break their silence to combat ill effects of the financial crisis on health

Professor McKee, said: **"Europe has changed greatly in the past 40 years, and the immense differences in healthcare and life expectancy highlight this."**

"While some countries have excelled, others have withdrawn services due to the financial crisis, failed to adapt to new health challenges, and lacked the will to implement public health policies around tobacco and alcohol. Policy makers must act now before children, migrants and older people face a public health crisis, both in the UK and across Europe."

Alumni donations help fund East Africa Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene scholarships



Dr Fardous Abeya recently completed the East African Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. This course is taught in Tanzania and Uganda and is designed for doctors planning to work in Africa.

“South Sudan is a newly independent country with many challenges. Its economy mainly relies on the export of oil which was shut down five months ago due to conflict between the north and south. As people have worked with no salaries for two to three months, life has become difficult and expensive.”



Dr Fardous says, “South Sudan is a country with a heavy burden of tropical diseases and many aspects such as epidemiology need to be known. The country has many challenges and there are severe shortages of skilled doctors trained in investigating and managing tropical diseases. This training opportunity in tropical medicine and hygiene, especially within the region, has exposed me to different experiences from tutors and other participants and has been a golden chance to learn more in a shorter time.”

Being able to provide scholarships for students like Dr Fardous is vitally important. “Though the government encourages doctors for postgraduate studies, they don’t support it financially due to political instability,” she explains.

Thank you to all the alumni who donated to the Alumni Fund and made it possible for Dr Fardous to study for a Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene with the School.

Dr Fardous Abeya and the first cohort of East Africa DTMH students in Moshi, Tanzania



Nine New Scholarships for Global Mental Health

A gift of nearly £300,000 for scholarships has given the new MSc in Global Mental Health a major boost.

Nine scholarships are to be awarded through the Janssen Pharmaceutica Scholarship Fund, starting in the 2013-14 academic year.

The fund was established through a gift of £295,335 to the Centre for Global Mental Health, which is run by the School and King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry. The gift was made by Janssen Pharmaceutica, NV, a Johnson & Johnson company.

"Lack of mental health care is one of the most neglected problems worldwide," said Professor Peter Piot, the School's Director. "Hundreds of millions of people around the world with mental, neurological or substance-use disorders do not receive even the most basic care, even though effective and low-cost treatments exist."

"One of the aims of the MSc in Global Mental Health is to train mental-health leaders to improve access to care in countries around the world. It is the first degree of its kind in the world, and it is being led by the true pioneers in global mental health here at the School and at the Institute of Psychiatry."

The programme will award up to three full scholarships a year to MSc candidates in Global Mental Health, with a preference for students from or working in low- and middle-income countries.



Mental health rights march, Accra, courtesy MindFreedom Ghana

Students will receive training in epidemiological and health services research methods to equip them to monitor and evaluate mental health programmes. They will also learn to devise locally appropriate and feasible strategies to reduce the burden of mental health disorders at every level, from national health policy and systems to individual clinical interventions.

"The MSc in Global Mental Health is a major step in the development of a field that has been, for the most part, neglected by academic public health institutions," said Dr Alex Cohen, the School's Global Mental Health Course Director.



Staff from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry and Janssen Pharmaceutica, NV, attended the launch ceremony

Thank you!

Thank you to all the fantastic alumni who made donations to our recent Alumni Fund telephone campaign. This year's campaign raised over £92,000 for "People, Projects and Partnerships".

PEOPLE

Scholarships to train the global health leaders of the future

PROJECTS

Grants to research students conducting field work in low-and middle-income countries

PARTNERSHIPS

Support for the School's world-class centres, including the Malaria Centre, the TB Centre and the Centre for Maternal, Reproductive and Child Health. Next year's campaign will raise money for scholarships, research travel grants and the Library. Our students will be calling alumni from November to February with further information about how you can get involved.

