Maasai Cricket Warriors batting for HIV awareness



The Maasai Cricket Warriors visited the School to discuss HIV/AIDS prevention during a trip to the UK to take part in the amateur cricket world championship tournament.

The team, made up of Maasai from several remote Kenyan communities, uses cricket as a method of spreading

information to young people in their communities about important health issues and women's rights, addressing topics like female genital mutilation and child marriage, as well as HIV/ AIDS. The team was in the UK for a week, playing cricket matches in the tournament to help raise awareness of their work.

ALUMNI·NEWS



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Young Scientists The future of eye care **HIV/Aids Archives**

AUTUMN 2014





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Cover Image: Handsome Frank - LSHTM Malaria Centre / Matt Murphy



Welcome from our Director

First of all, I must thank all of you who gave generously to the Alumni Fund, which attracted a record total of donations. Over the past three years our Alumni Fund has raised over £350,000 for projects and activities to improve health worldwide. We are extremely grateful for your generous and continued support for projects and partnerships, and especially scholarships to support the next generations of students. These include many from Africa and Asia, where our partnerships for research and education are developing and flourishing.

Partnership is a key theme for us in this issue of Alumni News. Among our partnerships are several international research capacity building consortia, which are vital to achieving sustainable development and long-term health impacts.

This year, we are pleased to have formalised our relationships in China with the University of Szechuan, the University of Hong Kong and the National Institute for Parasitic Diseases, as well as developing and strengthening our collaborations with the School of Public Health at Peking University and the China Medical Board. These complement our partnerships with Nagasaki University, the National University of Singapore and the Public Health Foundation of India, which are becoming important hubs for the School's work in Asia. These developments in Asia come in addition to our long standing partnerships in Africa.

For partners and prospective students alike, the School's reputation is critical during their selection process. This year we have been cited as the world's top research-focused graduate school, according to rankings published by the Times Higher Education. As well as achieving the best overall score, the School scored highly on individual indicators including international outlook, research and citations. More recently, we were named as one of 10 UK institutions included in the world's top 100 universities for reputation.

One of the School's strengths is the range and multidisciplinary nature of its research, which is reflected in its education programme. Over the last year the School has made significant contributions in a number of areas, from which I have selected a few:

- the decline of car use in England and Wales along with a rise in cycling and the use of public transport (Anna Goodman)
- a Europe-wide study of cancer survival rates that show enormous variance country to country for different types of cancer (Michel **Coleman**); while HPV testing as a primary screening test has been found to reduce the long-term risk of cervical cancer more than cytology (Clare Gilham)

- non-partner sexual violence is common globally (Charlotte Watts)
- a recent genetic study of Trypanosoma brucei brucei, which causes nagana in livestock and fails to infect humans, has pin pointed the lysosomal proteinprotein interactions that make the parasite sensitive to lytic factors in human serum, so identifying a potentially important drug target for other forms of human trypanosomiasis (Sam Alsford)
- Intermittent screening and treatment of malaria among Kenyan school children had no impact on children's health and education (Simon Brooker); in Uganda, it has been found that a reduced dose of an anti-malarial drug is as effective as the standard dose (Chris Drakeley); and South African gold miners screened and treated for TB had no reduction of TB (Alison Grant)
- a new vaccine found to be highly effective in preventing group A invasive meningococcal disease in a study in Chad (Brian Greenwood); and a rapid response vaccine for blue tongue virus has been developed which when tested led to no clinical reaction or viremia (Polly Roy)



This sample of the School's work and impact is just one perspective on a productive year and shows the breadth of the health spectrum encompassing and going beyond the environment and sustainability, noncommunicable and infectious diseases and the development and testing of vaccines and treatments. And among these published findings, I am pleased to see some negative results which can be as informative as the headlinegrabbing positive outcomes.

Finally, I wish to finish by saying how inspired and pleased I am to meet so many School alumni at events around the world and to collaborate and work with many of you as well. As our network of chapters continues to grow, I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming year.

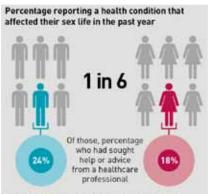
Peter Piot Director

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

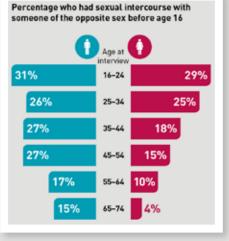
Results from the third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles

Results published in the Lancet in November gave the most detailed picture yet of the British population's sex lives over the last 10 years, as part of the third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal).

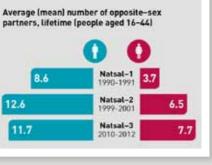
Led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in partnership with University College London and NatCen Social Research, over 15,000 adults aged 16-74 participated in interviews between September 2010 and August 2012.



Almost one in six people said they had a health condition that affected their sex life in the past year, yet less than one in four of these men and one in five of these women said that they had tried to get help or advice from a healthcare professional. Those who had were most likely to have talked to their GP.



This is the third Natsal survey that has been carried out in Britain: the first survey was undertaken in 1990–1991 and the second survey in 1999–2001. Over the 1990s, we saw an increase in the number of opposite-sex partners people reported, and more people reporting same-sex experience. Over the last decade, we have only seen further increases for women, so the gender gap is narrowing.



Studying this large representative sample of people living in Britain allowed the researchers to produce key estimates on patterns of sexual behaviour, attitudes, health, and wellbeing across the population.

Results from the survey show that different aspects of sexual health affect people at different times throughout their lives, and that sexual health is an important component of our overall health and wellbeing. They also reveal how sexual attitudes and lifestyles have changed in the last 60 years.

> Experiencing sex against your will could

it was more con

at younger ages.

Median age at most

recent occurrence of

on-volitional sex

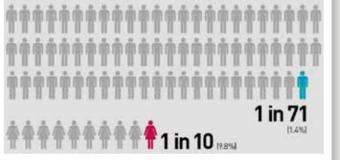
16

18

happen at any age, but

We asked men and women "since the age of 13, has anyone made you have sex with them, against your will?" which we refer to as "non-volitional sex". One in 10, women and one in 71 men said that they had experienced nonvolitional sex since age 13.

