



LONDON
SCHOOL *of*
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE

ALUMNI NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Climate Change and Health
- LSHTM, Sustainability and Fairtrade
- Millennium Development Goals

ISSUE 29 • SUMMER 10

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Front cover image:
Delia Boccia, TARGETS Consortium

Children playing in a community in the Chongwe ward of Lusaka, Zambia – in Zambia approximately 70% of the population falls below the poverty line, a risk factor still strongly associated with TB independently from HIV.

Sign up for Alumni eNews by registering your email address at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/addresschange.php

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is a pleasure for me to report on recent news from the School.



I am delighted to announce the establishment of two new School Centres. The Centre for Maternal, Reproductive and Child Health (MARCH) will coordinate the activities of over 100 staff across the School (read more on page 3). The Collaborative Centre on Global Mental Health, a joint initiative with Kings College London, brings together researchers from across the School and the Institute of Psychiatry to address mental health issues worldwide, with a focus on low and middle-income countries.

A number of important awards have also been made:

- **Claire Bertschinger**, Lecturer and Course Director, Diploma in Tropical Nursing, has been made a Dame Commander (DBE) in the New Years Honours list for services to Nursing and to International Humanitarian Aid (read more on pages 10–11.)
- **Professor Anne Mills CBE**, Head of the Faculty of Public Health and Policy and Professor of Health Economics and Policy has been awarded the highly prestigious Prince Mahidol Award for outstanding contributions in the field of medicine. Professor Mills, renowned globally for her work in health economics and health systems, received her award from HRH Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand at a ceremony at the Grand Palace in Bangkok on 27 January this year.

One of the School's respected awards, the Ronald Ross Medal for outstanding contributions to the advancement of tropical public health or tropical medicine will be awarded in 2010. On this occasion there will be two recipients – **Professor Fred Binka**, Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Ghana and **Professor Geoffrey Targett**, LSHTM Emeritus Professor of Immunology and Protozoal Diseases. The awards were made at the School's annual Diploma Presentation Ceremony on Saturday 13 March.

I should like to take this opportunity to inform alumni that I have decided to step down from my role as Director. I have been in post for nearly 10 years. It has been a tremendous pleasure and privilege to lead the School, and inspiring to work with such outstanding colleagues. I have also enjoyed meeting many of you during my term of office and been impressed by the many important contributions to public health made by alumni, both nationally and internationally. I will be staying at LSHTM as a Professor of Public Health and Primary Care to pursue my research and academic interests and I look forward to seeing many of you again in that role.

Professor Sir Andrew Haines
Director, LSHTM

LSHTM awarded \$100,000 by Rockefeller Foundation for alumni tracing project

LSHTM has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to trace our alumni. The project was created to identify current and emerging leaders in the health systems of low and middle income countries and to build an influential alumni network of global health practitioners.



The purchase of the Keppel Street site and the cost of the building were also made possible through a generous gift of \$2m from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Through developing LSHTM's relationships with alumni, providing alumni with greater opportunities to interact with the School and each other, LSHTM can strengthen capacity building and develop improved healthcare systems and better support for those in leadership positions.

Activities funded by this grant include an advertising campaign encouraging alumni to reconnect with the School, a short-term researcher to identify lost alumni, giving alumni access to the alumni database to facilitate online networking, and an online and postal career survey to all alumni. By the end of the project LSHTM will have a clear picture of the career destinations of all LSHTM graduates. The School will be able to map the employment activities of alumni in over 190 countries and assess how well LSHTM degrees equip graduates for key leadership roles.

Alice Perry, Alumni Relations Manager says 'We are incredibly excited by the opportunity made available by this unique grant. Many universities trace their alumni as they recognise how an active alumni body can benefit them.

For example, alumni can become involved in their fundraising or student recruitment activities. This grant recognises that an active alumni association can generate much wider social benefits.

'LSHTM alumni tend to be community driven, altruistic, passionate public health advocates. Our Global Health Alumni network enhances alumni's ability to respond to the needs of the communities they serve. This network is invaluable in rapid response situations such as natural disasters, where contact with other local and international specialists in a wide variety of public health fields increases the expertise and support available to the effected community. The network will provide excellent opportunities for collaboration, mentoring, advocacy and fellowship. The project will interconnect alumni in key positions in global health systems. It allows the School to meaningfully engage alumni in the delivery of the School's mission to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide through informing policy and practice in these areas.'

Alumni can help with this project by registering their current contact details with us online at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/addresschange.php. ■

LSHTM LAUNCHES MARCH: THE CENTRE FOR MATERNAL, REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH

MARCH is a major new initiative by LSHTM, bringing together experts in all aspects of reproduction and the health of pregnant and nursing women and their babies.



Poor maternal, reproductive and child health are major contributors to ill-health worldwide. It leads to over 13 million deaths each year, many of which are preventable.

MARCH brings together researchers, students and practitioners to address these problems, conducting studies in low, middle and high income countries. LSHTM's world-renowned researchers have strengths in epidemiology, intervention studies and health economics and policy. MARCH will coordinate over 80 multi-disciplinary research studies covering themes

including; family planning, infertility, growth and development during pregnancy, maternal morbidity, newborn health, nutrition, health systems and treatment for infectious disease in pregnancy and early life.

MARCH consolidates research and training by; building research partnerships throughout the world, supporting communication networks and providing a coordinating function among researchers, strengthening applications for research funding in maternal, reproductive and child health and facilitating new teaching and training initiatives. Its coordinators are Professor Pat Doyle and Professor Oona Campbell. Further information about MARCH is available on their website at <http://march.lshtm.ac.uk/>. Please take a look and get in touch! ■

ALUMNI EVENTS

Washington DC Alumni Reception



The Washington DC Alumni Reception was held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel on 21 November. This event took place during the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) 2009 Annual Meeting.

The Reception was hosted by Professor Simon Croft, Head of the Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases. Guest speakers included Dawn Carey of the Global Health Council and Dr Whitney Addington, President of the Board of the American Friends of LSHTM.

Dawn Carey, the Awards programme coordinator from the Global Health Council, spoke about why LSHTM was selected as 2009 winners of the prestigious Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Award for Global Health. Dr Whitney Addington amused guests with his call for US alumni to 'be American' and become more involved with the School's fundraising activities.

The LSHTM Alumni Reception has become a tradition at the ASTMH Annual Meeting. The current President of ASTMH Dr Edward T. Ryan is a DTMH alumnus and the ASTMH Conference is always well attended by alumni, staff and students. We look forward to the LSHTM alumni reception at ASTMH's 2010 meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday 5 November. ■

Economists and Egg Rolls - Alumni Reception in Beijing

Over 80 alumni and guests attended a reception at the Beijing Continental Grand Hotel on 13 July during the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) World Congress.



