

ALUMNI NEWS

ISSUE 30 • SUMMER 2011



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- New Alumni Association President
- Maternal and Child Health
- Prime Minister's Initiative Pilot Project



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MEDICINE

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Front cover image:
Photograph by Sarah Bandali, Women's Group 2:
As part of research examining gender norms and HIV/AIDS vulnerability, women gather to discuss these issues using participatory methodologies in the village of Bilibiza, Mozambique.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



This last year at the School has been busy, reflecting the richness and diversity of life here. It's a challenge to pick out a few highlights.

- The School launched its new Centre for Statistical Methodology and our Council recently approved a new Tuberculosis Centre.
- Celebrations abounded when the CRASH-2 team received a BMJ Group Award for Research Paper of the Year for its study into a low cost drug, tranexamic acid, which has been shown to reduce the risk of death from bleeding. WHO has recently added the drug to their list of essential medicines – an excellent outcome from the CRASH study.
- The UK Department for International Development (DFID) awarded five years' funding for a Research Programme Consortium entitled PATHWAYS RPC – The Pathways to Prevention: Addressing the Structural Drivers of HIV RPC (directed by Loui Heise). For information about this and other DFID research programme consortia, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/dfid/.
- The School is privileged to host two new Department of Health units, the Policy Research Unit in Commissioning and the Healthcare System (directed by Stephen Peckham), and the Policy Research Unit in Policy Innovation Research (directed by Nick Mays).
- The Lancet launched its Special Series on India, and on Vaccines at the School, looking at the future of vaccines and what we can expect from translation of the latest vaccine science.

Further good news: The School's continuing excellence in research has been recognised by the UK government, by an increase in its funding over the coming academic year. To help retain this high standard, the School is establishing an independent international advisory committee to review annually its teaching and research.

Working with you, our Alumni, will be critical to our success in the future. Following on from the Rockefeller Foundation funded review of alumni (of which there will be more in the next edition), we plan new ways to foster collaborations with you, as part of a broader strategy on UK and international partnership.

Our work in numerous low and middle income countries continues to thrive, as I could see during my visits to India, Malawi and Tanzania. Meeting alumni in these countries as well as Singapore and the US has been stimulating and inspiring. It's a great tribute to the School to have such supportive and successful alumni.

Professor Peter Piot, Director, LSHTM

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LSHTM is delighted to announce Dr Mohamad Fathy Saoud is the new Alumni Association President

Dr Mohamad Fathy Saoud was appointed President of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development in November 2007. He has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2003 and previously served as Higher Education Advisor from 1997-2007, where he participated in the planning and development of Education City, one of the largest projects of the Foundation.

Dr Saoud started his academic career as Senior Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor of Parasitology at the University of Ain Shams in Egypt and the University of Khartoum in Sudan and then joined the newly established University of Qatar where he became the founding Dean of Science in 1978. He was the Co-Principal Investigator of a collaborative NIH-funded research project on *schistosomiasis* in Egypt between the University of Ain Shams,



the University of Lowell, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the University of California Los Angeles. During his research career, Dr Saoud established a school in Medical and Animal Parasitology in Egypt, Sudan and Qatar.

Dr Saoud has published more than 100 papers in Parasitology and Immunology. An Egyptian citizen, Dr Saoud graduated in 1959 from Ain Shams University in Cairo with an Honours degree and gained a PhD from LSHTM in 1965. Dr Saoud is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and a member of the British, Japanese and Egyptian Societies for Parasitology. ■

LSHTM WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



Tabitha Manzuangani with Anna Goodman the LSHTM young scientist programme coordinator

One of LSHTM's 'Young Scientists' is celebrating after winning the 'Young Star' category of the prestigious 'Women of the Future' awards. The youngest candidate shortlisted, Tabitha Manzuangani, aged 16, was singled out by the judges as an outstanding young woman who was sure to go on to make the world a better place.