Thank you to:

David Adams
Heather Aird
Francesco Albertoni
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Lorenzo Alonso Carrion
Olivia Andan
Melissa Andrew
Hanne Arildsen
Peter Armitage
Gitanjali Arora
Zacharias Asmanis
Bassey Asuquo
Yahya Baba
A-Lan Banks
Wilbert Bannenberg
Tristan Barber
Azucena Bardaji Alonso
Harriet Barthorp
Areej Benafif
Miren Bengoa Delalande
Martha Betson
Karen Bevan-Mogg
Beulah Bewley
Catherine Biller
Harry Binysh
Alessandra Bo
Patrick Bodenmann
Rachel Bousfield
Joel Breman
Alexander Broomfield
Peera Buranakitjaroen
Jenni Burt
Lisa Byrne
Dana Carr
Jacqueline Cassell
Mark Cater
Lincoln Chen

James Cherry
Sarentha Chetty
Jung-Fu Chiang
Richard Clements
Nicole Cohen
Farhad Cooper
Minoo Cooper
Marzban Cooper
Iain Crossingham
Kathleen Cuming
Jill Curtis
Christina Dahm
Catherine Dalrymple
Javoneh Daneshpay
Lisa Danquah
Osman Dar
Navaz Daruwalla
Yaswant Dass
Philip Davies
Judith Davies
Claire De Menezes
Nilanthi De Silva
Maniesha De Silva
Heather Dickinson
Katja Doerholt
Mary Donnelly
Naomi Douglas
Robert Douglas
Johannes Dreesman
Arabella Duffield
Alison Earley
Mohammud Edo
Dorinda Edwards
Miranda Eeles
Martin Emanuel
David Evans
Lars Fadnes

Ann Fazakerley
Bridget Fenn
Elena Ferrer Martinez Del Peral
Dwight Ferris
Basil Fine
Joseph Fitchett
Susanna Flynn
Sophy Forman
Jocelyn Forsyth
Alfredo Fort
Naomi Foxwood
John Frean
William Friar
Sally Gale
Ignacio Garcia Doval
Richard Garlick
John Gawoski
Floriza Gennari
Sayeh Ghanbari
Ian Gibson
Iris Goetz
Philip Gothard
Claire Graber
Justin Green
Celia Gregson
Irene Grimani
Theresa Gruber-Tapsoba
Jorge Guerra Caceres
Jennifer Hall
Catherine Hayhurst
Emma Heaver
Jonathan Herbert
Harald Herkner
Bernard Hill
David Hill
Lauri Hitchcock

Tom Holliday
Sona Horvathova
Douglas Huber
Jocelyn Hughes
Jane Hume
Georgina Humphreys
Clare Humphreys
Man-Ming Hung
Leonard Hunt
Khizer Husain
Tej Jat
Kamburapola Jayawardena
Martin John
David Jolliffe
Jeffrey Jones
Simon Jones
Shahrul Kamaruzzaman
Ingrid Kelters
Anjum Khan
Stacey Knobler
Ai Koshirae
Smitha Kusumakar
Brigitte Landesmann
Clara Larcher
Siama Latif
Laura Lauria
Jan Lelijveld
John Litaker
Wai Loke
Tejal Lovelock
Laura Macdonald
Evelyn Macdonald
Melanie Makhija
Sara Malakoff
Li-Xing Man
David Manning
Rachel Manolson



Sangath group activity to highlight the importance of relationships

Shilpa Mapuskar Narayanan
 Polly Marshall-Brown
 John Martin
 Robert Martin
 Janet Maxwell
 Frances McCabe
 Rosemary Merson
 Xanamaria Miguelez
 Giambruno
 Kevin Miles
 Valerie Miller
 Charlotte Mirrielees
 Anjali Misra
 Vera Mitter-Iseli
 David Montefiore
 Stephen Moore
 Melanie Morris
 Robert Morrison
 Mia Mosavie
 Karyn Moshal
 David Mummery
 Alexandra Murrell
 Lucy Mwakulegwa
 Palatuwa Nandadasa
 June Nash
 Ruth Neal
 Hugh Neil
 Frank Nelles
 Mary Newburn
 Krista Newhouse
 Aoife Ni Chorcorain
 Norman Noah
 Tom Noel
 Sarina Norris
 Carlos Nottebohm
 Okechukwu Obidiegwu
 Ann O'Brien
 Anand Odedra
 Nita Odedra
 David Orr
 Jacqueline Owen
 Smita Padhi
 Chim Pak Wing
 Andrie Panayiotou
 Claire Panosian
 Padmasayee Papineni
 Katherine Parker
 Thomas Patterson
 Enrica Paze
 Thomas Pedersen
 Thomas Peterman
 Michael Peterson
 Astrid Peters-Weist
 Peter Piot
 Joyce Pleasant
 Laura Polaine
 Owen Portsmouth
 Steven Pratt
 Wilm Quentin
 Kate Quinlan
 Kaveri Qureshi
 Jamie Riggs-Nagy
 Amy Robertson
 David Roesel
 Martha Roper
 Rolando Rosas

