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• Alumni Profiles
• Events and Activities
It is a great pleasure for me to update you with news from the School. The last few months have been particularly eventful.

Before Christmas we celebrated the outstanding performance of School staff in the Research Assessment Exercise, which assesses the quality of research activities in institutions across the UK. The School was ranked third in the country in the Times Higher table of excellence. This was indeed a stellar performance, more details are given in the accompanying article.

Just before Christmas we also heard news of a £1.7m award from the Wolfson Foundation towards the purchase of a building in Tavistock Place, which will house the staff of the Department of Public Health and Policy. We have redeveloped the South Courtyard on the main Keppel Street site. The South Courtyard was officially on 19 May by HRH Princess Anne. You can read further details about the School’s estates developments on page 11.

The MSc Diploma day took place on 7 March for around 250 former students and their families and friends for presentations of diplomas and prizes. We awarded honorary fellowships to Professors David Bradley, Tony McMichael and Srinath Reddy. Honorary fellowships are the highest honour the School can award and I am delighted that we have recognised the contributions of three distinguished and internationally renowned public health leaders in this way.

We also awarded the Donald Reid Medal for outstanding contributions to epidemiology, which was instituted in 1979 in memory of Professor Reid, Director of the Department of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology at the School between 1961 and his sudden death in 1977. The medal is awarded every three years and this year’s recipient was Professor Paul Fine. The medal is richly deserved recognition for Professor Fine’s many contributions to theoretical and applied epidemiology in both low and high income countries as well as his commitment to raising awareness of the history of epidemiology.

I look forward to keeping in touch with you in the future and hope that you enjoy receiving this update from the School.

Professor Sir Andrew Haines
Director, LSHTM
LSHTM wins 2009 annual Gates Award for Global Health

LSHTM has won the Gates Award for Global Health, and will receive $1 million in prize money.

The award, established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to recognise organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to improving global health, especially in resource-poor settings. The winners are chosen by a jury of international health leaders from more than 100 nominations from around the world, and the award is administered by the Global Health Council. LSHTM is both the first academic institution to win the award and the first British winner.

“For more than a century, the LSHTM has trained the some of the world's most outstanding public health leaders,” said Dr. Tachi Yamada, president of the Gates Foundation's global health program. “LSHTM’s commitment to leadership and cutting-edge research has made an immeasurable contribution to health in developing countries.”

Professor Sir Andrew Haines, Director of LSHTM, comments: “This award is excellent news for the School and a testament to the hard work, commitment and expertise of our staff and students. We are delighted and proud to be honoured for the work we do which includes researching diseases that particularly afflict disadvantaged people around the world – such as malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS but also increasingly cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental disorders. Equally important is our work to build health systems and train health personnel in low income and post conflict countries.

“This award could not have come at a better time for us as it coincides with plans to expand our popular distance learning programme. This programme has helped many talented people around the world to acquire the skills and expertise they need to improve public health. The prize money will enable us to extend that opportunity to many more through development of new courses and provision of scholarships.”

Sir Andrew received the award on behalf of LSHTM in Washington D.C, at a special ceremony during the Global Health Council’s Annual International Conference on Global Health on 28 May.

LShtm wins 2009 annual Gates Award for Global Health

RAE confirms world leading research

LSHTM is celebrating being ranked one of the top three research institutions in the country in the Times Higher Education's ‘table of excellence', which is based on the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The table, published in December, places the School ahead of LSE, Oxford, Imperial and UCL. LSHTM also achieved the largest increase in ranking compared with the last RAE in 2001 of any of the top 10 institutions. LSHTM made submissions to three of the Units of Assessment, Infection and Immunology, Epidemiology and Public Health, and Health Services Research. It was among the highest ranked institutions in all three areas, with up to 80% of its research assessed as world leading or internationally excellent.

Professor Sir Andrew Haines, Director of LSHTM, commented: “This is an exciting time for the School, which is leading the way both nationally and internationally in improving global public health, as well as educating the next generation of health professionals.”

“The RAE's results reflect the remarkable depth and breadth of expertise within the School, the outstanding quality of our research, and the tremendous commitment of our gifted staff, many of whom are leaders in their field. They have helped to make us the world class institution we are, and I would like to thank them for the outstanding work that has led to such well-deserved recognition today.”

ALUMNI@LSHTM.AC.UK
On 16 May over 100 alumni and their guests attended a drinks reception on the Metropole’s panoramic balcony overlooking Lake Geneva, Switzerland.