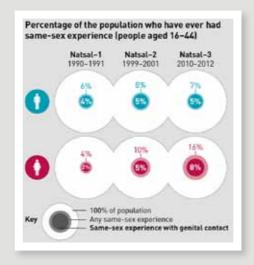
Proportion of men and women who have experienced non-volitional sex



Published in a series of six papers in The Lancet, key findings include:

- Biggest changes in behaviour seen amongst women
- People have sex at an early age and continue into their 70s
- Average frequency of sex reported by men and women declines
- People are more accepting of same-sex relationships, but less tolerant of married people having sex outside marriage
- Sexual health programmes making good progress, but sexually transmitted infections and risky sex still an issue.

Natsal was funded by the Medical Research Council and The Wellcome Trust, with additional funding from the Economic & Social Research Council and the UK Department of Health.





Removing fees for healthcare in rural Ghana may benefit population

Removing patient fees for public sector healthcare in rural Ghana improved health seeking behaviour, lowered out-ofpocket spending, and reduced anaemia, but only in a group of children with the poorest health, according to a Schoolled study published in the Journal of Development Economics.

The study contributes to the longstanding debate on user fees in Africa and is one of the first studies of a health financing intervention to report on objective measures of child health status.



DR ROSE DREW

Rab

Dr Rose Drew is an anaesthetic registrar in the UK. She reflects on her experiences taking a two year career break to work as the medical officer for Rothera Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. She studied the Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene in 2009.

> "I have extremely fond and positive memories of my three months spent in London studying for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTMH) The DTMH formed part of a year out that I took from NHS training to work as an expedition medic. I found studying full time again surprisingly enjoyable which was in part due to the enthusiasm of the School's staff. Being surrounded by such an eclectic and keen group of students was also great. As we were all only in London for a short amount of time, we really made an effort as a group to experience what we could of the capital.

I remember being astounded and impressed by the experience that people on the course already had working in developing areas of the world.

The interest they showed in my limited experience working as an expedition medic was humbling. I have been fascinated to learn what my fellow students have gone on to do since we went our separate ways and to see people make the most of the possible opportunities within the sphere of medicine around the world. After the DTMH I went on to do a couple more expeditions on the Amazon and in Honduras before starting my anaesthetic training in the UK.

I came to learn of the job with the British Antarctic Survey shortly after

starting my anaesthetic training – it is fair to say that I wasn't quite finished with working in remote environments.

I started the job with the British Antarctic Survey Medical Unit in May

2012. The two year post starts with a six month training period in Plymouth, UK where doctors are trained up in specialities like dentistry, radiology, anaesthetics, orthopaedics and other areas, depending on their previous speciality experience.

The 18 month post at Rothera has been made up of two Southern summer seasons with a seven month winter sandwiched in between. Rothera varies from having around 100 scientists and support staff in summer to just 18 of us over winter. The marine team dive year round at Rothera and we are one of the few bases on Antarctica to have a hyperbaric chamber. Medically, the workload is light with minor injuries and dental issues making up the majority of what I see. Having said that, the potential for major injury is present and I have had to deal with a couple of significant orthopaedic trauma cases requiring medical evacuation whilst I have been here. I spend the rest of my time training colleagues, studying for a distance learning MSc and getting involved with a whole range of nonmedical jobs around the station.

The Antarctic isn't an obvious location to go for anyone with an interest in tropical medicine but the experience of working as a lone practitioner in a remote environment, with limited available resources, makes it comparable, in some respects, to the jobs that some of my fellow Diploma students went on to do. In addition, the travel routes that people take to the Antarctic have provided me with more tropical medicine mysteries than I envisaged. One of the most unique factors of this job has been living so closely with my patients for such a long time.

I am coming to the end of my time in the Antarctic with just a couple of months left. It has been an incredible, enhancing experience and one that I feel very fortunate to have done."

Better access to healthy foods is not enough to tackle obesity

Government initiatives to improve access to healthy foods may have a limited impact on obesity, according to new research by the School and Penn State University in the USA.



Disadvantaged neighbourhoods often lack access to low-cost healthy foods, which has led to initiatives in the UK and US that focus on increasing the number of local supermarkets through grants and loans. Recent programmes in the US include the \$400 million Healthy Food Financing Initiative, promoted by the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, and New York City's FRESH programme, which continue to be rolled out in urban areas of the US. But to date, there have been no formal evaluations of how effective these programmes actually are at improving diet and reducing obesity. A study published in Health Affairs provided the first USbased evidence that building new food retail stores is not sufficient to improve the diets of low-income residents.

These findings mirror the results of previous UK-based studies, which also found no significant evidence for any effect on diet. However, the authors note that additional studies are required to confirm these findings in other populations.

Lead author Professor Steven Cummins at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said:

"Interventions that encourage the location of supermarkets to improve food access and reduce diet-related diseases, such as obesity and diabetes, are currently high on the policy agenda in many nations. Such policies also form a central part of many US government schemes such as Michelle Obama's Let's Move Childhood Obesity programme.

"Though these interventions are plausible and wellmeaning, this study suggests that they are only effective in taking us part of the way in changing dietary behaviour – in order to realise their full potential we need to better understand how to translate changes in perception to changes in behaviours."

The researchers suggest that combining the development of new food stores with complementary initiatives that focus on price promotions, in-store marketing and branding, could encourage greater use of these new stores.



In Focus: our work in Thailand

The School's Director Professor Peter Piot received the Prince Mahidol Award 2013 in the field of Public Health, from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Health Security Office of Thailand.

In his conference speech, Professor Piot praised Thailand as the first country to cut down on the number of HIV infections, provide free anti-retroviral drugs, successfully promote the use of condoms and campaign against the stigma associated with HIV.



He urged all countries to focus efforts on HIV prevention among gay men, drug users and marginalised communities that face a high risk of infection, and eliminate the stigma against people living with AIDS.

"We need to devote more attention to the protection of men who have sex with men and drug users and continue fighting stigma, especially among the young, which is very important to fight against the epidemic", he said, and paid tribute to Professor Anne Mills FRS, Vice-Director of the School, who received the Award in 2009.

Professors Piot and Mills signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Dr Winai Sawasdivorn, Secretary General of the National Health Security Office of Thailand. Under this collaboration, the School will provide academic support such as research and expert knowledge in order to help develop the services it provides to more than 48 million people. Thai health professionals will have access to the School's training, short courses, distance learning and Master's courses, co-operation in research and joint publication of study results in international journals.