Tabitha, who attends the Norwood School in West Norwood, South London, joined LSHTM's award-winning 'Young Scientists' Programme in March 2010 for her Year 10 work experience as one of forty-six students participating in the scheme in 2009-10. Like all LSHTM work experience students, Tabitha conducted an independent research project, and then presented her findings at an open scientific seminar. This seminar was chaired by then-Director of LSHTM Professor Sir Andy Haines, who subsequently nominated Tabitha for the award. He says: 'Tabitha made an outstanding impression. Her scientific presentation stood out amongst a number of high quality talks as a result of her assured communication skills, the clarity of her ideas and excellent responses to questions. When I discovered she was unable to speak English before coming to this country 5 years ago from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I was extraordinarily impressed with what she has achieved'. ■

Message from Dr Manuel M. Dayrit Alumni President 2006-2011



of the School for the Gates Award in 2009; the awarding of medals and recognition to my own professors and colleagues for their excellent scientific work and dedication to public health; and not least, the awarding of certificates and medals to London School graduates; and in conversation with many of them, to have seen their pride and thrill and that of their parents in seeing the accomplishments of their children.

“Upon more reflection, there is probably a deeper dimension to this role of being a witness and this privilege of witnessing – and it is the opportunity in these brief yet transcendent moments on stage, to witness the graduates through a 30-year perspective of the past and speculate on their future and the future they might create – the kind of speculation teachers and parents might make.

“What is the single most impressive thing about the London School? To my mind, it is the faculty and the students, or depending on which way you wish to view this dialectic, the students and the faculty. Such was the case during my time as a student in the School, such is the case now. It is the energy, curiosity, optimism from students and faculty which drives the School forward.

“What has changed in the School? A lot. Certainly the state of knowledge on the various public health fields has changed, evolving with research, practice, and teaching. Certainly the technology used in teaching and learning has changed.

“What has not changed is the constant striving for the universal truths and the universal values of virtue, beauty, and wisdom. The contributions which London School alumni have made to improve the health of populations throughout the world are truly remarkable. We are all part of this great tradition and I am sure each of you will make your own contribution to enhancing it.” ■



“I first came to LSHTM as an MSc student in 1981. So 2011 marks the 30th anniversary of my association with the School, the last five of which was as its Alumni President.

“There are many roles the Alumni President might play, from being goodwill ambassador to being an advocate for the School’s academic programmes. What was my favourite role? It was that of being a witness – just being present at graduation ceremonies when things were happening and if imperceptibly, things were changing.



“What has not changed is the constant striving for the universal truths and the universal values of virtue, beauty, and wisdom.”

“What were some of the things I witnessed? For one, the re-building of the central core of the School’s premises and the disappearance of the Goldsmith theatre where 30 years ago I was welcomed as a Masters student; the selection

Manuel Dayrit is one of LSHTM’s most distinguished alumni, having excelled in both academic and operational public health, in the public, private and NGO sectors, rising to become Minister of Health in the Philippines from 2001-2005 and Director for Human Resources for Health at WHO since 2006. LSHTM would like to sincerely thank Dr Dayrit, who has been a wonderful President of the Alumni Association. We wish him the best of luck for the future!



AFRICA LONDON NAGASAKI SCHOLARSHIPS

The Africa London Nagasaki fund is a scholarship fund set up to support African scientists to undertake a Master's degree in a subject relevant to the control of infectious disease in Africa. The awards support candidates to undertake an MSc at either the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University, Japan or at LSHTM. Up to four awards will be made each year for the period 2010 to 2014. Successful applicants will receive a maximum of US\$50,000 each to cover tuition fees, travel and living expenses.

In February, Professor Peter Piot welcomed to LSHTM representatives from the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science. Professor Piot spoke of the existing strong links between LSHTM and Japan, and the history behind the setting up of the scholarship programme, which followed on from Professor Brian Greenwood being awarded the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 2006, in recognition of his research on the prevention of malaria, pneumonia and meningitis in African children.

Further info is available at www.alscholarshipfund.org ■

ANDY HAINES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

LSHTM has set up a scholarship fund to honour the directorship of Professor Sir Andrew Haines over the last ten years, to support students through their studies.

The fund's target is £1M to support postgraduate, diploma and masters students undertaking study with the School. The aim is to provide support for individuals who demonstrate the talent, attitude and potential to make a direct and valuable contribution to health worldwide in the future.

Andy Haines has given a significant donation to the fund already, and we appeal to LSHTM alumni, staff and friends to donate to this cause, which aims to give opportunities to those who would otherwise find it difficult to undertake further study.