Guests included a mix of alumni from all over the world who were attending the conference, and alumni who were based in China, making the journey to Beijing especially for the event.

Professor Anne Mills, fresh from being elected as President Elect of iHEA hosted this event with the Alumni Office. We were delighted to be joined by alumni guest speaker Dr Lin Yan. Dr Lin completed an MSc in Epidemiology

in 1986 and is the Director of the China Office for the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union). China has nearly 17% of the world's burden of tuberculosis and is a heavy consumer of tobacco products.

Around 2,000 people per day die from smoking in China, with researchers estimated that this will rise to 8,000 a day (3 million people a year). These problems are exacerbated by poor air quality and present a challenge to The Union's mission to bring innovation, expertise, solutions and support to address health challenges in low and middle-income populations. ■

Nairobi Alumni Reception



On 5 November over 200 alumni, staff and students attended a reception during the 5th MIM Pan Africa Malaria Conference. This event was hosted by the Alumni Office and Professor Geoffrey Targett, Emeritus Professor of Immunology and Protozoal Diseases.

Drinks and canapés were served to guests in the Impala Room of the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in what was the largest and liveliest alumni reception to date.



The reception was held to facilitate networking between alumni, staff and students, including alumni who were attending MIM and alumni who were based in East Africa. Alumni attending the reception worked in academia, research, hospitals, Ministries or Bureaus of Health, NGOs, Pharmaceutical companies and (obviously!) many of the attendees had occupations connected to Malaria treatment/research. We had the pleasure of being joined by a large number of alumni who work at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme. LSHTM was well represented at MIM, with many School related activities taking place. The Alumni Office is looking forward to the 6th MIM Pan Africa Malaria Conference! ■



2010 Events Calendar

JULY

- Alumni Reception
Vienna, Austria
(during AIDS 2010)
- Alumni Reception
Abuja, Nigeria

AUGUST

- Alumni Reception
Delhi, India

SEPTEMBER

- Alumni Reception
Nairobi, Kenya

NOVEMBER

- Alumni Reception
Atlanta, Georgia, USA
(during the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene 2010 Annual Meeting)
- Alumni Reception
Denver, Colorado, USA
(during the American Public Health Association 2010 Annual Meeting)

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

Verona Alumni Reception



Around 100 alumni and their guests joined LSHTM staff and students for a drinks reception in Verona, Italy on 7 September during the European Congress of Travel Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH).

The reception took place on a balcony of the Palazzo della Gran Guardia in Piazza Bra, with stunning panoramic views of the Roman amphitheatre. The Alumni Office and Professor Hazel Dockrell, Deputy Director of Research at LSHTM and President of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, hosted this memorable event. ■

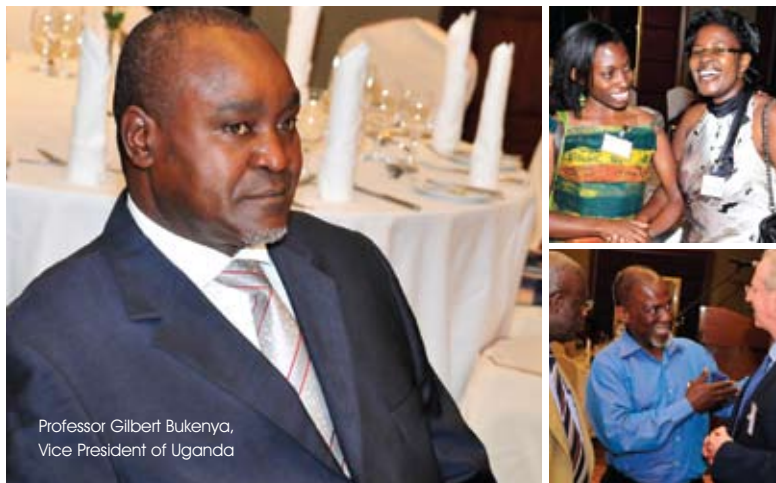
Geneva Alumni Reception

On 17 May, LSHTM held an alumni reception with the Global Health Council in Geneva, Switzerland. The event took place during the WHO World Health Assembly. Professor Sir Andrew Haines hosted this event with the Alumni Office and Dr Jeff Sturchio, President and CEO of the Global Health Council.

The event celebrated LSHTM's success in winning the 2009 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Gates award for Global Health. It celebrated the School's mission to improve health worldwide and the role our alumni play in helping us realise this mission. It also kicked-off celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the Gates award for Global Health. Special guest Kathleen Sebelius, US Secretary for Health and Human Services, announced the winners of the 2010 Gates Global Health Award. ■

Kampala Alumni & Friends Dinner

On Monday 1 February over 150 alumni, staff, students and friends of LSHTM attended a dinner hosted by Professor Sir Andrew Haines at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel.



Professor Gilbert Bukenya,
Vice President of Uganda

Dr Jeff Sturchio, President and CEO of the Global Health Council, was a guest speaker. We had the honour of being joined by Professor Bukenya, Uganda's Vice President and MSc Community Health in Developing Countries alumnus.

Professor Bukenya delivered an entertaining speech, noting that wherever he had been stationed during his distinguished career, be it Australia, the USA, Africa, Europe or Papua New Guinea, he always found himself working

with many colleagues who were fellow LSHTM alumni. Professor Bukenya praised LSHTM for its outstanding achievements in working with communicable diseases. He went on to say that while malaria, TB and HIV place heavy burdens on the health systems of African countries, in the future non-communicable diseases like cancer and diabetes could pose a more serious threat to public health in developing countries.

Professor Bukenya spoke about how he has lost seven friends to bowel cancer and hoped that LSHTM would be world leading in future non-communicable disease research. In his own speech, Professor Sir Andrew Haines agreed with Professor Bukenya. Professor Sir Andrew emphasised LSHTM is fully committed to tackling the threat of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and mental health problems.

The alumni dinner provided opportunities for many alumni to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. Professor Bukenya was personally delighted to be reunited with his former tutor Professor David Bradley. We were joined by a large contingent of alumni from the MRC Uganda Virus Research Institute, a large employer of internal and distance learning students and alumni. East Africa has one of the highest concentrations of distance learning students, making the event a fantastic opportunity to involve distance learners in the LSHTM community. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

MSc Community Medicine Class of 1980 Reunion

The Community Medicine Class of 1980 is having a reunion in September 2010. The graduates of this class were the first on which the MSc Community Medicine degree was conferred after one year of study, rather than two years. The class was comprised of a number of UK and international students, all of whom had been attracted to LSHTM by its world reputation.