Over £10 million in grants awarded for health protection research



The School has been awarded several grants from the National Institute for Health Research and the UK Department of Health. The funding, which totals over £10 million, will be held in partnership with Public Health England and used to form three new Health Protection Research Units aimed at strengthening research across a range of public health priority areas.

£3.5 million has been awarded to the Immunisation Health Protection Research Units and will be used to enhance the protective impact of vaccination, improve vaccine safety, and spread the benefits of vaccines more equally in society. A further £3.5 million was awarded to the Environmental Change and Health Protection Research Units to provide high quality scientific evidence to support public health policies relating to climate change, land use change, and low carbon strategies.

The School will also lead on social science for the Blood-borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections Health Protection Research Units, for which University College London received £3.7 million.



Call for UK political leadership and targeted investment for research into multi-drug resistant infections

Although the emergence of antimicrobial resistance severely threatens our future ability to treat many infections, UK infection-research spend targeting this important area is still unacceptably small, say a team of School researchers.

The study, published in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, is the first systematic analysis of research funding for infectious disease research, and for antimicrobial resistance, in the UK between 1997 and 2010.

The study highlights drug-resistant tuberculosis as an example of a growing problem, with the World Health Organization estimating 630,000 cases worldwide. This and other multi-drug resistant bacteria such as E. coli, are areas of potentially the greatest future burden.



A family of Greek physicians across two generations chose to study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The late Dr Basil Bazas qualified as a physician in Athens, acquired his specialty title in Internal Medicine and then gained a postgraduate degree in Public Health at the Athens School of Hygiene, and a Doctorate Degree in Medicine at the University of Athens. He then went on to complete a Diploma in Industrial Health at the School in 1960.

Following his time at the School, he became a Member of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1983. He subsequently pioneered occupational medicine in Greece spearheading practice, academic and legislative aspects in the public and private sector for over three decades. He also contributed to international occupational health up until his retirement in 1994.

His wife, the late Dr Athina Baza, qualified as a physician in Athens, acquired her specialty title in Microbiology and then gained a postgraduate degree in Public Health at the Athens School of Hygiene and a Doctorate Degree in Medicine at the University of Athens. She was awarded the Diploma in Content and Methods of Health Education by the Institute of Education in 1960, after she had completed the prescribed one year course at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Following her study at the School, she became the first Director of Public Health of the Greek Ministry of Health (one of the first Greek women to reach that grade in the Greek civil service in the early 1970s) and in that capacity she became a pioneer of health education in Greece up until her retirement in 1990. She was decorated with the Silver medal for good services by King Constantin of Greece in recognition of the high value of her work.

Their son, Dr Theodore Bazas, qualified as a physician in Athens, trained in Internal Medicine, and gained a Doctorate Degree in Medicine at the University of Athens. He was awarded an MSc Degree in Occupational Medicine by the School.

£2.2 million awarded for bioinformatics research

£2.2 million has been awarded to the School by the Medical Research Council for bioinformatics research.

The funding is part of a £9 million package awarded to partners that include Queen Mary University of London, University College London, the Francis Crick Institute, the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the European Bioinformatics Institute.

The announcement recognises a growing need to build new ways of linking biological data and health

School tops world research-focused graduate schools table

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine tops a table of the world's leading research-focused graduate schools, published by the compilers of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

As an 'elite specialist graduate school', the School came top of a table of 'world-class' research- focused graduate institutions. As well as achieving the best overall score, the School scored highly on individual indicators including international outlook, research and citations.

School Director, Professor Peter Piot, said "As the world continues to face immense health challenges, our work is in the spotlight as never before, with increased focus from governments, funders and the media. The School is widely known as one of the very best centres for research and postgraduate education in public and global health, and this is reflected in these tables."

Dr Athina and Dr Basil Bazas

He was then awarded the specialty Diploma in Occupational Medicine by the Joint Committee of Higher Medical Education in the UK, and he became a Member of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London in May 1988. He was elected a Fellow of the Faculty for his contribution to occupational medicine, in January 2014.

Dr Bazas Jr significantly promoted occupational medicine in Greece and internationally. He became a Regional Adviser on Non Communicable Diseases of the World Health Organization and the first Lecturer in Occupational Medicine at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School of the University of London.

Dr Bazas Jr recently gave a lunchtime career talk to the School's MSc students.

If you would like to give a lunchtime career talk at the School, or for more information about what is involved, please email alumni@lshtm.ac.uk.

records to solve key medical research challenges. Having access to this state of the art facility means that the School's researchers will be able to take advantage of advanced tools for data analysis to reveal new insights into a wide variety of infections, cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Funding award to boost people, knowledge and tools in the fight against blindness

Eye health experts across the Commonwealth have joined forces to combat avoidable blindness, thanks to a major new grant from The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust.



Announced on Commonwealth Day 2014, the £7.1 million grant will enable experts from a range of institutions to come together for the first time as the Commonwealth Eye Health Consortium, coordinated by the International Centre for Eye Health at the School.

The Consortium will deliver an integrated programme of fellowships, research and technology, including vital research into conditions such as diabetic retinopathy which leave millions without sight, and will build capacity across the Commonwealth to tackle avoidable blindness and provide quality care to those affected or at risk.

The Consortium's highly respected eye health organisations and academic institutions will work together to deliver the programme, which will help strengthen health systems to prevent blindness and make high quality eye care available to all.

Aravind Eye Hospital

University of Cape Town

Moorfields Eye Hospital

LV Prasad Eye Institute

Singapore National Eye Centre

Centre for Eye Research Australia

THE COMMONWEALTH EYE HEALTH CONSORTIUM INCLUDES:

- International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- College of Ophthalmology of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
- West African College of Surgeons

Mequat Mariam, near Lalibela, Ethiopia Henrik Berger Jørgensen.



In February, we welcomed visitors to the School's first annual open day. Despite some gloomy winter weather and strikes on the London Underground, over 200 prospective students attended the event, which ran throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

The open day showcased what makes the School such a fantastic place to study: visitors were able to explore the Keppel Street building and discover its rich history; meet staff, students and alumni; and participate in interactive sessions to give them a flavour of what it is like to study at the School and be part of our thriving community. Upon their arrival, visitors were introduced to the range of teaching and research undertaken at the School by the Dean of Studies Professor Sharon Huttly and representatives from the three faculties.