LSHTM is acutely aware of the challenges faced by many students in finding the necessary funding to study with the School. Many potential students are not able to take up their offer of a place (whether they are seeking to study in London or via our distance learning programme) because they cannot secure the financial means necessary. Yet we know from the experience of our alumni that graduating students go on to make significant contributions to improving health. Addressing this issue is central to delivering the School's mission to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide. ■

Please send your donation to:

The Andy Haines Scholarship Fund
Keppel Street
London WC1E 7HT
United Kingdom
t+44 (0)20 7299 4608

Email: development@lshtm.ac.uk
Cheques should be made payable to LSHTM.



Above: Enas Newire
MSc 2010 distant
learning graduate
Right: Professor
Sir Andy Haines



LSHTM RECEIVES £10 MILLION TO IMPROVE EVIDENCE BASE FOR DECISION-MAKING IN MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

Every year, nearly 4 million mothers and newborns continue to die, most from preventable or treatable causes. Now, LSHTM has received £10 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to run the IDEAS (Informed Decisions for Actions) project which is designed to provide a better evidence base to guide future maternal and newborn health programmes.



Between 2010 and 2015, the IDEAS group will work together with a series of innovative maternal and newborn implementation projects funded by the Gates Foundation in North-Eastern Nigeria, Uttar Pradesh in India, and Ethiopia, each of which has a high burden of maternal and newborn deaths. Three questions will be addressed:

1. Have the projects been successful in enhancing interactions between families and front-line health workers?
2. Have the approaches tested in these projects been taken up more widely? If so, how? And if not, why not?
3. Where projects have been scaled-up, has newborn survival improved?

Working in partnership, the IDEAS group will establish a Technical Resource Centre to enhance local capacity in measurement, learning and evaluation for improved maternal and newborn health. Existing and new data from each setting will be analysed for evidence

of enhanced interactions between families and front line workers. Further, new data will be collected to investigate the extent of scale-up of health programmes for mothers and newborns, and whether survival has improved as a result. Finally, the group will disseminate best practice in learning and measurement in maternal and newborn health and promote evidence for effective decision-making.

The project is co-ordinated from the Centre for Maternal Reproductive and Child Health (MARCH) Centre at LSHTM – for further information visit website: march.LSHTM.ac.uk

“The year 2010 has seen encouraging funding commitments for maternal and newborn health.”

Joanna Schellenberg, Reader in Epidemiology & International Health at LSHTM, is leading the project. She comments: “The year 2010 has seen encouraging funding commitments for maternal and newborn health, and yet the evidence base to guide programme managers in many low and middle income countries is weak. I am looking forward to generating evidence to guide programme decisions for action, so that fewer mothers and babies will die in future.” ■





Candle light antibiotics.
Photograph by Camilla Røthe, MD, DTM&H, taken during
a powercut at a hospital in Malawi, November 2010.

LSHTM RECEIVES EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING TO FIGHT CERVICAL CANCER IN HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN IN AFRICA

LSHTM has received 3 million Euros from the European Union to run the HARP Consortium ('HPV in Africa Research Partnership'), which is designed to provide a better evidence base to guide future cervical cancer screening programmes for women living with HIV in Africa.



Above: Photograph by Sarah Bandali, Women's Group 2: As part of research examining gender norms and HIV/AIDS vulnerability, women gather to discuss these issues using participatory methodologies in the village of Billibiza, Mozambique.

Every year, over a quarter of a million women die of cervical cancer, a disease that has become almost entirely preventable through screening and vaccination against the infectious agents that cause 70% of these cancers, the human papillomavirus (HPV) types 16 and 18. The bulk of cancer cases and mortality is found in developing countries, where women seldom have access to any form of cancer prevention and detection. The situation is even worse for women living with HIV who are at a particularly high risk of being infected and to experience fast disease progression.

The European Union has already introduced policies to deal with the issue of cancer, such as those that aim to improve general health by promoting healthier lifestyles and also increasing effective screening programmes. However, the EU is concerned about the inequalities between member states, and between more advanced and less developed countries in levels of cancer control and care, including screening.