Jeremy Ross
 David Ross
 Dominic Rowland
 Safia Rubaii
 Valerie Rychel
 Laurent Salomon
 Lorenzo Savioli
 Maria Scheuermann
 Joyce Seto
 Nishma Shah
 Skye Sharkey
 Patricia Sharman
 Lin-Yi Shish
 Julia Sinclair
 Jan Smith
 James Smith
 Seyi Soremekun
 Suzanne Spence
 Katharine St. John-Brooks
 Nicholas Steers
 Thomas Sterling
 Tara Stewart
 Kimberly Stump
 Yasuo Sumita
 Shailen Sutaria
 Jessica Swann
 Clare Tanton
 Sumaira Tayyab
 Marc Tebrügge
 Rachel Ter Horst
 Tamirat Tesfamariam
 Adrienne Testa
 Kirsteen Thompson
 Karen Thomsett
 Sirinart Tongssiri
 Harinder Trehan
 Ming-Yuan Tseng
 Zdenek Valenta
 Lieve Van Der Paal
 Raja Varma
 Bela Vatsa
 Sten Vermund
 Salim Vohra
 Severa von Wentzel
 Taizo Wada
 Mary Walker
 Helena Walkowiak
 Katherine Wallner
 Julia Walsh
 Jane Walters
 Anne-Marie Wangel
 Ronald Ward
 Michael Warren
 Hilary Watt
 Philip Weintraub
 Karl Western
 Satu Wieland
 John Wilkie
 Bernhard Wolters
 Alice Woolnough
 Kenneth Wrixon
 Eriko Yamada
 Andrew Young
 Juliana Zuccaro
 Luisa Zuccolo

New Giving Circles launched

School has launched two new giving circles: the Director's Circle and the First 500.

The Director's Circle honours lifetime giving to the School. Charter membership is currently open to those who have given a cumulative total of £5,000 (US\$8,000) or more in philanthropic support to the School.

The First 500 is an annual giving circle open to those who give £500 (US\$800) or more to the School within a year. Gifts may be given in instalments (e.g. approximately £42/month or \$60/month). Membership of the circle will be limited to the first 500 donors who give at this level.

With their permission, members of the Director's Circle and The First 500 will be recognised in donor publications, and their names will be inscribed on plaques at the School. Members will be invited to exclusive events.



Anne Mills elected Fellow of the Royal Society

Professor Anne Mills, Vice Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.



Professor Mills joined the School as a lecturer in 1979, having previously worked at the Ministry of Health in Malawi as an economist, and at the University of Leeds researching the operation of the NHS planning system in the UK. She completed her PhD on malaria in Nepal, and has since held numerous research grants and senior positions including most recently, Head of the Faculty of Public Health and Policy.

Professor Mills has researched and published widely in health economics and health systems in low and middle income countries. She continues to be involved in

research on health insurance developments in Tanzania, India and Thailand, and on strengthening services for mothers and children, as well as in supporting capacity development in health economics in low and middle income country universities and research institutes.

She has advised multilateral, bilateral and government agencies, served on the WHO's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, and co-chaired one of the two Working Groups for the 2009 High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems, co-chaired by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

In 2006 she was awarded a CBE for services to medicine and elected Foreign Associate of the US Institute of Medicine. In 2009 she was elected Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and received the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of medicine. She is currently President of the International Health Economics Association.

Peter Piot awarded Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize



Professor Piot with the Tokyo Alumni Chapter



Professor Piot receives the Noguchi Prize from the Prime Minister of Japan

The Director of the School, Professor Peter Piot, has been awarded the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Research, from the Government of Japan.

The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize honours outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and medical services to combat infectious and other diseases in Africa.

This will be only the second time the award has been made since its inauguration. The laureate of the first Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, awarded in 2008, is Professor Sir Brian Greenwood, also at the School.

The Prime Minister, advised by the Prize Committee, chose to honour Professor Piot for his pivotal research on disease endemic in the African continent. This includes bringing AIDS to the forefront of global attention and for developing scientifically-grounded responses to the control and treatment of the disease.