Visitors were then able to visit our information stands, where staff, students and alumni were on hand to answer questions about courses, admissions, careers and student support. Meanwhile in the labs, faculty members gave practical demonstrations focusing on parasites and their vectors. The research degree poster display took place simultaneously, adding to the buzz around the School.

The day was a brilliant collaboration between academic and support staff, current students and alumni; feedback from the visitors was very positive. Plans are already underway to make February 2015's open day bigger and better. Please recommend our open day to anybody you know who might be interested in studying at the School.

Save the date: Londo 4 February 2015

Warmer temperatures push malaria to higher elevations

For decades researchers have debated the likely impacts, if any, of global warming on the worldwide incidence of malaria. Now, researchers from the School and the University of Michigan are reporting the first hard evidence that malaria does, as had long been predicted, creep to higher elevations during warmer years and back down to lower altitudes when temperatures cool. The study, based on records from highland regions of Ethiopia and Colombia, suggests that future climate warming will result in a significant increase in malaria cases in densely populated regions of Africa and South America, unless disease monitoring and control efforts are boosted and sustained.



Save the date: London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Open Day:

A PEEK into the future of eye health

A project to develop a high-quality portable eye examination kit (PEEK) to diagnose eye conditions using a smartphone has been showcased in an exhibition at London's Design Museum.

PEEK consists of potentially life-changing mobile apps and clip-on hardware designed by eye surgeons, engineers and developers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the University of Strathclyde and the Glasgow Centre for Ophthalmic Research.

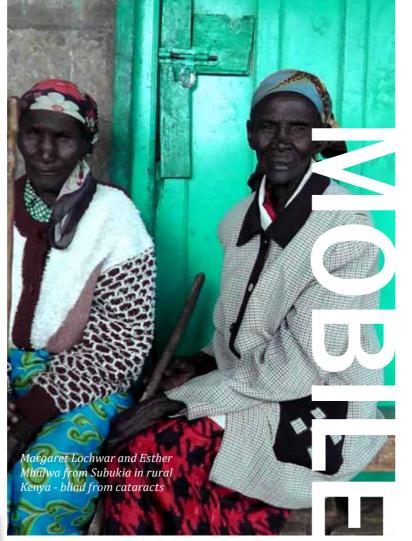
Working with patients, health professionals and partners around the world, the team shares a vision to extend access to quality eye care and provide a solution to the problem of avoidable blindness.



In the areas of greatest need, patients do not have access to diagnostics or treatment.

In low-income countries, more people have access to mobile phones than running water.

PEEK won the Digital Category of Designs of the Year 2014, as well as being named Digital Health Award winning in the Tech 4 Good Awards.





chool researchers and partners have developed PBER, a h nartphone tool used to test vision in remote settings, diag ve diseases and prevent blindness" - Andrew Bastawrous/I

The School's HIV/AIDS





The School's Archive Service is delighted to announce the completion of the Wellcome Trust Research Resources in Medical History funded project to catalogue and preserve the School's large collection of HIV/AIDS related historical material.

The collections, dating from the late 1970s to the present day, reflect the variety of work undertaken by individuals associated with the School. The collections included within the project reflect the scale and complexity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic with historical material gathered from sources throughout the world and covering topics as diverse as epidemiology, virology, sexual practices, health policy formation and contemporary history. The variety of the records reflects the various different work programmes the School has adopted in response to AIDS over the past 30 years.

This collection is rich in AIDS visual culture and includes over 700 HIV/AIDS public health posters along with a collection of memorabilia and objects including promotional condoms and sterile needle kits. The SIGMA Research collection explores behaviour and demographic trends relating to HIV and sexual health on various at risk groups through extensive holdings of social research grey literature, international conference abstracts and reports on AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS archive collections are a valuable resource in documenting the myriad approaches to the epidemic and they continue to be relevant due to the continued prevalence of this deadly disease.



Open House Saturday & Sunday 20-21 September 2014

Saturday, 10am to 5pm, tours every hour on the hour, last tour 4pm

Sunday, 10am to 3pm, tours every hour on the hour, last tour 2pm

For the 10th year running, the School is taking part in Open House London. This is a chance for members of the public to see behind the doors of some of London's most iconic buildings and to learn more about their amazing architecture and design.

In 2013 over 400 visitors were shown round the Keppel Street building, which is a stunning example of Art Deco design, with a modern twist, thanks to our striking courtyard redevelopments.

Among the treats in store for visitors is the chance to see the artwork in the entrance to the wood-panelled library which was deemed too rude to be placed above the front door of the building when it opened in 1929! As well as the original art deco features, visitors are also shown the awardwinning courtyard developments and John Snow lecture theatre.

Information on Open House London can be found at -

www.londonopenhouse.org

Climate change: A threat to human health?



The report identifies a number of key risks relevant to human health. These include increased risk of death during periods of extreme heat and reduced labour productivity due to increased thermal stress in vulnerable populations. Threats to health and livelihoods arise from increased flooding in coastal areas in small islands and also due to inland flooding in some areas. Of particular concern is the increased risk of under nutrition resulting from diminished food production in poor regions.

Keeping fit could cut the risk of catching flu

Doing vigorous exercise for at least 2.5 hours a week reduces your chances of experiencing a flu-like illness by around 10%, according to preliminary results from Flusurvey, the online flu study run by the School in the UK.

Research Fellow Dr Alma Adler said: "We're really interested in the preliminary findings around fitness activity and flu-like illness, as exercise is something that everyone can do to reduce your chance of having flu. We need to treat this result cautiously as these are preliminary findings,

Climate change could result in numerous health risks due to heat waves, under-nutrition and diseases, with specific risks for Europe, according to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The report looks at impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change. School researchers contributed to the report's findings on the health impacts of climate change.

The chapter 'Human Health: Impacts, Adaptation, and Co-Benefits', edited by Professor Sir Andy Haines and co-authored by Dr Sari Kovats, warns of a number of health risks if climate change continues as projected until mid-century.