Alumni, who had completed degrees from the 1940s to 2008, enjoyed the May sunshine and beautiful views as they reminisced about their time studying with LSHTM.

Professor Sir Andrew Haines hosted the reception and spoke about current developments at LSHTM. Dr Manuel Dayrit, President of the Alumni Association, and Alice Perry, Alumni Relations Manager also addressed alumni and discussed future plans for the Alumni Association and local activities in Switzerland. The reception took place on the Saturday before the WHO World Health Assembly. Alumni expressed surprise at how many co-workers, at organisations like WHO, the Global Fund, the Red Cross and MSF, have LSHTM degrees, and attended the reception. Alumni were also pleasantly surprised to see colleagues attending the reception who are currently studying for LSHTM degrees in Switzerland through our distance learning programme.

The event was enjoyed by all and was a testament to the School’s unique alumni network of health practitioners. The Alumni Office was glad to be able to connect so many like-minded individuals and hopes the momentum is maintained through the formation of a Swiss Alumni Chapter.

On 16-17 April over 250 statisticians attended a meeting to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the MSc in Medical Statistics. Highlights of the two-day event included the Bradford Hill Memorial Lecture, given by Professor Scott Zeger of Johns Hopkins University and a lively alumni reception on 16 April.

A jazz band played from 7pm until late as alumni, and staff celebrated the MSc’s ruby anniversary. Professor Peter Armitage represented the MSc to exchange cards with Professors Michael Healy and Deborah Ashby representing the Royal Statistical Society. The RSS celebrate their own landmark 175th birthday in 2009. Professor Armitage (founder of the MSc and past RSS president) gave an entertaining speech about the significance of both anniversaries. The meeting showcased the new South Courtyard and John Snow and Manson lecture theatres, used for the very first time. Participants were overwhelmingly positive about the stimulating presentations, stunning building, and the excellent company! For those who couldn’t make it, the presentations are available at www.lshtm.ac.uk/msu/programme.htm; we are delighted papers from the meeting will appear in a special issue of Statistical Methods in Medical Research next year.

The meeting saw the launch of both a Medical Statistics MSc Alumni Chapter, and the MSc Medical Statistics Scholarship Fund. We were delighted to also recognise Professor Lawlor and Gertrude Owusu-Banahene as alumni representatives. The scholarship fund aims to provide much needed support to MSc applicants from special circumstance countries. Further information about this initiative can be found at www.lshtm.ac.uk/msu/scholarshipfund.htm or email mscmedstats@lshtm.ac.uk.
Leishmaniacs gather at WorldLeish4

There has been a long history of research on leishmaniasis at LSHTM. Former staff members Professors Ralph Lainson, Jeffrey Shaw, David Bradley, Paul Kaye and Jennie Blackwell have all made significant contributions to the understanding of this parasitic disease over the past decades.

**What is leishmaniasis?**

It is caused by *Leishmania*, protozoan parasites that multiply and survive in macrophages and are transmitted by phlebotomine sandflies. The disease has a worldwide distribution, with an incidence of about 0.5 million cases of the visceral form and 1.5 million cases of the cutaneous form of the disease.

Every four years leishmaniasis and Leishmania research scientists from across the globe, who affectionately refer to themselves as ‘leishmaniacs’, gather to exchange scientific and clinical data, plan research and catch up on news. This year, from 3-7 February, over 800 leishmaniacs met in Lucknow, India (hosted by the Central Drug Research Institute) for the fourth such gathering.

Significant new results on treatments and drugs, diagnosis, and the taxonomy of leishmaniasis were presented in talks and posters. Several members of LSHTM staff participated (Professor Michael Miles was on the organising committee) and were delighted to meet so many alumni from all over the world. Thanks to Neeloo Singh and the other organisers who made all of us welcome in Lucknow.

*Professor Simon Croft, Head of the Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases*

**2009 Events Calendar**

**JULY**
- 13 July: Alumni Reception
  *Beijing, China*
  Where: during IHEA (International Health Economics Association) World Congress on Health Economics

**SEPTEMBER**
- 7 September: Alumni Reception
  *Verona, Italy*
  Where: during ECTMIH (European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health)

**NOVEMBER**
- TBA (first week of November): Alumni Reception
  *Nairobi, Kenya*
  Where: during MIM (Multilateral Initiative on Malaria) Pan-Africa Malaria Conference
- 21 November: Alumni Reception
  *Washington DC, USA*
  Where: during ASTMH (American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene)

For further information about any of these events email alumni@lshtm.ac.uk. To ensure you receive invitations to our alumni events please update us with your current contact details at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni.