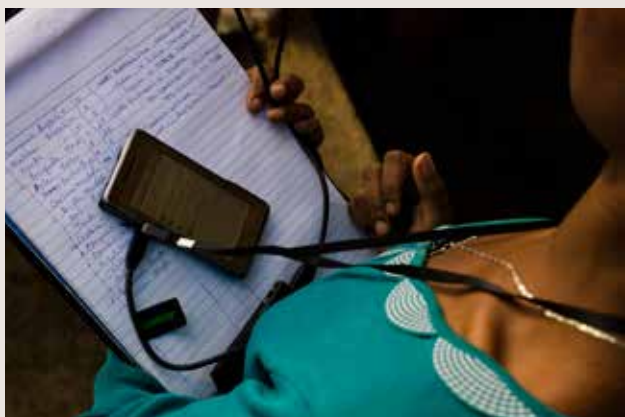
Professor Piot said: "I am deeply honoured and grateful to have been considered for this award. Dr Noguchi holds a special place in the history of medical research and was in many ways a pioneer of what we now call global health.

"While we have collectively achieved many successes, infectious diseases are far from under control, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. New pathogens will continue to emerge, and we must sustain local and global efforts for many years to come."

Studying blindness?

There's an app for that.

An eye surgeon studying for his PhD at the School is combining the latest advances in space exploration and mobile technology to prevent blindness in the developing world.



Dr Andrew Bastawrous, Research Fellow in International Eye Health, has developed a mobile eye testing kit and is currently testing it in Kenya on thousands of people in the field.

Despite 80% of blindness being curable or preventable, the majority of blind people with treatable eye conditions live in developing countries and have no access to suitable healthcare.

Dr Bastawrous hopes to overcome this problem by combining gadgets and applications that make it possible to use a modified smartphone to measure someone's vision, check their refractive error (glasses prescription), take photos of the back of the eye for diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, macula degeneration and glaucoma and check for the presence of a cataract.

This data can then be shared with specialists anywhere in the world to provide expert diagnosis and treatment plans in even the most remote locations. Individuals can be located on an interactive map, and then be retraced and contacted to arrange treatment or follow up.

Mobile technology – a healthcare revolution?



A Maasai man demonstrates Peek. courtesy Andrew Bastawrous

Mobile phones and portable computers have great potential to help people on antiretroviral therapy or those trying to quit smoking, but not all uses of mobile-health technology are beneficial, according to new research published in PLOS Medicine.

More than two-thirds of the world's population now owns a mobile phone. Researchers from the School, led by Dr Caroline Free, reviewed health interventions that have used mobile technology. As well as identifying areas where mobile technology have been most successful, they also call for more rigorous studies in low- and middle-income settings, where mobile health could make a large impact.

Public engagement: reaching out beyond academia

What can we do to engage school students in public health issues? How can we build on best practice of working with communities around the world? Can the public gain access to the subterranean world of our insectaries?

Public engagement is at the heart of research. Good-quality engagement brings benefits for all involved; non-academics can gain an insight into world-leading public health research, and our staff and students can develop an understanding of issues that really matter to public groups.

Over the past year the School has been opening its doors to the public more frequently. In July 2012, we celebrated London 2012 with the Olympics Showcase exhibition, showing off our historical artefacts including the microscopes and mosquito boxes that Sir Ronald Ross and Sir Patrick Manson used to unlock the secrets of malaria, as well as Jerry Morris' pioneering work on the links between exercise and the prevention of cardiovascular disease.

Our second public exhibition in Spring 2013 – “Cartographies of Life & Death: John Snow & Disease Mapping” – was a unique combination of historical documents, computer-generated mapping and contemporary artworks and seen by almost five thousand visitors. We plan to build on the success of the exhibition by exploring further opportunities for art and science collaborations.

Secret Inspects of Bloomsbury, courtesy Wellcome Trust

The insectaries at Keppel Street and the insect vectors with which we work are fantastic tools to help kick-start conversations with the public about science and research. In October, entomologists from the Faculty of Infectious Diseases introduced their mosquitoes, houseflies and ticks to thousands of people at the Bloomsbury Festival in Russell Square.

Over the year, we will also be welcoming secondary school students for work experience through the School's award-winning Young Scientists programme.