Professor Sir Andy Haines said:

however they are consistent with findings for other conditions and really show the health benefits of exercise."

The annual UK Flusurvey is an online system for measuring influenza trends and uniquely collects data directly from the public through a weekly online questionnaire at

flusurvey.org.uk. The data is supplied to Public Health England's national flu surveillance programmes, providing data which is missed through current surveillance, as many people affected by flu do not visit their doctor or local hospital.

Does community-based newborn care save lives?

In Ethiopia, approximately 90% of births still take place at home. For every 1, 000 live births, 37 newborn babies will die. Given the limited care for newborns in rural health facilities and inadequate newborn care seeking practice by families, focusing on the community as a way to deliver essential newborn care is a promising way forward.

The community-based newborn care package in Ethiopia aims to reduce newborn deaths through strengthening the government's community health provision -Primary Health Care Units and the Health Extension Programme. It involves using community frontline workers to provide health care for newborns. It includes improving sepsis management - care for and treatment of a newborn with a potentially deadly bacterial blood infection.

The School's IDEAS project has been asked by the Ethiopian Government to carry out an evaluation of communitybased new born care. The evaluation will show the extent to which sepsis management is scaled-up to a large geographic area – reaching more mothers and newborns - through the Health Extension Programme in Ethiopia. The research will also look at whether life-saving behaviours and interventions at household level are improved as a result.

> Photos taken at the maternity unit Kagando Hospital, western Uganda- Ayla Ozkan











Improving malaria drug delivery:

the work of the ACT Consortium



Since 2008, the ACT Consortium has been working on 25 projects across 10 countries in Africa and Asia to optimise the use of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT). ACTs are the first-line treatment for Plasmodium falciparum malaria recommended by the World Health Organisation.

This research collaboration, with more than 20 partners worldwide, aims to improve access to and targeting of ACT drugs, as well as to assess their quality and safety. The secretariat and core scientific teams of the Consortium are based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, as well as many investigators. Deborah DiLiberto, PhD student at the Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health (MSc in Public Health in Developing Countries 2009)

"I was based in Uganda as a Research Fellow on studies which evaluated a complex intervention to improve the diagnosis and treatment of malaria in public health facilities. The studies included clinical epidemiology, qualitative research, health economics and operational research. The intersection between my research experiences in Uganda and my learning experiences as an MSc student at the School, combined with supervision from ACT Consortium staff, allowed me to translate my experiences into a PhD research topic. These experiences have been really rewarding and have fostered

my excitement to work in malaria and health systems research."

Sham Lal, Research Fellow in Malaria Epidemiology and Control

"I am based in London but I lived in Uganda for close to three years, where I worked on projects that investigated how the use of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria can help target malaria treatments at those who need them most, in rural communities and closer to their homes. The experience was rich, diverse and multicultural, with students from low, middle and high-income countries. I was able to apply my training in epidemiology and malaria control to carrying out research projects."

Find more about our research at: www.actconsortium.org

MEDICINE KO. SA LONDON SCHOOL OF TROPICAL 49th Session, October-December, 1915.



The School during the First World War

Research is being undertaken by the Archives team to discover what happened at the School during the First World War, which began on 4th August 1914. The UK has a national programme of events to commemorate the anniversary and the School is contributing to this by displaying an exhibition entitled War and Health: how Tropical Medicine and Public Health professionals have contributed to conflicts since the First World War.

This exhibition covers how School staff and related professionals contributed their medical knowledge to the war situation. Highlights include School staff working in Africa and the Middle East during the First World War, research material produced by School staff while interned in Japanese prisoner of war camps during the Second World War, correspondence from the Sir Ronald Ross collection

and material from staff working in countries affected by war in recent years.

The exhibition is on display for three months from mid-July and will be open to the public for two weeks during this period. There will be a series of Library & Archives Service blogs detailing what Sir Ronald Ross, discoverer of



did during the war. His archives are held at the School and contain a wealth of material relating to his life. He gives a very interesting account of being torpedoed while travelling to Greece as the Consultant on Malaria for the War Office.

life was like for those still working at the School, which at the time was based in the Albert Docks in the East End of London and was part of the Seamen's Hospital Society. At the time the School ran courses for three months so we did not have students who fought, although we did continue to teach a small number of students for most of the sessions during the war. The School also had staff members who served in the forces. Some of these travelled to Greece, Egypt and the Middle East to study tropical disease at the request of the War Office - there is a frightening statistic that during the war 20% of British soldiers in Salonika in Greece, 1916-1918, were in hospital with malaria at one time.

Ronald Ross in military uniform[1948]



Where are they now? Working on **PopART!**

The HPTN 071 study, also known as PopART (Population Effects of Antiretroviral Therapy to reduce HIV Transmission), is the largest HIV prevention trial to date. It is a large community-randomised trial that will evaluate the impact of a universal test-and-treat intervention on population-level HIV incidence in high HIV prevalence settings.

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

The study is being carried out in 21 communities South Africa and Zambia over a period of five years, from 2013 to 2017.

Within the two study countries, the design and delivery of the intervention will be carried out in close partnership with the Ministries of Health, PEPFAR and local implementing agencies.

With such a large global study team, it was inevitable that a number of School alumni would be involved in the implementation of the trial. Here we share with you the profiles of three such alumni with diverse backgrounds and research interests, who studied at the school between 1981 and 2010.

Sten Vermund



Sten Vermund (MD, MSc, PhD) completed his MSc in Community Health in Developing Countries in 1981. He

was taught by Professor Richard Hayes and mentored by Professor David Bradley. Professor Vermund now holds the positions of Amos Christie Professor of Global Health, Professor of Pediatrics, and Director of the Institute for Global Health at Vanderbilt University. He is also a member of the Institute of Medicine in the USA.

As an infectious disease epidemiologist and paediatrician,

PopART

Professor Vermund's work focuses on diseases of resource-limited settings, especially HIV, HPV, and parasitic diseases. His recent field work has emphasised HIV prevention clinical trials and cervical cancer prevention

Professor Vermund is also a coinvestigator on the HPTN 071 (PopART) trial. Professor Vermund's passion for HIV prevention research and his experience of working as an implementing partner in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia contribute invaluable expertise for the delivery of this vital trial. They and their colleagues in Africa, London, and the USA have recently co-authored a number of papers of relevance to the ongoing trial.