All that Jazz: Alumni Reception in New Orleans

The Alumni Association finished the 2008 alumni events schedule with an alumni reception at the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene’s Annual Meeting.

On 8 December, over 120 LSHTM staff and alumni filled the Waterbury Ballroom of the Sheraton New Orleans.

Hosted by the Alumni Office, guests heard short presentations on the development of the Alumni Association, followed by drinks and an opportunity to network informally. The event lasted well into the evening, with alumni having the opportunity to talk with academic staff and try their luck in winning the raffle prizes (Tabasco sauce and a DVD of *A Streetcar Named Desire*). The evening was a huge success. We look forward to holding similar events in other countries and meeting many more alumni members.
INTRODUCING...THE ARCHIVES SERVICE

The aim of the School’s archives is to document the history, functions and development of the School since its establishment in 1899.

The purpose of the Archives Service is to:
• Preserve the historical records of the School, ensuring their existence for future generations.
• Increase access to the archives through cataloguing archives onto the online database, and dissemination activities such as exhibitions, promotional material such as postcards and bookmarks and articles in relevant publications.

We are always happy to welcome researchers to the archives, for further information on accessing the archives and to search our online catalogue, see www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/archives/

Material in the collections includes the administrative papers of the School, research and personal papers of prominent individuals employed by the School and deposited material of individuals who were significant figures in the establishment and development of tropical medicine and public health and who had connections with the School. This material dates from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day and relates to the United Kingdom and countries in Africa and Asia.

The material in the archives covers a wide range of topics but here are a few examples:
• Papers of Sir Ronald Ross, discoverer of the mosquito transmission of malaria and first Briton to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine. This collection comprises of 20,000 items of correspondence, notebooks, photographs, publications and postcards.
• The Nutrition collection comprises of historical records relating to scientific investigations carried out by staff in the UK and colonial territories between the 1920s and 1950s. The collection includes dietary survey material, research in applied nutrition, documents relating to nutrition in internment camps during World War II and Professor Philip Payne’s important work on protein requirements.
• Collection of 700 posters and ephemera relating to sexual and reproductive health in the 1980s and 1990s. The posters notably concern AIDS prevention and originate from countries across Europe including Norway, Greece, Switzerland and UK.

The 80th anniversary of Keppel Street and Open House

The Keppel Street building was opened by HRH The Prince of Wales on the 18 July 1929. He gave a speech in the library and then was taken on a tour which included visiting the museum, laboratories and finally the workmen in a marquee in the south-west courtyard. The purchase of the site and the cost of the building were made possible through a generous gift of $2m from the Rockefeller Foundation. A competition to design the new School building was held involving five architects; this was won by Morley Horder and Verner Rees. To celebrate the anniversary of the building, an exhibition on the history of the building will be on display in the Library during July 2009.

Alumni are also encouraged to come to the School for Open House on 19 September, when tours of the building (including the new South Courtyard) will be taking place. Check the website in September for further information.

Photo Library

The Photo Library is the School’s new image database, this service enables staff, students, alumni and the public to access the resources of the School’s images. These range from historical images from the School’s archives to contemporary images of the building, events and people taken by the School Photographer.

For further information and to access the database, please go to www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/archives/photolibrary.html

Victoria Cronna, Archivist and Records Manager
Dr Ryan is also the Director of Tropical and Geographic Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and Associate Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard School of Public Health. In 2008 Dr Ryan became President-elect of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

What made you decide to study the DTM&H with LSHTM?
I quite simply wanted to learn tropical medicine and tropical infectious diseases from some of the world’s authorities, who had both active clinical experience and a firm scientific basis of knowledge.

Did you have to make any sacrifices to come to London to study?
Whatever there were, paled in comparison to the opportunities to study in London with so many great fellow students and teachers.

Did you enjoy studying the DTM&H? Were there any memorable moments?
Very much so! It was a wonderful opportunity to pull out from my responsibilities in Boston and to immerse myself in a field which is so wonderful and so challenging. One of the stories that I remember well was the first time I learned the importance of the European distinction of ‘Professor’ versus ‘Doctor’. In the United States, especially when it comes to clinical matters, doctor is the highest appellation.