Working in partnership to improve health in South East Asia

The School has many collaborations and partnerships around the world. South East Asia has become a key region for the School. **School Director Peter Piot explains:**

“South East Asia is developing rapidly, with societies and health in transition. Rising prosperity and levels of education have led to increasing investment in health services and systems, and yet despite this impressive progress, the region faces health challenges old and new.

Alongside the unfinished agenda of tackling infectious diseases, malnutrition and child and maternal

Key projects and partnerships include:

Pandemic Preparedness

Researchers from the School are working with Taiwan Centres for Disease Control, IHHP Thailand, Mahidol University, Vietnam Military Medical University, Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology, and Wiku Adisasmito University of Indonesia on the AsiaFluCap project, analysing health systems’ ability to respond to the threat of pandemic influenza.

Tackling drug-resistant malaria

The School and partners including Mahidol University and the Cambodia National Malaria Control Programme are involved in Tackling Resistance to Artemisinin Collaboration, a multi-country collaboration funded by the UK Department of International Development.

Treating HIV in refugees and host communities

A consortium of researchers from the School and the UN High Commission for Refugees is monitoring a high-activity anti-retroviral therapy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Working in Myanmar

School researchers work extensively in Myanmar with Médecins Sans Frontières and are publishing findings of a major HIV treatment Programme.

Sanitation and dysentery

Shigella bacterium is the major cause of dysentery worldwide. Funded by the Wellcome Trust, Dr Stephen Baker has worked with the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Vietnam to sequence the shigella genome across the country, in order to discover how drug resistance is driving bacterial evolution.

mortality, South East Asia is on the front line of pandemic influenza, evolving drug-resistance in malaria and other pathogens, public health impacts of natural disasters, and above all the growing threat of non-communicable diseases.

Our School has been working in the Region for over a century. Today we work closely with the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health in Singapore, Mahidol University in Bangkok, and numerous other partners to develop and foster regional networks for research, education and innovation, in order to understand these challenges fully and to develop practice solutions.”



Fieldwork in Thailand and Cambodia, courtesy Shunmay Yueng

Recent alumni event highlights



Alumni Reception, New Delhi, India, July 2013



Graduation Ceremony, March 2013



Ontario alumni chapter meeting, April 2013



2013 Geneva Alumni Reception



Alumni Reception in New York City 2012

Graduation & Distance Learning Reception

Many congratulations to the class of 2012. Graduation took place on 23 March this year. Despite the unseasonal snow, hundreds of graduates turned up from around the world to celebrate with their fellow alumni, friends and family. The day began with ceremonies at the Institute of Education, with speeches from Professor Piot, the School's Director, Dr Fathy Saoud, the President of the Alumni Association, and Sir Tim Lankester, Chairman of Council. Guests then made their way through the snow to the School's Keppel Street building, for the traditional graduation receptions.

The Distance Learning Reception was held on Friday 22 March. This event celebrated the School's distance learning community - over 3,000 students and growing! Over 90 current students, staff, alumni and friends of the School from 23 countries attended the event, which was (as always) a memorable occasion.

Alumni Reception in New York City

We held an alumni reception in New York City at the British Consulate-General in mid-town last April. Over 90 alumni, staff, students, prospective students, and friends of the School attended the event, as well as the British Deputy Consul-General and the Director of the UKTI office, Martin Cook.

Alumni v Students Pub Quizzes

We held pub quizzes in September and March at local pub Canal 125. Both events proved popular and tickets sold out fast. The winning team were alumni on both occasions – can alumni retain their title?

Alumni & Friends Dinner, London

The London alumni dinner was held at 51 Buckingham Gate in December. Over 80 guests enjoyed a gourmet four-course meal, with music from a jazz duet. The dinner was a glamorous occasion, with our alumni looking splendid, as always!

Alumni Reception at ASTMH, Atlanta

Last year, we held our annual alumni reception at the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene in Atlanta, Georgia. Over 200 alumni, staff, prospective students and friends of the School gathered at the Hilton Atlanta, to network and reminisce.

Alumni Reception at APHA, San Francisco

Over 80 alumni came to our reception overlooking the San Francisco Bay and the Bay Bridge, which was held during the American Public Health Association's annual conference in November.

Toronto Chapter Events

The Ontario chapter is one of our most dedicated and successful chapters. They have held numerous events at local British pub the Bedford Academy in Toronto, Ontario. We look forward to many more events from them. We also held an alumni reception in Toronto in July at the Fairmont Hotel, where over 80 alumni and friends attended.