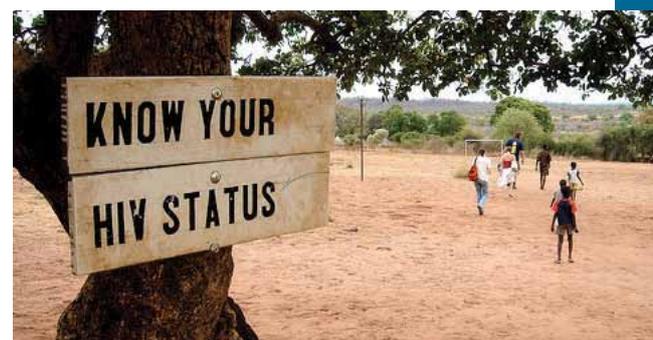
Between 2010 and 2014, the HARP Consortium will work in Burkina Faso and South Africa, two countries representing two very contrasting health infrastructures and HIV epidemics, yet facing similar challenges in terms of cervical cancer prevention and care. Working in partnership with two African academic institutions, University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, along with the University of Montpellier in France, the HARP Consortium will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of various screening strategies leading to earlier detection and management of cervical cancer in these high-risk populations, and model its long-term impact on cancer reduction and lives saved. HARP will enhance the local capacity of front-line health workers, policy makers and communities in tackling cancer prevention. The HARP Consortium will disseminate best practice in cervical cancer screening in Africa and promote evidence for effective decision-making.

Philippe Mayaud, Reader in Infectious Diseases & Reproductive Health at LSHTM is leading the project. He comments: "Interest in cervical cancer prevention in developing countries is mounting, more so since the advent of the two highly effective HPV vaccines. However, before these vaccines can impact on cancer rates (which will be many years ahead), it will still be required to organise cervical cancer screening programmes that can reach many women at risk and be affordable and sustainable. The development of simplified HPV screening tests holds great promise, particularly for high-risk women such as those who live with HIV.

The irony is that we can nowadays save lives with potent antiretroviral therapy for HIV, and yet are unable to detect a perfectly preventable cancer that would kill these patients.

I am looking forward to generating evidence with my colleagues to guide programme decisions for action, so that fewer women living with HIV in Africa and elsewhere will die in future of this totally preventable disease". ■

www.harp-fp7.org/





Ban heavy goods vehicles on urban roads to reduce cycle deaths

Experts are calling for a ban on heavy goods vehicles on urban roads, after a study found they were involved in 43% of cycling fatalities in London.



LSHTM ACADEMICS CALL ON UK HEALTH SECRETARY TO ACT NOW TO AVOID 'FAT TSUNAMI' IN THE NHS

In February over 50 staff and students from LSHTM wrote an Open Letter to UK Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley, calling on him to act now to avoid a 'fat tsunami' in the NHS, after a recent report that ambulance services are having to adapt vehicles to cope with increasingly heavy patients.

Led by Ian Roberts, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health and Dr Helen Woodward, they warn that current Government policy has the potential to worsen the fatness epidemic, and that reducing the costs of motorised transport will be bad for the nation's health and bad for the environment.

They comment: 'Promoting safe walking and cycling in our towns and cities will reduce population fatness, improve health and limit the atmospheric carbon dioxide pollution that is causing global warming. The health benefits from safe walking and cycling are immediate: lower risks of road traffic injury; a leaner and happier population with lower rates of many diseases including diabetes, heart attacks and cancer; and cleaner air'.

They add: 'We ask for your commitment that fuel prices will be escalated not stabilised, as a vital strand of health policy. The NHS faces a fat tsunami that threatens its viability. This wave will not be nudged. It requires strong public health policy and public health leadership that we urge you to provide'. ■

www.lshtm.ac.uk/news/2011/fatstunami.html

Researchers from LSHTM carried out an analysis of police road casualty data between 1992 and 2006, in London, and estimated the annual fatality rates per 100,000 cyclists per kilometre. The study followed on from a previous study, published in 1994 by Gilbert and McCarthy, which looked at fatalities between 1987 and 1992.

The LSHTM study found that, between 1992 and 2006, there was an average of 16 cycling fatalities a year. Out of a total of 242 fatalities, 60% of deaths were in inner London, and 40% were in outer London. Heavy goods vehicles were involved in 43% of all incidents, with over half of these (53%) being when the vehicle was making a left turn.

Andrei Morgan of LSHTM's Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, and lead author of the study, comments: 'This unnecessary death toll cannot be ignored any longer. Our research, combined with that carried out previously, reveals that there has been no reduction in cycling fatalities in almost a quarter of a century. At a time when we are seeking to encourage more people to cycle, both for health and environmental reasons, this is not good enough. Measures are required to make cycling safer and to reduce the number of people dying so needlessly on our roads.'