I remember one afternoon working up a case at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases up at Saint Pancras, and then later in the afternoon as we rounded introducing the patient to the head physician, who I introduced as ‘Doctor X’ at which point a horrified look came over the Registrar’s face and he later pulled me aside to tell me I had made one of those ‘foot in the mouth’ introductions since ‘Dr. X’ should have been referred to as ‘Professor X’. To which I replied ‘He isn’t a doctor?’ and a look of incomprehension yet again came over the Registrar’s face.

You’ve taught and studied at a variety of first class academic institutions. How does LSHTM compare to other institutions in terms of the academic experience? Quite simply the LSHTM is a premiere institution. Undoubtedly its most important assets are its faculty and staff. Bricks and mortar are just that, but it’s the people who drive the excellence of the institution.

Has the DTM&H from LSHTM assisted you in your career in anyway?
Very much so! At a professional level, one of my career highlights that I hold closest to my heart is my on-going long term collaboration between our wonderful research team at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Harvard University – Massachusetts General Hospital. I first went out to Bangladesh after my DTM&H, and whatever small contributions I’ve made were very much made possible by my training and education.

Alumni membership services and benefits

Membership of the LSHTM Alumni Association entitles you to a range of exclusive services and benefits. These include special offers and discounts from the following organisations:

- Asia House
- C2 Career Consultancy
- Chatham House
- Goodenough College
- London International Development Centre
- LSHTM Careers Service
- LSHTM Library
- New Scientist
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Society for Public Health
- Royal Statistical Society
- Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- University of London Union
- Senate House Library

Full information about the available benefits is given online at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni.
Dr Aqila Noori completed her MSc in Public Health in 2008. Dr Noori studied by distance learning in her home country Afghanistan, where she is currently working as Senior Co-ordinator for Technical Affairs in the Ministry of Public Health.
Dr Noori explains “The health status of the approximately 25 million Afghans is among the worst in the world. The poor health status of women and children is exacerbated by a very high fertility rate and low contraceptive prevalence. For example, the Maternal Mortality Ratio is the highest in the world except for Sierra Leone.”

“I registered with LSHTM as an external student for MSc Health Systems Management (HSM) in 2003. I was greatly keen and was in dire need to equip myself with new and advanced knowledge in this area. I was encouraged to study with LSHTM by a colleague, Dr Gyuri Fritsch, from the Netherlands and had freshly completed an MSc in Health Systems Management from LSHTM as a full time student in London. Dr Gyuri encouraged me and some of my staff to apply for MSc HSM and MSc Epidemiology. Our admission encouraged a number of doctors in other organisations and the Ministry of Health to apply for study at LSHTM. In a way we were the pioneers of distance learning in Afghanistan.

During the first year of my study I could not appear in the examination, because as well as shouldering responsibility of managing a huge health program I had to take care of my two months old child. I transferred from HSM to Public Health and besides my full time job and my responsibility of caring for three children; I completed my MSc in Public Health in four years. It was a difficult job juggling my work commitments, three young children and my studies, but I remained quite motivated despite security threats and concerns.

The primary reason for my motivation was that this was the only feasible and affordable way for me to get a postgraduate qualification. There were scholarship opportunities in the US and the UK but due to children and family I could not avail myself of these opportunities. Another reason for my motivation was observing the difference between those colleagues who had postgraduate qualifications versus those that had not, in terms of depth and broadness of their approach for resolving a problem and richness of their scientific arguments and discussion. I knew that to occupy a senior position in the Afghan Public Health Sector at either the Ministry, or any NGO or donor agency, you need to have a good postgraduate qualification.

Studying by distance learning is a challenge anywhere in the world, let alone somewhere as politically unstable country as Afghanistan. Dr Noori explains, “As weekends, government holidays and Eid holidays were the only convenient time for me to study, I was not able to visit my relatives or attend weddings or other family functions. I had to sacrifice my social and leisure time to complete my study.

The worsening security situation in Afghanistan affects every aspect of life negatively. Usually when we go to work in the morning we do not know whether we will get back to home alive or not. Also, during all the four years of my study even Kabul had electricity only for four hours at each night. There was no power supply after 10:00pm. This was the only free and quiet time for me to study. I had to study either using gas light or had to charge the emergency lights.

At the end I would like to thank London University, the leadership of LSHTM Distance Learning Programme and all those who were involved in making this programme available to students who could not study in a regular programme either due to family or financial reasons. I hope this programme can continue forever and can serve and equip students living in remote areas of the world with quality postgraduate education.