The class included nine from the United Kingdom, two from each of the Irish Republic, Brazil, Portugal, and Finland, and one from each of Spain, Japan, Australia, Norway, and Canada. We left LSHTM with a solid grounding in the basic sciences of Community Medicine, and the analytical skills to enable us to apply

our training in a variety of circumstances. On returning to the world of work we all assumed positions that utilized the valuable lessons learned at the School.

Our year at the School was a challenging experience, during which we formed new ideas and new friendships, which will be rekindled in September. Having found most of our classmates, though a few are still missing, we anticipate an interesting and lively reunion. We will miss Timmo Klaukka, who died last year. ■

Bob Climie, MSc Community Medicine alumnus 1980

Meat free Mondays at LSHTM



LSHTM has been hosting a Meat Free Monday once a month starting from 11 January. On Meat Free Mondays there have been no meat or fish products on the menu in the Refectory. This includes sandwiches and the salad bar.

What's it all about?

Meat Free Mondays is about encouraging people to eat less meat for the benefit of their health and the environment. In November researchers, including senior staff from LSHTM, published a report in *The Lancet* highlighting the benefits of reducing meat consumption. Researchers argued that agricultural food production and agriculturally-related change in land use substantially contribute to greenhouse-gas emissions worldwide.

Four-fifths of agricultural emissions arise from the livestock sector. Although livestock products are a source of some essential nutrients, they

provide large amounts of saturated fat, which is a known risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

The researchers considered potential strategies for the agricultural sector to meet the target recommended by the UK Committee on Climate Change to reduce emissions from the concentrations recorded in 1990 by 80% by 2050, which would require a 50% reduction by 2030.

LSHTM senior lecturer Dr Dangour commented, 'There are many good reasons why we (as a nation) must start reducing our consumption of animal source food products. The reasons include environmental concerns over the greenhouse gas emissions from livestock production, public health evidence linking high animal source food consumption with cardiovascular disease and some forms of cancer, and global equity.'

Read the full report 'Public health benefits of strategies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions: food and agriculture' at <http://tinyurl.com/yjxl9hp>. ■

LSHTM BIDS FOR FAIRTRADE UNIVERSITY STATUS



LSHTM is raising awareness of Fairtrade issues in a bid to gain official Fairtrade University status.

Events have been organised by the Students' Representative Council (SRC), with the bid for Fairtrade status being led by the Head of Registry Services and the LSHTM Sustainability Group. The Students' Sustainability Group has been active in publicising and organising events. Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and

fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

'Fairtrade is about better prices and decent working conditions for farmers...'

In the UK the Fairtrade Foundation certifies colleges and universities 'Fairtrade Friendly' upon satisfying certain criteria. A formal application for Fairtrade University status will be made in late 2010. ■

Paul Shanley, Head of Registry Services and Erinna Bowman and Malavika Thirukode, SRC

LSHTM ARCHIVES: ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH HISTORY



From the early twentieth century, the Archives has many letters, reports and photographs from the papers of Sir Ronald Ross, discoverer of the mosquito transmission of malaria. Ross did work all over the world on tropical sanitation and the eradication of malaria. His push for improved sanitation methods greatly advanced the control of malaria in areas that had been devastated by the disease and served as a blueprint for future measures.

At the same time the London School of Tropical Medicine was running courses on tropical sanitation and hygiene for which we have syllabus and lecture timetables. There are also many other reports and essays concerned with tropical sanitation from the early twentieth century held in both the Archives and Library.

Perhaps the most iconic and earliest event in the history of environmental health was the work of Dr John Snow in tracing the source of a cholera outbreak and thereby proving its transmission by water. The Rare Books Collection holds the original pamphlet, 'On the mode of communication of cholera' (1849) and the Archives holds a copy of the groundbreaking Soho map from 1854.

In September 1954, LSHTM began a series of short courses in 'Environmental Control' under the general supervision of the Professor of Public Health. These courses were intended to meet the needs of health workers from both home and abroad who desired background and information about the environmental health services of the UK.

Top: Group including Sir Ronald Ross (second from left) at the Gunong Pulai water works, Johore (Singapore Municipal Water Works Scheme) in 1926. Above: John Snow's cholera map, 1854.

Among the earliest material in the Archives is a manuscript by Max von Pettenkofer, one of the public health pioneers who appears on the School's frieze. 'On the self purification of rivers' proposed in 1891 that rivers were capable of self-purification and stated that the condition of a river below the point of pollution could be roughly predicted if the population of a town and volume of the river were known.

At first the School ran two courses a year for ten weeks. The course was intended primarily for health inspectors from abroad and consisted of theoretical teaching and practical field work. The syllabus involved subjects such as the development of environmental control, theory and practice in the UK, functions of local authorities, urban and rural sanitation, housing, refuse disposal, rodent control and the control of milk and food. From these early beginnings, the London School has been at the forefront of environmental health research and continues to lead the way in this field.



Left: Max von Pettenkofer. Right: Dr Barrowman investigating subsoil pipes blocked with roots in Malaysia in 1937. Photograph taken during a trip by Sir Malcolm Watson, Director of the Ross Institute and George Macdonald to investigate anti-malarial measures.

The work of the Medical Statistics department included a number of important studies into air pollution and respiratory diseases linked to coal mining and industrial towns. The raw data and primary material is held in the Archives and has not been previously accessible, until now. The work of the Ross Institute was crucial to the continued fight to control malaria and the measures they took to ensure improved water supplies is also documented in the Archives. ■

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS THREATENED BY 'NARROW DISEASE FOCUS'

Problems controlling common diseases like HIV, heart disease and diabetes in developing countries could be hindering efforts to meet the world's key child health and tuberculosis goals, a recent study has warned.



Top: a girl selling drugs at the market in Bobo-Dialasso, Burkina Faso. Photo taken by Teun Bousema.

Researchers at LSHTM, Oxford University, and the University of California San Francisco have found that those countries with the highest rates of HIV and non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, are the furthest behind in reducing child mortality and the spread of tuberculosis.

In 2000 world leaders from 189 countries signed up to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to reduce child mortality by two-thirds and to halt and reverse the spread of tuberculosis, malaria and HIV by 2015. The study reports that less than half of countries are on track to meet these goals. Using data from the United Nations covering 192 countries, the researchers aimed to understand why some countries were falling behind in these key international goals.

The researchers found that slow progress was only partly due to the conventionally understood reasons, such as a lack of money or health infrastructure. Instead, they found that long-term diseases, like HIV and heart disease, were trapping households in vicious cycles

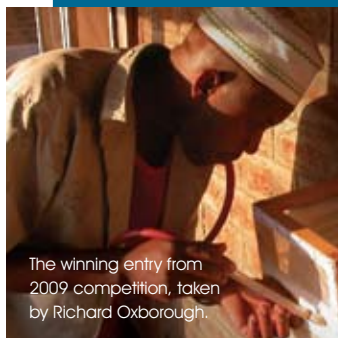
of illness and poverty. Researchers estimated that reducing HIV by 1% or chronic diseases by 10% could boost progress to the world's child health and tuberculosis targets by the equivalent of more than a decade of economic development. Tackling joint epidemics could especially help countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where overall progress has been the slowest at about 18% towards the child mortality targets. More than a dozen countries in sub-Saharan Africa have even moved in reverse, with rising infant deaths in spite of billions of additional dollars in health aid.