'Heavy goods vehicles are involved in a disproportionate number of cycling fatalities on the capital's roads. It is for this reason that we are calling for all freight vehicles over 3.5 tonnes to be removed from urban roads, and for safer, alternative solutions to be sought for transporting essential goods'.

Peter Piot, Director of LSHTM and keen cyclist, comments: 'If the streets of London were safer for cyclists, many more people would cycle, thereby improving their own health and reducing pressure on the capital's transport system. Not only should we be taking freight vehicles off the roads, but we should also be investing in cycle lanes that are separate from motorised traffic'. ■

www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/699



LSHTM leads £10 million consortium to address global sanitation and hygiene crisis

LSHTM is leading a major research consortium to generate new knowledge and ensure the best evidence is used to improve sanitation coverage and hygiene behaviour worldwide.

The five-year initiative aims to help change a hitherto neglected sector associated with a significant global disease burden – 2.4 million deaths a year could be avoided with adequate sanitation, good hygiene and safe drinking water. The consortium, called SHARE (Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity), is funded by DFID and draws on the renowned expertise and experiences of LSHTM staff in the Environmental Health Group (within the Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases), including Professor Sandy Cairncross and Dr Val Curtis.

SHARE's activities are concentrated in its focus countries – Bangladesh, India, Malawi and Tanzania – and are based on its four research themes – health, equity, urban sanitation, and sanitation markets. All its work is carried out in collaboration with the consortium's partners: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Control, Bangladesh, International Institute for Environment and Development, Slum/Shack Dwellers International, and WaterAid.

Other SHARE activities include the hygiene promotion tool kit called 'Choose Soap'

Significant projects are already underway as part of the initiative, and SHARE has successfully leveraged funds from other organisations to support its work. Baseline data has been collected for a randomised controlled trial to assess the health impact of improved sanitation in rural Orissa, India. Approximately 3,500 households and 20,000 people from 100 villages in Puri district are involved in the study focusing on the impact of the construction and use of latrines in rural settings on diarrhoeal disease and helminth infections. This research, funded by SHARE,



the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), will help plug the evidence gap regarding the consequences of poor sanitation. Other SHARE activities include the hygiene promotion tool kit called 'Choose Soap', and a food hygiene intervention study being conducted in Bangladesh.

Professor Sandy Cairncross, Research Director of SHARE, said: "Sanitation and hygiene have been woefully neglected for far too long, leading to diarrhoea and the deaths of millions of children every year. We are working with our partners to produce rigorous and relevant research to assess the problems, investigate solutions, and promote evidence-based policy that can save lives."

SHARE has also secured high-profile attention from policy-makers. DFID Minister Stephen O'Brien was the keynote speaker at the official launch of the consortium on 16 November 2010 at LSHTM. He discussed the historic lack of progression on sanitation – the sanitation target is the most off-track Millennium Development Goal target in Africa – and added: "DFID support to SHARE will deliver an unprecedented focus on what works and what doesn't for sanitation and hygiene. SHARE will help us test the interventions that will deliver real results for poor people." ■

Above: Kenedy Gondwe, a sanitation promoter, making a latrine slab, Chikompolazi village, Mzuzu, Malawi. Credit: WaterAid/Layton Thompson

www.share-research.org/



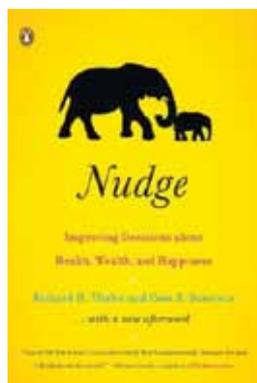
For more information visit www.share-research.org

or email contactSHARE@lshtm.ac.uk



EXPERTS CAUTION AGAINST RUSH TO EMBRACE 'NUDGE' THEORY IN HEALTH WHITE PAPER

The UK Government should not rush to embrace the idea of 'nudging' people to adopt healthier behaviour, as there is no evidence to suggest it is an effective strategy, according to an editorial published in the British Medical Journal.



Above: *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness*, a book by the US academics Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein.

www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.d401.full

A team based at LSHTM criticises the emphasis placed on 'nudging' in the recent UK Government White Paper on public health, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', claiming that it is a confused and ill-defined concept which may not offer anything new in terms of improving people's health behaviour.