Kalpana Sabapathy



Kalpana Sabapathy, who is now a Lecturer at the School, obtained an MSc in Epidemiology in 2010. Kalpana says, "After more than 10

years working as a clinician in the NHS and in a number of resource limited settings with Médecins Sans Frontières, I had gained valuable insights on global health issues from the patient centred bedside perspective. I wanted to expand my horizons with a broader public health view, and work as a Clinical Epidemiologist. As soon as I joined the School, I felt I had found a rich environment to do this". Today,



she considers it a privilege to be a member of staff at the School, where the dynamism and resolve to address global health has earned it recognition for being the world's leading research focused graduate school, and to work in a team of esteemed researchers on the largest HIV prevention trial to date.

Shari Krishnaratne



Shari Krishnaratne studied for an MSc in Public Health Nutrition in 2010/2011. She currently works at the School as a **Research Fellow**

in the Department of Social and Environmental Health Research in the Faculty of Public Health Policy.

"In this role, I work on an ancillary study to the main HPTN 071 study which looks at the role that stigma might play on the delivery and uptake of testing and treatment for HIV in the study communities. This has involved trips to the study sites to engage with partners and stakeholders in South Africa and Zambia. In addition to the stigma ancillary study, I am involved with the STRIVE consortium at the School which looks at structural drivers of HIV in low- and middleincome countries. I am primarily interested in understanding the social determinants of health and am also currently working on several analyses of DHS data to study the association between stigma, HIV and socioeconomic status in Sub-Saharan Africa."

New £7.2m research collaboration to eliminate malnutrition through agriculture

A new partnership to guide global agriculture and eliminate malnutrition has been awarded £7.2m from the UK's Department for International Development.

The five-year research initiative, Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions, led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, will accelerate the development of scientific evidence to guide changes in global agriculture to feed the world's population, projected to hit nine billion by 2050.

Globally, under nutrition is the cause of 3.1 million deaths per year – nearly half of all deaths in children under five – and stunts the growth of a further 165 million children. But overconsumption is equally harmful - diet-related chronic diseases are rapidly on the rise even amongst the poor in developing countries. Agriculture-food systems play an important role in these issues, and not only provide food and nutrients, but also comprise a source of income, affect food prices and influence women's time for taking care of young children and their power in decisionmaking.



MARCH-ing foward at the first Maternal, Adolescent, Reproduction and Child Health retreat



Dr Jessica Nakiyingi-Miiro received a scholarship from the School's Alumni Fund to attend the first MARCH Centre Retreat.

"On March 31st & April 1st I attended the first Maternal,

Adolescent, Reproductive & Child Health (MARCH) Centre retreat held at Downing College, Cambridge. The retreat was attended by 75 people from all three faculties of the School as well as guests from other organisations. The MARCH Centre, directed by Professor Joy Lawn, aims to consolidate research and communications among researchers who are interested in three interconnected themes: Adolescent Health, Birth and Neonatal Health and Child Health and Development.

My links with the School started when I joined School partners at the Medical Research Council/UVRI Uganda Research unit on AIDS in 1991. This collaboration culminated in several joint research activities and training between staff of both institutions, from which I benefited by becoming the first MRC-sponsored PhD student at the School. I completed my PhD in 2010 and currently work as the Senior Statistical Epidemiologist at MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS. I live in Entebbe with my husband, six children and family. MARCH *centre for* MATERNAL ADOLESCENT REPRODUCTIVE & CHILD HEALTH

As a Statistician, my main job is to offer statistical services to the MRC Uganda unit. I have worked on several studies and trials and am particularly interested in paediatric research, including survival and other sociodemographic indices. For my PhD I investigated orphanhood trends in the MRC general population cohort and the association between orphan status and education outcomes. During the fertility workshop for the ALPHA Network, I focused on adolescent fertility and discovered the poor adolescent sexual health and high sexual risk-taking behaviour among girls leading to high HIV infection and fertility.

School Professor David Ross mentioned the MARCH retreat to me and put me forward for a scholarship to attend the meeting. I felt very honoured when I discovered that I had been awarded the scholarship and would like to take this opportunity to thank the alumni of the School for making it possible for me to attend and contribute at this important meeting.

Arriving at Downing College I felt like I had arrived on a different planet! Downing College has an historic beautiful building, peaceful gardens and grand conference rooms.

The meeting itself was a great opportunity for me to meet a lot of people, network and share research ideas. I enjoyed gaining insights into the current 'big picture' of women's and children's health issues through fascinating speakers including Lancet editor Richard Horton as well as ideas from experts in the School about what we can do differently over the next decade. I participated in group discussions around adolescent health, and I was particularly interested in possible research areas and interventions in adolescent health, available funding opportunities, using risk factors as a valid marker for outcomes, journals and conferences/ meetings on adolescent health, and research conducted by other MARCH members. I was genuinely surprised to discover many researchers who have done studies within MRC Uganda cohorts and others planning to do more research in our country.

Overall I would say that this is one of the best meetings I have attended and I'm very grateful for the opportunity to share my own ideas and research, as well as learning from others. I have made connections with new researchers and started discussing potential post-doctoral research. I will be able to take the new ideas I have gained from the retreat back to Uganda as well as potentially start new partnerships with like-minded people."

A lasting legacy for dedicated students

Norman Noah's relationship with the School—as a student, distinguished epidemiologist and now emeritus professor—has so far lasted more than four decades. But he still talks about it with the enthusiasm of a new recruit.

"My relationship with the School has always been very happy," he says. "It's thoroughly professional and probably the best school of public health there is. The other thing which is great is the students – they are fabulous."

His commitment to his students, his field and the School has inspired him to leave a legacy in his will to establish the Norman Noah Prize. This will be awarded each year to the MSc student who produces the best summer project related to the epidemiology of infectious disease.

Gifts to the Norman Noah Prize fund will be used to launch and sustain the Prize, as well as to support students studying epidemiology.

Born in Burma in 1939, Norman fled with his family to India to escape the worst of the Second World War before returning to the country of his birth after the War. Educated in Darjeeling, India, he was already a seasoned traveller with 27 plane journeys under his belt when he arrived in Britain for the first time at the age of 15.