'This paper demonstrates why it is important to look at the entire health experience of individuals and families, and not focus on just one or a few diseases. Success in global health means tackling daily, interconnected risks people living in poor countries face, whether those risks are chronic or infectious,' said LSHTM's Professor Martin McKee.

Dr Sanjay Basu, from the University of California San Francisco, said: 'Alongside the biological risks, families face, common household risks that prevent money from being spent on key health requirements. Tobacco and HIV substantially increase the biological risks of tuberculosis infection, but they also divert money from important daily living requirements like nutritious food or visits to the doctor.' ■

PHOTO COMPETITION FOR ALUMNI

PhotoLibrary is the School's image management database. Launched in Spring 2009, it now has over 15,000 images including alumni events, diploma day ceremonies, buildings and historical images from the archives. PhotoLibrary is available at <https://photo.lshtm.ac.uk/>



The winning entry from 2009 competition, taken by Richard Oxborough.

- Submission guidelines are:
- Entries must be sent to photos@lshtm.ac.uk
 - Entries will be judged on originality, quality, composition and appropriateness to the theme
 - Entries may be in colour or black and white
 - No more than three entries per person
 - Deadline for entries is 31st December 2010
 - Please provide a caption for your photos
 - If identifiable individuals appear in your photo, ensure you have their permission before submission
 - Entries may be used for promotional purposes e.g. Annual Report, Chariot, prospectus, exhibitions etc
 - Copyright – by entering the competition, competitors warrant that they own the copyright in their photograph and they give consent to LSHTM to store the image and reproduce it in any School related publication or medium

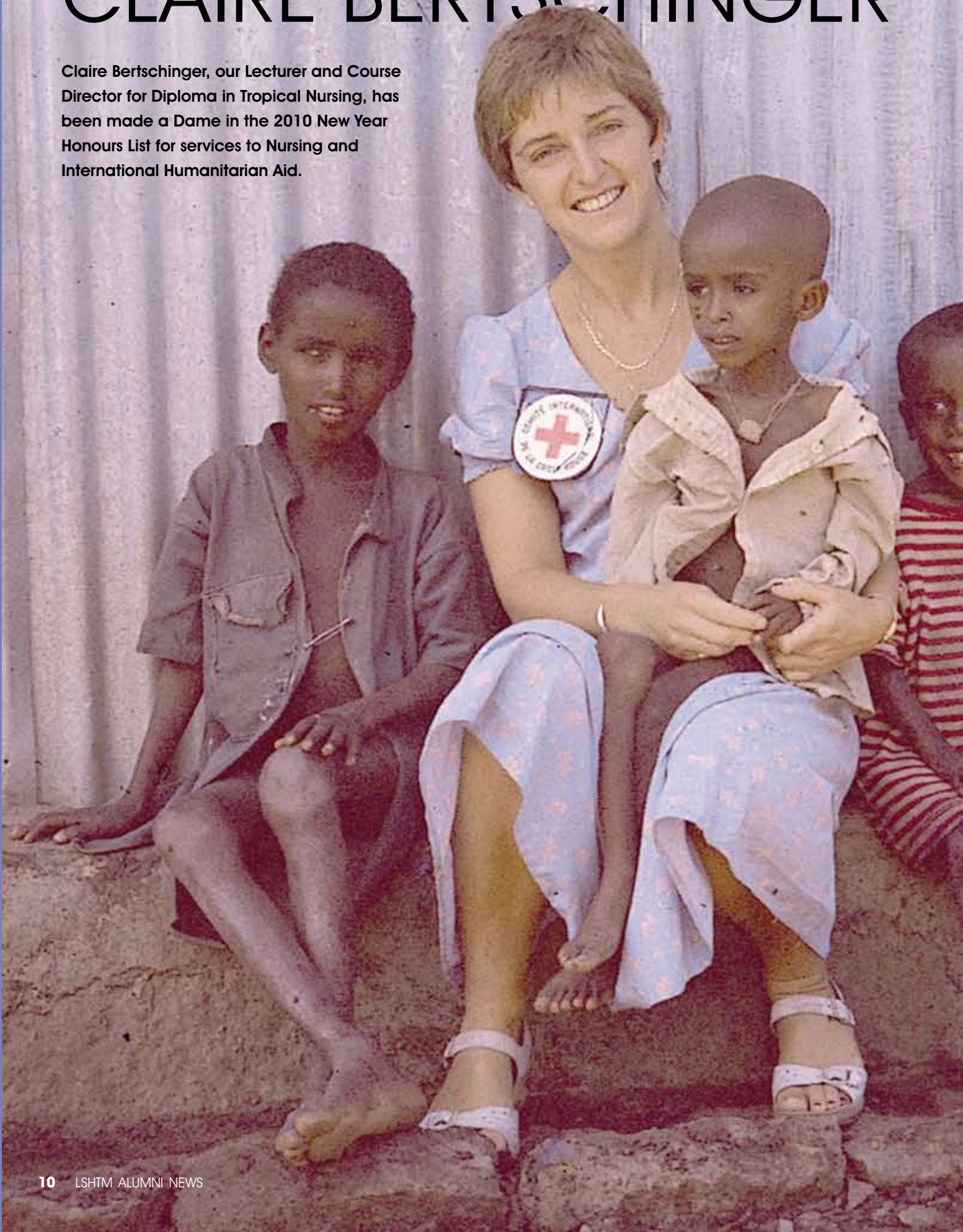
To promote the database and to help create content, the Archives service is running a photo competition for Alumni. Alumni are encouraged to submit photos which represent their time at the School or their subsequent work. We are keen to include photos from all around the world which reflect the work, communities and countries of our alumni.

The winning entry, chosen by a judging panel, will appear in the next issue of *Alumni News* and on the website, and the photographer will receive a £25 gift voucher. All entries will be available for staff, students and alumni to view in PhotoLibrary.

For further information on the competition, please contact the Archivist & Records Manager at archives@lshtm.ac.uk.

LIVE AID NURSE AWARDED DBE: CLAIRE BERTSCHINGER

Claire Bertschinger, our Lecturer and Course Director for Diploma in Tropical Nursing, has been made a Dame in the 2010 New Year Honours List for services to Nursing and International Humanitarian Aid.