The concept of 'nudging' was first described in *'Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness'*, a book by the US academics Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein. They argue that most decisions people make are unconscious or irrational and governments should try to influence people's behaviour to make their lives healthier as long as this doesn't involve coercion or significant financial pressures. 'Nudges' may involve actions such as increasing the prominence of healthy food in canteens, requiring people to opt out of, rather than into, organ donor schemes, or providing small incentives for people to act more healthily. They are, in effect, anything other than giving basic factual information, introducing bans or bringing heavy financial pressures to bear.

But the LSHTM team argues that the UK shouldn't rush into doing lots of new research on nudges unless they are confident it offers something new. This is far from clear because like nudges, most existing public health isn't coercive, (and where it is, like the smoking ban, this is usually to prevent harm to third parties) and goes beyond the facts to influence how choices are presented (for example using techniques like social marketing, motivational interviewing and peer education).

They point out that many of the examples in Thaler and Sunstein's book don't fit with their own definition – for example a programme paying a 'dollar a day' to teenage mothers contingent on their having no further pregnancies would exert major pressure on young women in poverty, contradicting their definition of nudges as not exerting such pressures.

Lead author Chris Bonell comments: "The notion of nudging" adds nothing to existing approaches. Public health policies should be based on the best available evidence, but the UK Government has shown a worrying tendency to undermine the collection of such evidence, for example by stopping the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence from undertaking appraisals of several strategies to improve public health. *'Nudge'* contains some eye-catching ideas, but little progress will be made if public health policy is made largely on the basis of ideology and ill-defined notions that fail to deal with the range of barriers to healthy living". ■



GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2010

Global Handwashing Day 2010

On 15 October 2010, Global Handwashing Day activities took place in over 80 countries. Bangladesh broke the world record for the most people washing hands with soap, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar washed his hands live on Indian TV, and all Yemenis with mobile phones received a text message telling them to wash their hands with soap.

In Focus: Monrovia, Liberia

Pump Aid joined eight other NGOs (Concern, CHF, PSI, UNICEF, Oxfam, Zoa, Water Aid and the Liberian National Red Cross) as well as the Ministries of Health and Education to celebrate the 3rd annual Global Handwashing Day at the Monrovia Demonstration School in Monrovia. The theme of the programme was 'Clean Hands Save Lives' and targeted mainly school children in and around Monrovia.

Events leading up to the main event included radio talk shows and messages promoting the theme locally and nationally. Representatives from the Ministries of Health and Education appeared on some radio shows to discuss the health implications of clean hands and the value of partnering with NGOs around the country to promote these messages that save lives.

Following the national launch, an event was held on school grounds to demonstrate the hand washing facilities donated to selected schools around the country.

In Focus: London, UK

The UK celebrated Global Handwashing Day at The Science Museum in London. Four London-based primary schools were invited to attend the all-day event to take part in various activities, which were designed to draw attention to the importance of handwashing with soap, especially before eating and after going to the toilet. The campaign was covered by local and national media and included a nationwide study of school toilets, which suggested that the "less than ideal" levels of handwashing is attributed to "inadequate or dirty facilities", especially within secondary schools. ■

The 2011 Campaign

Without giving too much away, there will be a number of events comprising a campaign that aims to be bigger than ever! A nationwide comedy competition, a survey of the dirtiest mobile phones in the country and an online and social media campaign, will raise awareness among the UK's dirtiest teenagers.



If you would like to become involved in this year's campaign, please get in touch with us via email at globalhandwashingday@lshtm.ac.uk

Below: Images of Global Handwashing Day on 15 October 2010 at the Science Museum



Global Handwashing Day
15 October





WORLD AIDS DAY

Peter Piot calls for bold changes and leadership commitment to prevent millions of needless deaths

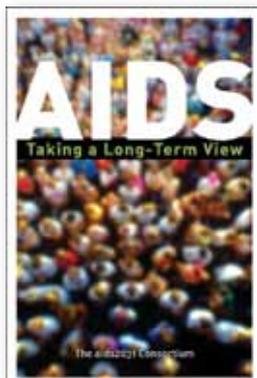


Peter Piot, Director of LSHTM, has contributed a guest column in the *Financial Times*' Special Report, *Combating Aids*, that marked World Aids Day 2010.

Writing with Heidi Larson, a Senior Lecturer at LSHTM, and Stefano Bertozzi, Director, HIV and TB at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Peter Piot calls for a move away from the predominantly global approach to one that is more focused on national and local needs, and calls for renewed leadership amid concerns that leadership on Aids is waning.