Alumni Reception at AIDS 2012, Washington DC

We held an alumni reception during the AIDS 2012 conference in Washington DC in July. The event was held at the British Embassy, with 100 alumni, staff, students and friends of the School attending.

Strawberries and Fizz Alumni Reception, London

We held the first of our alumni Strawberries and Fizz Alumni Receptions on 28 June in the beautiful art deco Keppel Street Library. Alumni enjoyed delicious seasonal refreshments including chocolate covered strawberries, mini scones with jam and clotted cream, Pimms and Lemonade and prosecco.

Autumn Alumni Events:

- Durban, South Africa - Monday 7 October**
- Brussels, Belgium - Friday 18 October**
- Boston, USA - Monday 4 November**
- Washington DC, USA - Friday 15 November**

Our full list of forthcoming events is available at <http://alumnonline.lshtm.ac.uk/events-homepage>



Strawberries and Fizz Alumni Reception



Alumni Reception in New York City



Alumni Reception at APHA, San Francisco



Alumni v Students Pub Quizzes



Alumni Tea Party, London

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

The Alumni team would like to say a big thank you for making the last year such a success. Looking back on the last twelve months, we have a lot to celebrate.

We launched our brand new online alumni community, where you can sign-up to search for old friends and colleagues, and find new alumni who are working in your field. You can now book events, make donations and purchase school merchandise through the online alumni community website – www.alumnionline.lshtm.ac.uk.

We are delighted that the 2012-13 Alumni Fund raised over £92,000 – this will go towards scholarships, research projects and the School's world-class Centres. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the campaign.

Our Alumni Chapter network continues to grow. New chapters were launched in Rio de Janeiro, Vancouver, Trinidad and Tobago, Kampala, Abu Dhabi, Philadelphia, Houston, San Francisco, New Orleans, Atlanta and Harare.

It has been brilliant to see distance learning students getting more involved with local chapters and the School's alumni community.

The last year has been fantastic and we are really looking forward to 2013-14. We also want to focus more on what you are doing now, so if you have stories you would like to share with us, or any feedback or ideas, we would really like to hear from you.

Best wishes,
Alice Perry, Head of Alumni
Maria Ryan, Alumni Officer

Blog

In 2013 we launched the School's Alumni Blog. The blog has rapidly proved popular as a way to share what is happening in our alumni community.

We have posted a wide variety of stories covering news, events, training and publications. If you have something interesting you would like us to include in the blog, from bumping into a fellow alumnus at a conference to the publishing of a book or journal article, please drop us a line and we will include it.

blogs.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni



Alumnus elected Director of the Pan American Health Organisation

Congratulations to alumnus Dr Carissa F. Etienne (MSc Community Health in Developing Countries 1982), who has been elected the new Director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO). Dr Etienne is the tenth director of PAHO – the world's oldest international health agency (110 years) – which serves as the regional office for the Americas of the World Health Organization.



Dr Etienne began her career as a medical officer at the Princess Margaret Hospital in her native Dominica. She worked her way up to chief medical officer, as well as serving in other high-level posts, including Co-ordinator of the National AIDS Program, Disaster Coordinator for the Ministry of Health, Chair of the National Advisory Council for HIV/AIDS, and Director of Primary Health Care Services. Her most recent role (March 2008 – November 2012) was Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Services at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Etienne says her highest priority as Director will be accelerating progress towards universal access to quality health care.

We wish Dr Etienne every success in her new role.

“Of the many opportunities and challenges this organization and our member states face, one goal stands atop all the others. It is providing universal access to health care across the Americas,” she said. “No other single achievement would contribute more to ensuring a long, dignified and productive life.”

Introducing PopART



South Africa randomisation ceremony hosted by Desmond Tutu TB Centre, Stellenbosch University, courtesy Lizzie Huntley

The HPTN 071 study, also known as PopART (Population Effects of Antiretroviral Therapy to reduce HIV Transmission), is a large community-randomised trial that is being carried out in South Africa and Zambia to evaluate the impact of a universal test-and-treat intervention on population-level HIV incidence.

The trial aims to measure the costs and benefits of a combination prevention package including door-to-door voluntary HIV testing, immediate treatment for HIV-infected individuals regardless of CD4 count and promotion of male circumcision for HIV-uninfected men. Another major goal of the study is to determine whether it is possible and affordable to deliver this combination prevention package on a large scale.