Claire has provided nursing care in some of the harshest environments around the world and was the inspiration for Bob Geldof to organise the Band Aid charity and Live Aid.

At the time Claire was working as a nurse for the International Committee of the Red Cross. She was stationed in Ethiopia in 1984 during the devastating famine, deciding among other things which handful of the thousands of children who came to the feeding centre each day would be fed.

Claire recalls: 'The smell of human waste hit me as I got off the plane. People had been herded up by soldiers and were sleeping in the open in rags with nothing to eat, no clean water and no blankets. I had to run a feeding station for 300 children. Every few days some would be well enough to leave and we had to choose which of the children outside we would treat.'



Claire Bertschinger in Ethiopia, 2009. © Arthur Edwards

Claire was one of the people featured in Michael Buerk's influential BBC TV report, telling him: 'it breaks my heart'. An RAF Hercules arrived with food and medicines several days later. Claire was unaware that this was due to the public reaction of the role that she played in Buerk's report. It was this news footage that moved Geldof to start Band Aid.

A year later Claire returned to Britain, she recalled, 'I felt numb. When I first got back, people said what a marvellous job they thought I'd done but I didn't feel that. I could only remember the ones I left to die. I decided not to talk about it again.'

Michael Buerk contacted Claire for the 20th anniversary of his reports. 'When Michael started interviewing me we both started crying,' Claire revealed. 'I realised I'd bottled everything up. I travelled back to Ethiopia and met the famine survivors and realised I had done some good.'

On New Years Honours Claire said, 'I am most honoured to be appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, which has come as an enormous surprise to me. I am deeply moved to be receiving it in recognition of my many and varied nursing endeavours over

the years. Since retiring from field-work, I have trained other medical professionals to work in resource poor settings and have continually sought to raise awareness of the key issues in global public health. Increasingly, I have become convinced of the centrality of education in making and sustaining any improvements in the developing world.'

'It is therefore my most sincere wish that in receiving this award, I will be able to raise further awareness of the need for education in resource poor settings. It has been shown for women in particular, increased education not only radically improves their own health, but also that of their families and children. The empowerment of women, educationally and economically, is a major weapon in the fight against child mortality in the developing world.'

In addition to her work at LSHTM, Claire is on the Board of Trustees of the African Children's Educational Trust (A-CET) and the Patron for 'Promise Nepal'.

Professor Sir Andrew Haines, Director of LSHTM comments, 'The award of DBE to Claire is a testament to her sustained commitment to improving the health of disadvantaged people around the world. Her key role in the formation of 'Live Aid' is nationally and internationally recognised. It has resulted in the mobilisation of major additional resources to address health needs of the poorest as well as raising public awareness of the human cost of poverty and its attendant ill-health. Under her leadership the course leading to the Diploma of Tropical Nursing has gone from strength to strength. It has been an outstanding success in preparing large numbers of nurses to make significant contributions to world health. Both personally and on behalf of the School I am delighted to see her extraordinary achievements recognised in this way.' ■

- 2010** Awarded 'Dame Commander of the British Empire' (DBE) in the New Years Honours list
- 2009** Awarded honorary doctorate in science from De Montfort University
- 2008** Awarded honorary doctorate in social science from Brunel University
- 2007** Human Rights in Nursing Award from the International Centre for Human Rights and Nursing Ethics
- 1991** Florence Nightingale Medal

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Over the past year, the School benefited from the support of alumni, charitable foundations, trusts and individuals.

Total donations have exceeded £3 million for student scholarships and awards, the new Tavistock Place campus, and professorial chairs. We are pleased to report a few of the School's core funding highlights below and we would also like to thank the many other donors who took the time and effort to donate generously.

Sir Donald Gordon funds five MSc scholarships



Top: Priscilla Lumano Mulenga, distance learning student from Zambia.

The Development Office is pleased to announce that South African businessman and philanthropist, Sir Donald Gordon, will support five Distance Learning MSc degrees for female African scholars.

For these women, being unable to come to London for financial or family reasons for an extended period will no longer be a barrier to obtaining an excellent qualification and a vast network in public health and tropical medicine. We are very grateful for this generous gift and look forward to continue working with Sir Donald to train future health leaders. ■

Garfield Weston Foundation donates £250,000 to the new Tavistock Place Campus

The Garfield Weston Foundation continues its long-standing support for LSHTM with a £250,000 gift towards the Faculty of Public Health & Policy's new site in Tavistock Place. The newly refurbished building is due to open in May 2010. ■

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.

Professorial Chair Campaign

The Development Office continues to seek funding for teaching and scholarship positions and is embarking on a new drive to create a number of new professorial chairs. Endowed chairs will advance the research agenda and provide research vision and leadership in a designated speciality, such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Gender Violence, and Maternal & Child Health. They will encourage stronger collaboration and more comprehensive research. ■

New endowed awards for students



The School recently received generous endowments for student prizes from friends and alumni of the School.

The Tebrügge family has endowed the W. Tebrügge Prize, an unrestricted cash prize to be awarded to the student judged to have submitted the best final project on the School's MSc programme in Molecular Biology of Infectious Diseases. The School would like to thank the Tebrügge family for the generous and thoughtful gift and will commend its first W. Tebrügge Prize scholar at the end of the current academic year.

Dr Richard Dawood has endowed a prize for outstanding scholars on the Diploma in Tropical Nursing course. Dr Dawood is the medical director of the Fleet Street Clinic and is a founder member of the International Society of Travel Medicine. The School is grateful for Dr Dawood's support and will select exceptional students on the DTN course to receive the award. ■

IN FOCUS: ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP OF LONDON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

London International Development Centre (LIDC), an interdisciplinary initiative backed by LSHTM, is becoming increasingly popular with LSHTM alumni.



Alumni can join the organisation which facilitates original research, training and events by bringing together social and natural scientists to tackle complex problems in international development. The benefits of membership include daily/weekly briefings about development news, access to password-protected online resources, and invitations to LIDC's events.

LIDC is a collaborative project involving the University of London's six Bloomsbury Colleges; Birkbeck, Institute of Education, LSHTM, Royal Veterinary College, SOAS, and The School of Pharmacy. Staff, students and alumni associated with these institutions are all able to join LIDC. About one-third of LIDC's members are from LSHTM.

LIDC develops high-quality interdisciplinary research between the Colleges and with their research partners. LIDC develops new and innovative teaching programmes to support development goals, inform national and international policies on development

through linking research, policy and practice and build capacity in low and middle-income countries to address the needs of higher education and research institutions, NGOs and governments.

Current LIDC activities and research areas include:

- Improving access to medicines by the poor
- Access to medicines and the appropriate use of medicines
- Emerging and zoonotic disease threats in developing countries
- Intergrating human and animal health
- The interaction of agriculture and health in development.