‘Poor health status of women and children is exacerbated by a high fertility rate and low contraceptive prevalence’

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But I really enjoyed these four years of study despite the difficulties.

After completion of my MSc I noticed a great change in my technical knowledge. My approach has become much broader and rich. To complete an MSc degree to international standards in somewhere like Afghanistan involves a lot of effort and courage on behalf of a student, but the encouraging and motivating approach of the LSHTM distance learning team proved an inspiring force in my study completion.

At the end I would like to thank London University, the leadership of LSHTM Distance Learning Programme and all those who were involved in making this programme available to students who could not study in a regular programme either due to family or financial reasons. I hope this programme can continue forever and can serve and equip students living in remote areas of the world with quality postgraduate education.

Dr Aqila Noori, meeting her staff in Ghazni province of Afghanistan

CreDIT: IsAF – PHoTo by mAss CommunICATIon sPeCIALIsT 1sT CLAss JoHn CoLLIns, u.s. nAvy
We are pleased to announce that LSHTM has embarked on an ambitious campaign to provide much needed expansion of its London facilities, funding for scholarships, including for distance-learning students, and support for capacity development in partner institutions in Africa.

The international reputation of the School has led to high demand for our programmes. There are currently over 2000 distance-learning students from 140 countries enrolled at the School. However, we know there is the potential for more students to take up places. The Development Office looks forward to working closely with the Alumni Office to help achieve these goals for growth.

Wolfson Foundation helps launch Tavistock Place with £1.7 million

The School has purchased a substantial building in Tavistock Place, close to Keppel Street, and the Wolfson Foundation has generously provided £1.7m towards the cost of refurbishment. The Development Office aims to build on this success with other trusts, foundations and donors, and we are grateful both for the Foundation’s support and for the guidance from Paul Ramsbottom, the Foundation’s Executive Secretary, who has recently joined the Court of LSHTM.

Public health partnerships

The Development Office continues to raise awareness and support for public health partnerships in low-income countries in order to maximise international funding to enable them to undertake their own research, training and policy development. The aim is to building on the success of existing long term collaborations in Africa and Asia.

Such support will complement the capacity building activities already being undertaken by LSHTM staff with their overseas partners, through training of MSc and PhD students, through local staff training as part of collaborative research projects, and through strategic grants for capacity building from funders such as the Wellcome Trust.

Other ways to make a difference

The School accepts donations via credit card payment online so if you would like to support us, you can make a contribution via our website in just a few clicks. If you are a UK tax payer, LSHTM will receive an extra 28 pence from the Government for every pound you donate if you donate via Gift aid. Furthermore, until July 2011, for every £2 donated to LSHTM, the UK Government’s Matched Funding Scheme for Higher Education will give another £1 to the school.

For all queries and donations please contact the Development Office at development@lshtm.ac.uk or call +44 (0)20 7927 2345.

Scholarships open new opportunities

The Development Office is delighted to announce that an anonymous donor has agreed to match scholarship donations up to a substantial amount.

Primary beneficiaries of this generous gift will be African students studying abroad or in London. However, donations that are to be matched are not required to be exclusively for African student scholarships.

In addition, the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust have announced their kind intention to give £120,000 for matched funding for LSHTM Scholarships, beginning in September 2009 and for a three year period. This will enable students, who are committed to improving public health, gain the knowledge and experience to combat disease, inequality and poverty in the developing world and make a real difference.

Only 10% of prospective African students offered a placement at LSHTM can afford to attend. This is a wasted opportunity not just for the individual but also for the many whom might have benefited if they had been able to take up the offer of a place. Providing opportunities for more of the many students who apply to take advantage of the training we offer, would be a real investment and an important contribution to the improvement of health in the developing world. We are confident, with the help and support of friends of LSHTM, we shall be able to find funds to match the generous donations we have received.
The Keppel St South Courtyard development was completed this April. This new, reclaimed space accommodates, at lower ground and ground floor, areas of teaching and research space and the new Manson and John Snow Lecture Theatres, along with a ‘social’ space, including circulation, function space and refectory breakout space.

The development maintains the openness of the courtyard, allowing views across the courtyard and skyward. The project also includes the reinstatement and restoration of the original entrance foyer so that the main reception area is directly linked to the new heart of the School.