The study will be carried out in 21 communities (nine communities in the Western Cape of South Africa and 12 communities in Zambia) over a period of five years, from 2013 to 2017.

Funding for PopART is provided by the Office of the United States Global AIDS Coordinator, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the US National Institutes of Health.



Zambia randomisation ceremony hosted by Zambart Project, courtesy Lizzie Huntley

PHFI - UK Consortium: Building Research Capacity in India

India's economic development over the past 15 years is well-documented. The reality is, however, that while multinational corporations and international leaders vie for Indian business, the country still has some of the worst health statistics in the world. The clear parallel between India's vast economic expansion and the enormous rise in non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and diabetes is further cause for concern. Recent statistics indicate that the nationwide prevalence of diabetes in India now tops 9% and that by 2030 it is estimated there will be 100 million people with diabetes in India.

The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) was launched in 2005 to address the lack of public health training, research and policy development in India. The brainchild of School Honorary Fellow, Professor Srinath Reddy, PHFI aims to establish a network of public health schools all over India to provide training in public health and to undertake policy research and engage in public health advocacy.

A public-private partnership, PHFI recognised early on the need for international partners in order to effectively build research capacity and to foster strategic links for collaboration. The PHFI-UK Consortium was set up in 2008 with the help of a Wellcome Trust Strategic Award to help train core faculty for PHFI's network of public health schools. The Consortium provides a valuable portal whereby PHFI students and senior faculty can draw on UK expertise and gain access to an impressive network of UK contacts while UK members have the opportunity to develop collaborative research links in India.

Led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the UK Consortium has grown organically since 2008 and now comprises 16 of the main institutes of public health in the UK. The UK Secretariat is managed by



PHFI in Gujarat

Professor Pat Doyle and Dr Sanjay Kinra from the School's Department of Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology, with consortium members representing a wide range of disciplines.

PHFI-UK Consortium activities focus on supporting the professional development of PHFI faculty at various stages of their careers. The programme offers funding opportunities for PHFI faculty to undertake masters and doctoral studies in the UK. It also offers funding for UK-India collaborative research projects, bilateral visits and delivery of short courses in India. The programme is not however limited to academic capacity building. Recognising the need for institutional capacity building too, we have supported fact-finding visits to the UK for PHFI professional support staff, including heads of finance, distance learning and library staff.





Travel on a festive day, courtesy Hasan Habib, PHFI

What works in international development?

For the past two years, the London International Development Centre, together with its partner the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, have been bringing together academics, NGO professionals and policy-makers for the monthly seminar series 'What works in international development'.



Road sign in Juba, South Sudan, courtesy Egbert Sondorp

The series covers issues related to impact evaluation of development interventions through case studies or discussions of broader issues such as 'how to influence policy'. In the past we looked at the effects of microfinance on the lives of the poor, the effectiveness of health insurance, agricultural interventions to improve nutrition, and more. A recent seminar featured the School's Justin Parkhurst and the UK's Department for International Development's Kirsty Newman in a discussion on the politics of getting evidence into policy.

Several seminars covered various aspects of health, for instance: the impact of a financial incentive programme on increasing births in

medical facilities in India; the effect of health insurance on the use of insecticide-treated nets in Ghana; and the effectiveness of medical education via distance. The seminars connect cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary issues, and sometimes reveal effects that prove surprising to policy-makers and programme developers. For example, one seminar featured a project where distributing sanitary pads to girls in Ghana was shown to significantly boost school attendance.

The seminars run monthly, usually on Wednesday afternoons, and are free of charge. The presentations and audio recordings of past sessions are available on the London International Development Centre website.

The London International Development Centre facilitates interdisciplinary research and training to tackle complex problems in international development by bringing together social and natural scientists from across the University of London's Bloomsbury Colleges: Birkbeck, Institute of Education, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Royal Veterinary College, and the School of Oriental and African Studies.

School alumni can join this network for free via the LIDC website and benefit from online resources, events and networking opportunities with more than 3,000 international development professionals. <http://www.lidc.org.uk>

Alumni Profiles



Dr Pe Than Htun

Head of the Medical Entomology Research Division, Department of Medical Research

Dr Pe Than Htun is Deputy Director and Head, Medical Entomology Research Division, Department of Medical Research, Lower Myanmar and a Lecturer in the Department of Public Health Laboratory, University of Public Health, Yangon. Dr Pe Than Htun completed the School's MSc in Medical Parasitology in 1990.