In addition, LIDC workshops have focused on the international development aspects of human rights, HIV/AIDS, water, behavioural medicine, corporate governance and ethics, and communications. LIDC membership is free for LSHTM alumni and signing-up only takes a few minutes online. For more information or to join visit www.lidc.org.uk. ■



LSHTM's Dr John Blacker leaves legacy to create the 'Brass Blacker Chair in Demography and Health'

The School was greatly saddened by the death of John Blacker in 2008. Dr Blacker joined the School in 1972 and continued to work right up to his death as a consultant on demographic statistics in developing countries.



John Blacker

The School is moved to announce that Dr Blacker bequeathed a significant proportion of his estate to LSHTM for the advancement of research in indirect estimation techniques. Dr Blacker's legacy will endow the Brass Blacker Chair in Demography and Health and will enable the Centre for Population Studies to continue carrying on the tradition of research started by Bill Brass and John Blacker by developing further work in the area of population and health. ■



Nigel Hill at the alumni reception in Washington DC, November 2009.

Obituaries

You can read LSHTM obituaries online at www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/obituaries.html. The website includes recent obituaries for Head of the Disease Control and Vector Biology Unit **Dr Nigel Hill**, whose sudden premature death shocked and saddened everyone at the School, and for **Emeritus Professor Jerry Morris**, best known for discovering the benefits of exercise on improving cardiovascular health.



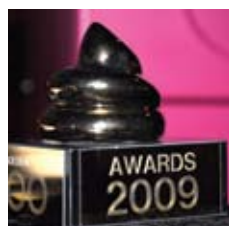
GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2009



15 October 2009 marked the second Global Handwashing Day. This annual event was instigated in 2008 by the Public Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap.



Handwashing with soap significantly reduces the risk of diarrhoea and respiratory infections, which are the biggest killer of children under the age of five in the developing world. In developed countries, handwashing can also prevent the spread of infections, including hospital-acquired infections. Although people all over the world wash their hands with water, very few wash with soap at critical times. Despite the evidence showing that handwashing is a cost effective way and powerful intervention to improve health in developing countries, too little funding and attention is given to hygiene promotion. Global Handwashing Day aims to change this.



and poo, with the winning film selected by the audience. Then came the awards made to champions of hygiene and sanitation, selected from nominations of worthy candidates from around the globe, to recognise those who have made a difference in those fields. Speaking at the Golden Poo Awards, Val Curtis from LSHTM said that 'Diarrhoeal diseases kill more children than malaria, HIV and measles put together. It is time to do something about it.' To see a feature film of the event, and to watch the winning films yourself, go to www.thegoldenpooawards.org.

Other UK activities included a link up between schools in London and Malawi, organised by PumpAid, and national press about a recent LSHTM study based at a UK service station, showing the different ways that men and women are motivated to wash their hands with soap.

As children are the most vulnerable to infectious diseases, and are also enthusiastic members of society, and powerful agents of behavior change, the primary focus for Global Handwashing Day has been the school child. The task is then to turn handwashing into a habit which they will continue to practice throughout their lives.

Around the world, the day was supported by ministers, sports personalities, astronauts, and CEOs of big companies. In India, 15,000 people washed their hands to break the Guinness World Record for the number of people washing their hands simultaneously. Announcements about handwashing were broadcast on TV. In Ethiopia, 1.5 million children washed their hands with soap at schools around the country, and students staged drama performances to raise awareness of handwashing among both children and adults. Mali held handwashing concerts in all the main cities with the involvement of national celebrities, and made a cosmic connection with astronaut and Handwashing Ambassador, Frank de Winne. Peru celebrated a whole week of handwashing activities, including lantern parades, awards to schools and students, and the launching of a huge number of balloons to represent soap bubbles.

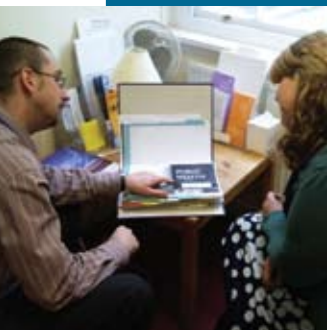
'Despite the evidence showing handwashing is a cost effective way to improve health, too little attention is given to hygiene promotion...'

The highlight of the day in the UK was the Golden Poo Awards – a humorous evening of comedy at the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square, hosted by GP and comedian, Dr Phil Hammond. The evening kicked off with a screening of animated films about hygiene

For more information about Global Handwashing Day go to: <http://globalhandwashingday.org> or www.globalhandwashingday.org.uk or contact globalhandwashingday@lshtm.ac.uk if you want to get involved in Global Handwashing Day 2010 in the UK. ■

CAREERS NEWS: One to One Careers Mentoring

As a student did you ever wish you could have been put in direct contact with someone in an organisation you yourself wanted to work in, or who had a job you aspired to?



As a careers adviser I am very aware of the key importance that talking to the right people can have when planning a career. That is why, in collaboration with the LSHTM Alumni office, we are hoping to launch a new networking scheme for future students with the help of alumni volunteers.

Our aim is to facilitate contact between current LSHTM students and alumni with the following aims: to enhance the research process for students gathering careers-related information, to enable alumni to offer expertise, information and advice to current students and finally to increase awareness of effective employability strategies.

This process would be carefully regulated. Students will have to register their interest with the Careers Service and will be required to have an appointment with an adviser to discuss their ideas and together find the most suitable



alumni contact. Once this has been done, it would be the student's responsibility to initiate contact. We will suggest that this initial contact is made via email and then it will be up to the alumnus and the student to decide how to take that forward. Whatever suits both parties is best – that might involve email, telephone, skype or face to face meetings. As an alumni mentor you can establish how many times and how long this contact can last – students will be made aware that the requirements of alumni take precedence. We also intend to monitor the process by eliciting feedback from both mentors and mentees.

We would like any LSHTM alumni, who have the time and desire to take part, to get involved. If you are interested in becoming a careers mentor through the Volunteering scheme, or would like further information about what this might involve, please contact the Alumni Office by email at alumni@lshtm.ac.uk.

Many thanks,

Dr Calum Leckie, Careers Adviser
www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers

LSHTM and The University of Glasgow awarded £3 million from The Gates Foundation to study sleeping sickness

LSHTM and The University of Glasgow have received a £3 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to further the treatment of sleeping sickness, otherwise known as Human African Trypanosomiasis. The money will go towards developing new models to test the ability of drugs to treat this fatal disease in the brain.



Sleeping sickness is widely recognised as one of Africa's neglected diseases, killing up to 50,000 people every year. Spread by tsetse flies, it causes an infection of the brain that is fatal if untreated. Current treatment for sleeping sickness is far from safe or effective.