Environmental Design
The South Courtyard development has been designed with the environment in mind. The project includes chilled beams using cooled water from geothermal boreholes, natural ventilation, heat recovery units, a mini wind turbine and photo-voltaic cells incorporated into the glass roof design. The photovoltaic cells also act as a solar screen to the atrium, reducing heat gain and glare but spaced to maximise daylight into the areas. The project demonstrates the possibilities for low and zero carbon technologies in an urban setting.

Tavistock Place
The Tavistock Place site is a £28m investment that reflects the continuing success and expansion of LSHTM’s research and training programmes. Considerable investment in a programme of modernisation and refurbishment is needed to develop the site to its full potential.

Tavistock Place will be home to the Department of Public Health and Policy which is the largest multi-disciplinary public health group in Europe.

“This building offers a tremendous opportunity to the Department to consolidate everyone on one site in purpose designed facilities with plenty of meeting and social space. Moreover we will be able to accommodate our research degree students in the same building, encouraging much closer interaction between staff and students” said Professor Anne Mills, Head of the Department of Public Health and Policy.

Our aim is to create an extensive, and up-to-date, online library of common career destinations of our alumni. Information will be linked to further resources relating to common alumni career areas. This will give individuals a clearer insight into the range of careers that are open to them.

This is where the input of alumni is of vital importance. By keeping in contact with the Alumni Office and providing basic information on your job title, employing organisation and job sector we can build up a more accurate and longer term picture of the career paths of graduates. This information is enhanced if it also includes individual career case studies. Case studies can provide a wealth of information for individuals considering a particular career; it can provide an honest ‘insiders’ perspective on what a job is like on a day to day basis and the kind of skills and attributes that you need to be successful at it. It can also provide additional information on the culture of certain organisations, as well as trends in a sector that can affect future employment opportunities.

You can download the questionnaire on our website at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/careers.htm. We would encourage as many alumni as possible to complete the questionnaire. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Dr Calum Leckie, LSHTM Careers Adviser
Dr Cathy Zimmerman, of LSHTM’s Gender Violence & Health Centre, emphasised the severity and widespread nature of trafficking and related health concerns, including depression, fatigue and Sexually Transmitted Infections. She retold shocking accounts from trafficked women and referred to statistics from the research during the presentation in a seminar, called Trafficking of Women for Sexual Exploitation, which was held as part of the international 16 Days Against Gender Violence campaign.

Dr Zimmerman explained how a 13-year-old Kosovar refugee was trafficked to Italy, and how another victim had a gun put to her head and only found out it was not loaded when the trigger was pulled. She also epitomised the impact of trafficking by quoting the words of a Lithuanian woman trafficked to London: “I feel like they’ve taken my smile and I can never have it back.”

Such testimonies were drawn from a series of interviews with women who had recently escaped from traffickers and were attending centres offering post-trafficking services in the UK, Belgium, Italy, Moldova, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Czech Republic. The women were interviewed 0-14 days after first attending the centre, again between 28-56 days and finally 90 days or more after first attendance. Many of the findings can be found in the report: *Stolen Smiles: The Physical and Psychological Health Consequences of Women and Adolescents Trafficked in Europe.*

Dr Zimmerman set out the wide variety of problems affecting trafficked women before, during and after being trafficked. She showed how 60 per cent had been physically and/or sexually abused before being trafficked (15 per cent were sexually abused before they were 15). Such abuse is likely to make women more vulnerable to being trafficked. While under the control of traffickers, 76 per cent of the women experienced physical violence, and threats against the women and their families were common. After having escaped the trafficking context the list of symptoms mentioned at the first interview with researchers were extensive, including fatigue (82 per cent), headaches (81), sexual health problems (60-70) and memory problems (63). Levels of depression, anxiety and hostility recorded at the first interview were also very high and despite declining somewhat over the subsequent two interviews, symptom levels remained much higher than those of an average female population.

Zimmerman emphasised the potentially acute psychological distress suffered by trafficked women as a consequence of having endured repetitive abuse and/or “uncontrollable and unpredictable” events. She indicated that when women emerge from a trafficking situation, post-trauma reactions may inhibit their memory and cognitive functioning.

She highlighted that during and after life-threatening events, individuals may be less able to notice and accurately recall details about their ordeal. She suggested that police who are planning to conduct interviews and collect evidence for criminal investigations immediately following a brothel raid, for example, need to recognise the time and support women may need before being able to fully cooperate and provide reliable evidence. She also set out her ABC principles of trauma-informed care to assist trafficked women: Acknowledge violence, Bestow control, Create a safe space.