Qualifying from medical school in 1963, with stints at Worthing and Lambeth, including challenging and exhausting periods as a junior physician, led to his getting a senior house officer job at St Thomas' Hospital, and he was on track to become a consultant.

However, a number of crucial events led him to make a life-changing decision to switch from treating patients. One of these was a saddening house call to see a young asthmatic boy he had previously treated on the ward and found him to be living in terrible conditions, with his parents and three siblings sharing a single room in a basement.

"This little boy was sitting distressed and wheezing on the edge of the only bed in the home, while the rest of his very young siblings played noisily around him" he said. "It was awful." What was the point of treating patients only to send them back into the same environment that produced the illness? Increasingly, Norman found himself questioning what was being done to look at the big picture and to study causes and prevention. In 1971 he left clinical medicine to study epidemiology.

Norman's association with the School began in 1973, when he took a short course in epidemiology and medical statistics. He began teaching epidemiology of infectious disease at the School in the late 1970s.

Epidemiology was then a relatively new discipline, and Norman found himself in his element doing the detective work needed to identify the source of outbreaks. His career has ranged from investigating high-profile food poisoning outbreaks and providing advice on food hygiene to studying the health risks of tattooing and ear piercing and improving practices in these areas.

Norman joined the Public Health Laboratory Service in Colindale, going on to work in the 1970s and 1980s at the newly-created Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre. His connections with the School continued during this time and he was appointed to a permanent post at the School in 1989.

He cites the fact he himself has to work hard to understand new concepts as a key reason for his ability to teach successfully, and says it is crucial for scientists to be able to put forward their ideas in a clear way.

"There is no better legacy in life than to pass on your hard earned knowledge and experience to others," he said.

You can make a gift to the Norman Noah Fund through the giving pages of the School's website: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/development/howtogive.

If you would like to discuss how to leave a legacy to the School in your will, you or your solicitor may contact Bill Friar, Head of Development, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK, William.Friar@lshtm.ac.uk, phone +44 (0)20 7927 2630.





We would like to thank all our alumni who have made gifts to the Alumni Fund in the past year...

David Adams Samson Agbo Maria Agu Saadia Ahmad Heather Aird Adegboyega Akere Ebong Akpabio Francesco Albertoni Anastasia Alcock Suaad Al-Jaberi Lorenzo Alonso Carrion Amy Alsop Daniel Altmann Panayiota Andrea Melissa Andrew Harriet Andrews Ikechuku Anya Peter Armitage Sara Atkinson Mariangela Autelitano Yahya Baba Helen Baker Aviva Baker A-Lan Banks Wilbert Bannenberg Azucena Bardaji Alonso **Douglas Beaton** Areej Benafif

Reginald Benn Robert Bethel Catherine Biller Rachel Bousfield Ruth Brace Carlos Bravo-Pinheiro Joel Breman Emmeline Brew-Graves Stewart Brock Alexander Broomfield Camilla Buchanan Maggie Burgess Fiona Burns Lisa Byrne Tomas Campbell Ines Campos Matos Jacqueline Cassell Muhammed Ceesay Juliane Chaccour Kam Wa Chan Sarah Cheney James Cherry Lisa Chin Pui Chiu Hannah Clare **Richard Clements** Nicole Cohen Mary Connolly

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The Alumni Fund has raised over £350,000 in the past three years for scholarships, research travel grants, the School Centres and other good causes.

We would also like to thank Professor Sir Andy Haines and the American Friends of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for generously matching gifts made to the Alumni Fund.

Valerie Miller Charlotte Mirrielees Vera Mitter-Iseli Stephen Moore Melanie Morris Mia Mosavie Karyn Moshal Caleb Mpyet Rudzani Muloiwa David Mummery Morven Murchison-Lochrie Ikram Mussa Fiona Muzee Lucy Mwakulegwa Yoshiro Nagao Olive Nakakeeto June Nash Sameena Nawaz Segn Nedd Hugh Neil Ian Neil Suran Nethisinghe **Clive Nettleton** Mary Newburn Aoife Ni Chorcorain Angus Nicoll Kelechi Nnoaham Norman Noah Terna Nomhange Sarina Norris Laura Norris **Dionysios** Ntais Martha Ococ Nita Odedra

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MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

We would like to say thank you for an absolutely fantastic year...

The 2013-14 Alumni Fund raised over £115,000, and we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported the campaign. The money raised will go towards supporting students with scholarships, research travel grants, as well as the many centres of excellence we have within the School.

We have some exciting new chapters in Sydney, Luanda, Dhaka, Montreal, Paris, Cape Town, Lima, Seoul and Abuja. Chapters provide an excellent forum to meet up with old colleagues, and to network with new ones. Our chapter network is ever-expanding, and relies on our dedicated alumni volunteers – we would like to thank all the alumni who help out with the chapters, without whom this international network wouldn't exist.

Our online alumni community is growing rapidly. We now have around one thousand users signed up. Once you have registered online you can search for other alumni using fields such as location, area of interest, subject of study and year graduated. Use our community to find old classmates, and to make new connections. Find out more at https://alumnionline.lshtm.ac.uk/.

We have had the pleasure of hosting a number of careers talks this year from some extremely inspirational alumni. Our current MSc and PhD students have benefited greatly from hearing about the career paths of these alumni, and having direct access to ask for personal career advice. If you would like to come in to the School and give a talk about your career please be sure to get in touch.

Our events calendar has been filled with receptions and drinks all over the world; from New York to New Delhi, Cape Town to Toronto, we have met with hundreds of alumni over the past year. We have an equally busy year ahead, and we hope to meet you too at one of our upcoming events.

This last year has truly been a wonderful year for the alumni community. And with your help, we are looking forward to 2014-15 and continuing to grow what is already a flourishing network of talented alumni.

Alumni Events:

This year we held over 40 alumni events all over the world. Highlights included:



Washington, DC Alumni Reception November 2013

University Challenge team

Congratulations to the School's University Challenge Team

We are very proud of the MSc students who represented the School on this year's series of University Challenge.

Andrew Taylor, Rebecca Glover, Anjaneva Bapat and team captain Sarah Legrand competed in a number of episodes, beating the team from neighbouring LSE along the way.