Melarsoprol, an arsenic-based drug, was the most common treatment for many years – despite being so toxic that it kills one in 20 patients who receive it. The more recently introduced eflornithine, although safer, must be given by repeated injections over a two week period, something very difficult to achieve in a clinical setting in rural Africa.

The Gates Foundation had invited submissions from both LSHTM and the University of Glasgow to set up a model to support other programmes it runs concerning the development of drugs for use against trypanosomiasis. The quality of both proposals was such that the foundation recommended both institutions work together. ■

LSHTM'S GOT TALENT... GOES TO AFGHANISTAN



Dr Partamin (MSc DL Epidemiology, 2007) asking his 'three questions'.



Paying rapt attention to Julia's lecture...

On 3 March 2010, a group of about 30 LSHTM students, staff and alumni, along with colleagues from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (working for a project headed by Prof Gilbert Burnham, an LSHTM alumnus) and the Afghanistan National Public Health Association (set up by Dr Ahmad Shah Salehi, an LSHTM DL student) gathered in the bunker-basement of the JHU office in Kabul to kick-start the Afghan Public Health Lecture Series.

The guest speaker was Dr Julia Hussein from the University of Aberdeen, who, after a short lecture on measuring maternal mortality, facilitated a lively discussion about the need for, and the ways to measure maternal health indicators in Afghanistan.

Over some of the best kebabs in Kabul, the discussion continued, friends caught up with each other, and DL assignments were reviewed.

The LSHTM group had been gathering on an intermittent basis for years, often in a local restaurant, and usually because a visiting LSHTM staff member gave a perfect excuse to get together. There were about 20 of us, mostly Afghan nationals, but also a splattering of internationals who were working for NGOs and the UN. The Afghan contingent, keen to keep the spirit of learning alive that they remembered from LSHTM, wanted more. The food was good, the company always pleasant, the conversation always lively, but what was missing was information, debate, a chance to learn from visiting staff and from colleagues.

With a small grant from LSHTM's Got Talent!, an LSHTM competition to fund staff ideas from some of the prize money from the 2009 Gates award for Global Health, the Public Health lecture series has now been realised. LSHTM, JHU and ANPHA will jointly take on the organisation, taking advantage of the visits of various public health experts to organise meetings. With speakers like Julia and kebabs from the JHU kitchen, the Afghan alumni and friends will definitely have something to look forward to in the coming years. If you are in Kabul and are interested in participating, drop a line to annemarie.terveen@lshtm.ac.uk. ■

*Dr Annemarie terVeen
Lecturer, Department of Public Health
and Policy, LSHTM*

'With speakers like Julia and kebabs from the JHU kitchen, Afghan alumni will definitely have something to look forward to in the coming years...'

Top: Students visit LSHTM labs.
Bottom: Anna Goodman (far right) receives Certificate of Excellence from colleagues in Westminster council.



LSHTM wins certificate of excellence for work experience commitment

LSHTM has been awarded a certificate of excellence for our commitment to work experience. Over 600 organisations host students. LSHTM was one of eight organisations to receive the award, after being nominated by the schools in the London borough of Westminster.

When work experience students come to LSHTM, they spend two weeks working to produce an original piece of research, which they then present in an open lunchtime seminar.

The work experience placements combine a taste of working as health scientists and some insight into what it is like to work/study in an institute of Higher Education.

LSHTM has worked with London schools for a decade. During this time we have received several awards for our work in engaging young people from disadvantaged schools in science.

LSHTM is still the only institute of Higher Education to offer work experience to any school in Barking and Dagenham, a deprived East London borough. ■



ALUMNUS PROFILE: DR MIKA KAWANO

Dr Mika Kawano studied for an MSc in Infectious Diseases by distance learning. Japanese Dr Kawano grew up in Japan, Malaysia and Singapore and read for an undergraduate degree at Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine.



Top: Mika Kawano (centre) with colleagues in Sri Lanka.

Dr Kawano works for WHO and studied for the MSc in Switzerland and Sri Lanka, where she was stationed while she worked on the tsunami recovery project.

Being stationed in a hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka presented a challenge to her studies. 'I worked on Monitoring and Evaluation of the situation after Tsunami, such as collecting data on the number of refugees by district, and locations and types of health facilities in the area, put them on a map and discussed planning with the Ministry of Health personnel. I was also part of UN Tsunami coordination meeting, which coordinated all recovery work by UN agencies. I also helped organizing a WHO/UN meeting on Tsunami monitoring with my colleagues in Geneva over the phone and e-mails, sending data to WHO Geneva for their publications, etc. During the year I worked for tsunami recovery projects, I could barely study, though I brought the materials and went through them in my hotel room whenever I had time.'

'I chose to study by distance learning as I was already working in WHO, which I had always wanted to do, and did not want to take a leave of absence and risk losing my post. I also wanted to and needed to have an MSc.' Dr Kawano reflects, 'I got my MSc six months after I joined the International Health Regulation Team in WHO. It is more to do with feeling fine with an MSc compared to feeling insecure without one!'

'I have been working in infectious disease control cluster in WHO from before I started the course. The MSc helps me a great deal with that. Now that I have completed the course, I'm confident that I have the basic knowledge of all the areas that need to be covered for working in the infectious disease control field in WHO, instead of having in-depth knowledge of several things and no knowledge at all of others. Completing the course and obtaining the MSc helps boost confidence one way or another!'

'I would recommend the MSc in Infectious Diseases to others. It offers a practical arrangement for those who cannot come to London to study. It offers an opportunity to update one's knowledge. It is better to have a postgraduate qualification – it may not help to advance in one's career but not having one may block it.'

Working at WHO, Mika is constantly running in to fellow alumni, many of whom also studied for their MSc degrees by distance learning. 'I come across alumni at work all the time. In fact, one of them started their studies at the same time, and got the MSc much earlier than I did!'

Dr Kawano attended the alumni reception in Geneva last year. 'That was the first time I really felt that I was part of LSHTM. The sense of belonging to something that I admire was great.'

The future? 'Work in WHO until my retirement as a technical person in the field of infectious disease control' says Dr Kawano. And one thing Dr Kawano would like to do in her lifetime? 'Play Rachmaninov piano concert 2° and/or 3° with an orchestra...but I'm just dreaming.' ■

WORKING ON... CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH



Global climate change has emerged as a key issue for public health, with respect to both the implications of a changing climate on the determinants of health and the policies needed to address it.

Changes in the global climate are occurring faster than were predicted by climate science in the 1990s and impacts on health are probably already occurring. At the same time, major changes are required to meet national mitigation targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Predicting and avoiding future impacts on health

LSHTM scientists have been at the forefront of climate change research since 1994 when Professor Tony McMichael (LSHTM Honorary Fellow) led the first comprehensive assessment for WHO. They have made a major contribution to the scientific assessments of climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability for Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. LSHTM continues to make a significant contribution to the work of the IPCC.