Her presentation showed how it is essential for women to have the appropriate assistance and recovery time to foster their well-being, independence and reintegration into society.
A DAY IN THE LIFE...

My name is Amanda Jane. I'm a distance learning tutor for the MSc in Clinical Trials.

This morning, I woke up early. My baby is sleeping. I log onto LSHTM’s virtual learning environment. There’s a new message – a student in Malaysia. She asks:

“It is said that it is unethical to use placebo control if there is an alternative standard treatment. The reason for conducting a trial is to show superiority of the new treatment. If a new treatment is compared with standard treatment and there’s no significant difference in efficacy what will happen to the new treatment?”

Yikes! – I think. This query needs careful attention. I check my copy of the students’ learning material and my PhD notes. I draft a response and ask others in my team for comments. Wow – Pablo is still awake! He’s based in Peru and is an experienced Clinical Trialist. He’s edited my response; I now feel confident enough to post it. Up it goes. Hooray! – I’m teaching in the 21st century.

Out of my window I can see it’s a cold, wet morning in London. I’m glad I don’t need to join the queues on London underground – I’ve already travelled the world this morning! My baby is waking. I’d better plan for the day ahead. I still have quite a few assignments to mark before next week’s deadline.

The LSHTM employs a diverse group of part-time staff to support our distance learning MSc teaching programme. If you think you’d enjoy teaching on one of these programmes and would like more information about the roles and responsibilities of a Distance Learning tutor, please contact the following:

Clinical trials: kendall.searle@lshtm.ac.uk
Epidemiology: anne.tholen@lshtm.ac.uk
Infectious diseases: sara.atkinson@lshtm.ac.uk

IN FOCUS: LIBRARY & ARCHIVE SERVICES

Alumni of LSHTM are welcome to visit the Library to make use of its specialised holdings.

External membership
As a member of the Alumni Association you may also apply to join the Library as an external member. This will entitle you borrow up to five books at any one time. Reference material and items from the Overnight Loan Collection may not be borrowed.

As an external member you will need to show your LSHTM Library card and complete a visitor’s card each time you visit the Library. The Alumni Office will give you a letter confirming your status as a member of the Alumni Association, which you can present to the Library staff.

For further information about obtaining this letter contact the Alumni Office at alumni@lshtm.ac.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)20 7299 4774.

External members’ cards are valid for one year and may be renewed, at the discretion of the Head of the Library & Archives Service, on production of the documentation detailed.

Further information
Reference use and external membership do not include access to networked resources such as electronic journals, databases, internet and email.

Details of the Library’s opening hours as well as links to the Library catalogue and information about collections and services are available at www.lshtm.ac.uk/library.

If you have any queries regarding membership or use of the Library call +44 (0)20 7927 2276 or email library@lshtm.ac.uk.

Caroline Lloyd, Head of Library and Archive Services
Commuters’ hands were swabbed at bus stops outside major train stations, in five cities around the UK – London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Liverpool and Newcastle – and the swabs were cultured for the presence of faecal bacteria.

The results were shocking, and created quite a stir in the national press. Out of the 404 people sampled, over a quarter had faecal bacteria on their hands. The results showed that the further north you go, the more likely you are to show contamination; overall, 43% of people in Newcastle had contaminated hands, compared with just 13% in London. However, this result was explained entirely by the men. In fact, 57% of the men sampled in Newcastle were carrying faecal bacteria on their hands. So it seems that northern men were the dirtiest! Unfortunately, London women can’t feel too proud, as three times as many women had faecal bacteria on their hands, compared to the London men.

We also found that people who travelled by bus were more likely to show contamination than those who travelled by train. It made no difference to the contamination whether someone had been into a hospital that week, were taking antibiotics or had reported that they washed their hands that morning. Interestingly, there was a trend for those in manual occupations to have less contamination than those in administrative jobs, or students, retired, or unemployed people, and especially those in professional occupations.

There was some indication that women in professional occupations were dirtier than those in the other occupation groups.

The most common type of faecal bacteria found was enterococcus, (found in 21.5% of the samples) followed by E. coli, then klebsiella. Although these bacteria do not always cause disease, they do indicate that hands have not been washed properly.

Dr Val Curtis, Director of the Hygiene Centre at LSHTM and principal investigator of the study, comments: “We were flabbergasted by the finding that so many people had faecal bugs on their hands...’