University Challenge is a popular British television institution. It is a BBC academic guiz show where teams of students from UK universities answer questions on a wide range of subjects. University Challenge celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The team from the School were also filmed as part of a special documentary to mark this occasion.





Generous donation enables lifechanging experience for student

A new scholarship fund for global mental health studies has been created, thanks to the generosity of Lady Shauna Gosling.

For Lady Gosling, the stigma surrounding mental illness and the challenge of changing attitudes in many parts of the world saddens and concerns her.

She has undertaken research and voluntary work in the past with a particular focus on tackling the "revolving door" problems related to patients falling in the gap between mental health services and substance abuse in the UK.

But while the situation has improved in recent years, it is not the case everywhere.

After speaking to experts from the School including Professor Vikram Patel, Co-Director of the Centre for Global Mental Health, and the Director of the School, Professor Peter Piot, she became more aware of mental health as a global problem, and how few resources were available to help those in low- and middle-income countries who need it most, and was inspired to look for ways she could make a contribution.

"A world suddenly opened up in my mind," Lady Gosling said. "I could see their passion and commitment. There is a great need for a holistic approach to look at the big picture and raise awareness of the lack of psychiatrists or anyone else to help with mental illness. It's dreadful to think of mentally ill people in the world being hidden away and institutionalised."

The School awarded the first-ever scholarship for the MSc in Global Mental Health made possible by Lady Gosling this academic year. Open to honours graduates from around the world, the MSc is a rigorous one-year course of study in global mental health research, policy and practice. The scholarship winner was Jagannath Lamichhane, a mental health activist from Nepal. The scholarship covered Jagannath's tuition fees and living and travel expenses, allowing him to travel to London last year to take the prestigious course, which is run in partnership with the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London.

Lady Gosling has since had a chance to meet Jagannath and hear about his future plans.

"It's so important that people like Jagannath can go back to their communities with the skills and tools they need to help people," she said. "He comes from an area where he really sees the lack of help. It pleased me greatly to meet him. He's fantastic and completely committed.

"This is the first step, and my hope is it will grow and inspire other people. I would like to see services, treatment and attitudes improving and spreading to where they are so desperately needed."

Jagannath, who has himself faced the devastating, stigmatising effects of mental illness, said the chance to study for the MSc in Global Mental Health has changed his life, and he would have been unable to attend without the scholarship.

"With the support of Lady Gosling, my life is gaining momentum, and I intend to make the most of it by acquiring all the skills and knowledge I need to fight for the rights of the thousands of sufferers who are unable to speak out," he said. "I want to give hope, health, equality and rights to people with mental health problems in lowincome countries like mine. I have no words to express my gratitude."

Scholarship recipient Jagannath Lamichhane, an MSc student in Global Mental Health, spoke about his work and personal experience with mental health problems, at a reception at the School to thank donors.

Children are our future...

So what are we doing for them?



In the UK, students can opt out of studying maths and sciences from the age of 16 onwards, which potentially has a damaging effect on their longterm prospects. In the early 2000s, the number of students accepted to study science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) related subjects at university was on the decline.

However, new figures published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England this April show that in 2013-2014, 98,000 students were accepted on to STEM undergraduate courses, the highest number ever recorded and an 18% rise since 2002-2003. Education professionals attribute this success to a number of factors, including schools encouraging young people to take separate biology, chemistry and physics qualifications at GCSE level, and support for schools and teachers from employers, charities and government agencies.

But what can universities do to convince school students to stick with science and maths? Our experience at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine shows that secondary schools are looking for four things: **"real world"** work experience; specialist learning support; inspiring role models; and fun activities that illuminate different research areas.



This academic year, staff and students at the School have responded enthusiastically to all public engagement opportunities to work with young people. We have 14 colleagues tutoring GCSE and A Level students across maths and the science subjects to help them achieve grades that open doors to the best universities with the Access Project (www.theaccessproject.org.uk), and 28 STEM Ambassadors who volunteer for interactive sessions in schools

that encourage students to follow in their footsteps (www.stemnet. org.uk). Our school volunteers have reached over 2,500 students so far this academic year, and have focused on subjects including: infectious diseases as part of a school's "zombie outbreak week"; HIV; disgust and its relationship to hygiene and manners; understanding how diseases spread and who gets ill; and clinical trials. Entomology and chemical ecology researchers go into schools armed with real mosquitoes, bedbugs and ticks!

Dr James Logan, Senior Lecturer in Medical Entomology and Director of arctec, is passionate about engaging young people with science and has been a STEM Ambassador since 2003. **"We use hands-on activities and demonstrations to give students a**



real taste of the research we are doing day-to-day, and help them understand how the science they are learning in the classroom is relevant to real life."

The School is also committed to providing high-quality work experience for 14-18 year olds through the Young Scientists Programme, a scheme funded generously by Tony McClellan, a longstanding friend of the School who is also on the Board of the American Friends. This year, 28 students conducted their own research to investigate public awareness of mental health conditions, links between religious beliefs and views on euthanasia, and whether women can multitask better than men. They also learnt about penguin malaria with our biomedical scientists, had tea with the Director, and conducted a randomised controlled trial with Dr Ben Goldacre to see if eating large amounts of chocolate improves memory.

Public engagement is all about the exchange of ideas and learning, and working with schools can directly benefit our research as well as enthusing young people about science and public health. This year Flusurvey, run by



researchers at the School, teamed up with the British Science Association to produce resources that taught young people about infectious disease and the work of epidemiologists, as well as encouraging them to be **"citizen scientists"** and share data online about how they felt every week.

For many researchers, taking feedback from children as projects develop is essential to produce tools that are fit for purpose. The CHILDSPLA group, a collaboration between the School, the Royal College of Art and Great Ormond Street Hospital, is developing an animated app for the iPad that will allow young children with lower levels of language to explain exactly how they are feeling to health professionals. The team took their research to the Bloomsbury Festival in October 2013, and children's feedback helped them to fine-tune their animations.

Universities and schools working together presents great benefits for everyone, and we look forward to expanding our contacts and activities in the years to come!

For more information about public engagement at the School, please contact Vickie Bazalgette, Public Engagement Co-ordinator at **publicengagement@lshtm.ac.uk**. Photo above: Director Professor Peter Piot with students taking part in the Young Scientists programme