He also highlights the need for longer budget cycles. 'We cannot continue to address a long-term problem and life-long treatment with annual funding cycles. Budget cycles should move to 10-15 years, while programme indicators should change to measure long-term impact, such as new infections and deaths, rather than just short-term process gains'.



'The real challenge', he says 'will be for leaders to put policies in place to prevent the most infections possible and save the most lives'. The authors highlight a number of recommendations for tackling the pandemic, made by the aids2031 initiative in *Aids Taking a Long Term View* published by FT Press.

These include:

- Re-emphasising prevention so that new infections (which numbered 2.6 million according to the latest UNAIDS estimates) are reduced.

- Ensuring prevention measures are informed by up-to-date local epidemiological and behavioural data.
- Placing Health Initiatives for the Private Sector and harm-reduction approaches at the forefront of anti-Aids efforts.
- Increasing efficiency and using available resources more effectively, through optimising treatment and ensuring more efficient programme management.
- Continuing to innovate – and to invest in science and technology.

The authors call for a more businesslike approach to responding to the pandemic, arguing that business practices should be employed to enable rapid feedback on performance at local levels, and ensure continuous, ongoing improvement.

The authors conclude: 'As we mark World Aids Day, it is crucial to remind ourselves, Aids remains one of the greatest health crises of our time, having killed nearly 30 million people since 1981. There is an urgent need to take a long-term view and make bold changes so millions more do not die needlessly'. ■

www.lshtm.ac.uk/news/2010/worldAIDSday.html

Sam Phiri, Director of the Lighthouse Trust, Malawi

Dr Sam Phiri completed an MSc in Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV at LSHTM in 2001 and returned to complete his PhD in 2007. Dr Phiri is Director of the Lighthouse Trust, the largest HIV treatment centre in Malawi.



Above: Dr Sam Phiri
Below: LSHTM students
in Keppel Street

The Lighthouse Trust, a recognized World Health Organization Centre of Excellence, was among the first public clinics to provide free, life-saving antiretroviral therapy in Malawi. Dr Phiri is also the Deputy Director of Evidence for Action. Evidence for Action is an LSHTM-led five-year international research programme with core funding from the UK DFID. The Evidence for Action consortium focuses on HIV treatment and care systems, aiming to contribute to knowledge on how to design, manage and deliver comprehensive HIV treatment and care programmes in resource poor settings.

“Having done my Masters Degree in Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV and a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology at LSHTM, I was equipped with a deep understanding of providing leadership to a Centre of Excellence for the Integrated HIV prevention, Treatment, Care and Support. My studies equipped me with the skills of organisational management; designing, developing, implementing and evaluating operations research. These skills also included providing training, mentoring

“I feel honoured to take up this challenge as I think about the transition of being a student to being a collaborator.”



and supervision. It has been satisfying for me to continue working with LSHTM in a collaborative research consortium. As a Deputy Director for the DFID funded Research Programme Consortium (Evidence for Action) led by LSHTM, I feel honoured to take up this challenge as I think about the transition from being a student to being a collaborator.”

“Now when I go to meetings I meet people who I was with during my Masters Course. We are able to see other alumni who were there before and after. Already I am glad to say at the Lighthouse we have had three people who have passed through LSHTM, one of them is finishing a MSc in Epidemiology. So it’s really quite amazing to see that happening. This is what I like most about LSHTM, the spirit of recognising the potential of students from developing countries and giving them an opportunity to grow in leadership skills for operations research. Since HIV and AIDS is a global problem but more devastating in the resource limited settings, it is imperative that the LSHTM keeps its mandate and visibility in the capacity building process in HIV and AIDS in these countries. This is the most suitable approach to build a pool of leaders in the HIV and AIDS field and this would also be a forum for collaborative operations research with the northern partners in order to deal with the global response to HIV and AIDS.”

“I am just talking about myself, my role and the role of LSHTM in terms of how it contributes to global health. I didn’t need to jump up and down to say that if you only talk about one single person, that’s me now, and you multiply that by the number of students who have passed through LSHTM, you know what the School means to Global Health.” ■

GRAINNE MOLONEY

Grainne Moloney is the Chief Technical Advisor of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, a project managed by Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for Somalia, which serves as the main source of early warning nutrition, food security and livelihoods analysis of the Somalia population.