"Receiving my qualification from the School has had a great impact on my career in two ways. Firstly, I feel that this achievement has improved and upgraded my level of work performance. In addition, I have more confidence in conducting research projects and decision-making based on sound knowledge. Secondly, the School qualification is highly regarded in the health sector in Myanmar, and helped me greatly in advancing in my career."

"We Asian alumni have always realised that the School's mission to improve health worldwide is truly genuine. Being in a tropical country and dealing with vector-borne diseases throughout my career, I feel I am still part of the School community although I never had a chance to re-visit the School in twenty years. I am always excited about the School's programs and collaborative activities in developing countries and of course, I am very proud of being an alumnus of the School and never tire of reading alumni news and other information."



Professor Rainford Wilks

Director of the Epidemiology Research Unit, University of the West Indies

Rainford Wilks has been Professor of Epidemiology and the Director of the Epidemiology Research Unit at the Tropical Medicine Research Institute, University of the West Indies, Mona, since 1999. He was awarded a Wellcome Trust Training Fellowship, and completed the MSc in Epidemiology at the School in 1985. In the same year he successfully completed the examinations for the award of the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, UK.

"My training at the School was part of a strategic plan by the University of the West Indies, the Ministry of Health and the Commonwealth Caribbean Medical Research Council (now the Caribbean Health Research Council) to develop epidemiology among clinicians and researchers in the region. At the School I was given a very good grounding in epidemiological principles which has served me very well."

Since his return to the Caribbean he has contributed to the training and development of the region's research capacity by contributing to the University of the West Indies' master's and doctoral programmes in public health, developing Masters and doctoral programmes in Epidemiology while mentoring and supervising researchers in medicine, nutrition, sociology. His impact has extended to regional governments and international organisations where his expertise has been brought to bear on structures, systems and processes to improve regional health. He has led research programmes involving collaborators from the Caribbean, North America and the UK attracting substantial grant funds to the Caribbean and resulting in seminal publications in retrovirology and cardiovascular disease risk. He has been a recipient of the University of the West Indies' Principal's and Vice Chancellor's awards for excellence in research. Congratulations Rainford!



Profile: Matilda Temperley

Matilda Temperley, MSc Control of Infectious Diseases 2006, is a successful photographer. After pursuing a career in tropical infectious diseases she happened upon photography. She is known for her stylised portraiture of marginalised societies.

“Having left the School somewhat sheepishly to earn my living with a camera I was delighted to be invited to write this blog. After studying the Control of Infectious Diseases MSc, I stayed at the school working with Simon Brooker for a period. It was a diverse and wonderful time doing cost effectiveness studies for the Human Hookworm Vaccine Initiative in Latin America and East Africa and looking at methods of malaria control in East Africa. Eventually though my feet itched to be out of London and I went to base myself in the Malaria Consortium in Uganda.

I have always loved cameras and during my time in Uganda I came to the conclusion (quite possibly the wrong conclusion) that I could tell a faster story with a camera. As soon as my time at the Malaria Consortium was done, I threaded myself back into London and started scratching a living at anything vaguely photographic whilst moving slowly towards camera competency.

In London my personal work is focussed on my love of mavericks happy to sit outside society’s norm. My current book project “The Human Zoo” captures physical diversity from sumo wrestlers to transgender body modification artists, giants and dwarves. It’s a reflection on circuses through the ages and the joy for me is collecting people’s stories.

My other big project to date was conceived whilst I was living in Uganda and I fell for East Africa’s border regions and their diverse and remote inhabitants. ‘Abyssinian Dreams’ is the resultant project that documents the people in these rapidly changing areas.

I am often asked if I regret giving up science. In truth I thought I was taking up the camera to tell the stories of the neglected tropical diseases, without realising how circuitous the journey to a successful photography career would be. It is however a good time to reflect on this, because after 5 years of practice and patience under my belt I am about to revisit my fledging project. The project was called “This is what an angel looks like” and consisted of portraits of Mulago hospital’s Burkitt’s Lymphoma unit. This autumn will be the test but I am excited that my two working lives can finally collide.”