From global to local – supporting adaptation

All impacts are local, and adaptation strategies must reflect local systems and priorities. Vulnerability to climate change and health priorities will vary greatly between and within countries. Several research programmes are under way to engage with policy making on climate change. The assessment of impacts and costs of adaptation for health under the ClimateCost project based in our Faculty of Public Health and Policy (PHP) will provide information for EU adaptation policy.

Climate change is likely to exacerbate inequalities in environment and health risks. Experts in PHP have completed a three-year MRC funded evaluation of the Department of Health's *Heat wave Plan for England*. A qualitative study with UCL, found that many older people did not identify themselves as being 'elderly' or at risk of heat-related impacts. The response of stakeholders to this plan also revealed that many doctors and nurses did not consider heat as an important risk and the plan was difficult to implement. Epidemiological research has shown the heat effects are non-specific in the population, thus different public health strategies may need to be developed.

The outdoor environment is also a determinant of risk for heat-related mortality and LSHTM is collaborating with UCL to investigate the health implications of London's heat island. Interactions between air pollutants (ozone) and hot weather have been further unravelled in an NERC-funded collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, whose pollution chemistry model will be used to estimate future ozone levels under changing emissions and changing climates for the UK.

Many academics at LSHTM have provided technical support through WHO workshops to improve capacity in low and middle-income

'The outdoor environment is also a determinant of risk for heat-related mortality and LSHTM is collaborating with UCL to investigate the health implications of London's heat island'

LSHTM experts led the first global assessment of the burden of disease (GBD) due to climate change, as part of the wider WHO GBD initiative. Building on previous work to model the health impacts, WHO has now funded LSHTM to update the global assessment, to estimate future burdens of disease due to climate change and to assess the implications for health inequalities.



countries for research and policy on climate change and health. Consideration of climate in the context of household and community poverty will build on work on poverty mapping by LSHTM's Centre for Population Studies and will improve the frameworks for developing appropriate adaptation strategies for the most vulnerable communities.

The UNFCCC Bali Action Plan made explicit the need for enhanced action on adaptation. Global assessments of adaptation costs have been produced by the UNFCCC and the World Bank. Work by LSHTM has shown how such reports may significantly under-estimate the true cost of adaptation to climate change in the health sector.

One of the first in-depth case studies of the cost of adapting to climate change is currently being undertaken in Kenya by LSHTM in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute. Such studies are needed to better inform decision-making on climate change and health, and ensure that 'adaptation funds' are well spent.

Health benefits of climate policies

Domestic housing, transport, electricity generation and food and livestock production sectors all produce considerable greenhouse gas emissions. Policies to reduce these emissions

also have the potential to benefit human health significantly. The findings of a major research programme involving international scientists together with a number of LSHTM staff, led by Director Professor Sir Andrew Haines on climate change mitigation and health was published in the Lancet and launched a major conference at the School.

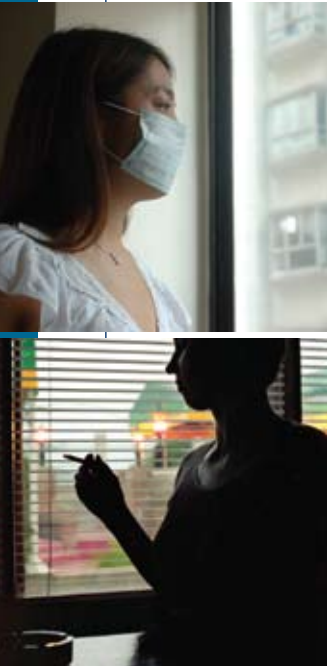
Climate policies which will have major benefits to human health include those that support 'active transport' leading to increased walking and cycling, implementation of more-efficient cooking stoves in low-income settings, generation of electricity from low carbon sources and policies that reduce saturated fat consumption from animal sources (see page 7). This research was the first to quantify a range of the health 'co-benefits' from specific mitigation strategies in different sectors and was funded by The Wellcome Trust, the National Institute of Health Research, the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the ESRC and the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and undertaken with the support of WHO. ■

'Working on Climate Change and Health' has been adapted from Annual Report 2008-9. Read the full annual report online at www.lshtm.ac.uk/annualreport

Emissions from a coal-fired power plant – both a contributor to greenhouse gases and a cause of respiratory ill-health.

LSHTM to launch new Master of Science in Global Health Policy in 2011

The outbreaks of SARS and H1N1; the ongoing problem of access to essential medicines; the debilitating 'brain drain' of healthcare workers from poor to rich countries...



...the worldwide rise in chronic diseases due to increased consumption of tobacco products, unhealthy diets and insufficient physical activity; and the changing distribution of malaria amid climate change...what do all of these key public health issues have in common? They are all part of the emerging policy agenda of global health.

LSHTM will launch the world's first distance learning-based Master of Science in Global Health Policy course in autumn 2011. The core idea behind this course is the changing world in which we live. Globalization is continuing apace, influencing the way in which we behave, think and interact with the rest of the world. Collectively, globalization is intensifying the interconnectedness of societies. This, in turn, is causing fundamental impacts on human health. As well as influencing the broad determinants of health, and emerging patterns of health and disease, globalization is challenging the public health community to find new ways of responding collectively to these challenges.

The aim of the new course will be to equip future scholars, decision makers and practitioners with

a critical understanding of this changing world, and how to develop appropriate responses to these impacts through health policy and practice. Through wide-ranging core and elective modules, the course will address such questions as:

- How are patterns of health and disease changing as a result of globalization?
- What will be the impacts of increased international trade, foreign direct investment and corporate restructuring on health care financing and service provision?
- How will climate change influence human health and what policies are needed to address these influences in future?
- How might we enable access to essential medicines through global level regulatory or incentive systems?
- What is the changing role of the WHO amid the rise of diverse global health actors?

Importantly, the course will itself be global in reach, being uniquely available through distance-learning. Building on the successful experience of other distance learning courses at LSHTM, the new MSc will enable students to take the course from almost anywhere in the world. ■

Dr Kelley Lee, Head – Department of Social and Environmental Health Research and Professor Richard Smith, Head – Department of Global Health and Development, LSHTM

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LSHTM alumni chapters are made up of volunteers from 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.

Setting-up an Alumni Chapter

We welcome interest from alumni in setting up new chapters. Chapters can be established in cities or countries with high concentrations of our alumni. Alternatively, alumni chapters can define themselves in terms of their degree subject, their year of graduation or their area of employment. For further information about setting up an alumni chapter or to get involved email alumni@lshtm.ac.uk or visit <http://tinyurl.com/yadmpr5>. ■



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