Above: Winners of the UK poster competition won a unique prize trip to India to visit groundbreaking handwashing promotion programmes.

Graph showing the percentage of men and women in each city who had faecal bacteria on their hands.

‘We were flabbergasted by the finding that so many people had faecal bugs on their hands...’
had anticipated, and suggest that there is a real problem with people washing their hands in the UK. If any of these people had been suffering from a diarrhoeal disease, then the potential for it to be passed around to other people would be greatly increased by their failure to wash their hands properly after going to the toilet.”

The first Global Handwashing Day, on 15 October, reached over seventy countries. The focus of the event was on children, as children suffer disproportionately from diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases and deaths. But research shows that children – the segment of society so often the most energetic, enthusiastic, and open to new ideas – can also be powerful agents of behavioural change.

LSHTM coordinated the Global Handwashing Day programme in the UK, and in addition to the hand contamination study, activities included the launch of a local schools hygiene promotion campaign, a segment about hygiene on the children’s television programme Blue Peter, and a poster competition for schools. Activities in other countries included all school children in Bangladesh washing their hands at the same time while singing a theme song; a demonstration of proper handwashing to 1 million school children in Sri Lanka; schools in Vietnam showing the importance of handwashing with soap using glo germ demonstrations, songs and theatre.

Preparations for 2009 are already underway. LSHTM, along with Poo Productions, and the London International Animation Festival, have launched the Golden Poo Awards – a competition for short animation films, which tackle the serious issues of hygiene and sanitation in an edgy, irreverent and humorous way. For more details, go to www.liaf.org.uk/2009/poop.html

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Dr Val Curtis on winning the BMJ Health Communicator of the Year award. Dr Curtis was awarded the prize for her success in reaching a global audience with her message on handwashing.
The London International Development Centre (LIDC) – an interdisciplinary initiative backed by LSHTM – is opening its membership to LSHTM alumni.

The growing collaborative project facilitates original research, training and events by bringing together social and natural scientists to tackle complex problems in international development. LIDC already has more than 700 members (with 52 per cent from LSHTM). LSHTM is one of the six Bloomsbury Colleges, all part of the University of London, which are taking part in the initiative. The Bloomsbury Colleges are LSHTM, Birkbeck, Institute of Education, Royal Veterinary College, SOAS, and the School of Pharmacy.

LIDC is focusing on three interdisciplinary thematic programmes and LSHTM staff are involved in all of these important areas:

- Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases
- Access to Medicines for the Poor
- Agri-health

Before LIDC was created there were no formal research collaborations in international development between any of the Bloomsbury Colleges, and only one teaching link.

Since then, LIDC has served as a catalyst, bringing together groups of researchers at workshops and conferences to explore interests across sectors and disciplines, including the Millennium Development Goals, water governance, technology in Africa, HIV/AIDS, and economics. LIDC is also concentrating its efforts on enhancing distance learning as a tool for development.

LIDC membership is free and its benefits include invitations to events, access to its online resources, updates about events, and media briefings about development. For more information visit www.lidc.org.uk.

Guy Collender, Communications Officer, London International Development Centre

International Alumni Chapters

The Alumni Office is establishing Alumni Chapters throughout the world. Our Chapters are made up of volunteers who are members of the Alumni Association.

Our network of Alumni Chapters provides graduates with opportunities to network, socialise, assist their local communities, and recruit top students to LSHTM, and to support each other and the School in other ways.

Alumni Chapters can be established in cities, regions or countries with high concentrations of graduates. Alternatively, Chapters can define themselves in terms of the degree subject, year of graduation or their area of employment.

Setting-up an Alumni Chapter

We would like to hear from anyone interested in volunteering to help establish a Chapter. Chapters can be established if there is sufficient interest and enough alumni to make the Chapter a success. For further information or to register your interest, email alumni@lshtm.ac.uk.

Contact our Alumni Chapters:

- Ontario, Canada
  Email: lshtmontarioalumni@gmail.com
- Washington DC, USA
  Email: lshtmalundc@gmail.com
- New York City, USA
  Email: nyc.lshtm.alumni@gmail.com
- Chicago, USA
  Email: chicagolshtmalumni@gmail.com
- Boston, USA
  Email: lshtmboston@gmail.com

Obituaries

You can access the obituaries website at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/Obituaries.htm. Please email obituaries to alumni@lshtm.ac.uk or send them by post to the Alumni Office.