Grainne in 2004 in the Ngorongoro interviewing drought-affected Masai while working with Oxfam

Grainne has 13 years experience in the field of emergency nutrition surveillance and programming, food security assessment and analysis, and dietetics. She has worked mainly in Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Ivory Coast and Somalia), and Tajikistan and has served as a technical advisor for nutrition and emergency livelihood programming for the Horn and Central Africa region for 2 years. She has worked with Action Against Hunger, Oxfam GB, UNICEF and FAO. Grainne is heavily involved in the Global Nutrition Cluster, where she is co-chair of the Assessment Working Group and the Standing Committee on Nutrition in the emergency section.

An Irish national, she holds a MSc in Public Health Nutrition from LSHTM and a BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Trinity College Dublin.

“Being an alumnus of LSHTM has been of great significance in my career to date.”

“From the outset my LSHTM degree opened many doors. I have been told by my first employers that having a degree from LSHTM meant my CV was put to the top of the pile. This is especially relevant as many NGOs do not consider candidates without international experience (all I had was the 3 weeks of my dissertation field experience in The Gambia) yet I was offered placements with all the NGOs I applied to based on the MSc.

In the field of nutrition that I am in, few colleges have the respect of LSHTM, therefore with my peers I know that my opinion counts. I am certainly proud to have attended LSHTM and to be part of such an impressive family of

graduates. In fact I have recently influenced two of my staff, who now study with LSHTM.” “My MSc in Public Health Nutrition was ideally suited to my career, and much that I have learnt I have put into practice over the years. In addition to the academic side, I also met many interesting people (fellow students and staff) that opened my views on cultural dynamics and for that I am grateful. It certainly prepared me to be open, forward thinking and to spend time listening to others views and opinions and not always be focused on formulating the perfect reply. From some specific professors too, I have learned really good methods of adult teaching which I apply every day in my work.”

“Having worked professionally for 13 years in nutrition, my experience started out with providing individual patients with dietetic counselling and treatment, to then assessing the scale and managing programmes in large humanitarian emergencies such as in Darfur, Kenya, Malawi and Somalia amongst others. The transition from one to the other is not obvious and therefore the year I spent at LSHTM really did prepare me to switch my mindset from the individual level to the population level, from treatment to also prevention and advocacy, and from nutrition-related problems due to excess, such as obesity and diabetes, to insufficiency, such as wasting and micronutrient deficiency. I do hope the near 10 years of my life working in the humanitarian context and more specifically on nutrition situation information and dissemination has in some small way contributed to global health particularly in Somalia and Darfur. Here I feel our work has made a difference to highlight the scale and nature of the nutrition and food security crises which can then provide response agencies with the information they need to adequately meet the needs.”

“I always enjoy meeting colleagues from the different Ministries of Health, UN agencies and NGOs from all corners of the world who are part of



the LSHTM graduate family and its great to have that common connection on that first interaction. For that reason and although LSHTM has reached out and has a very impressive list of graduates from all over the world, there is definitely room to expand and further influence and make the course I did more accessible to the students of low and middle income countries. In the FAO Somalia office we offer modules on nutrition surveillance in emergencies to three post graduate institutions in Kenya and Somalia and the students are really motivated and appreciate this support. I am sure pairing similar institutions with LSHTM and offering similar modules for a defined period of time can only benefit the global public health agenda.” ■

Right: *Looking for hope.*
Photograph taken by Dan Wiklund MD, DTM&H while on a medical mission to Cameroon.

Below: Grainne, in September 2006, in North Darfur, while conducting the Darfur-Wide Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment working with UNICEF



NUTRITION COLLECTION



The Archives 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 over 4,000 historical records relating to nutrition research.

The records, created and collected by LSHTM staff between the 1920s and 1990s, reflect the variety of work on nutrition undertaken by School staff both before and after the establishment of the Department of Human Nutrition in 1946. Significant series of papers represented in the collection include Professor Benjamin Stanley Platt's research into protein malnutrition, tropical food values and beriberi in China, Professor Philip Payne's work on nutrition policy, obesity, protein and energy requirements, Dr GR Wadsworth's investigations into nutrition in the Western Pacific and Erica Wheeler's nutrition surveys of passengers

Left: PL 11513 – Villagers using a well in Nyasaland, c. 1930s-c.1940s

Right: PL 11514 – Clearing the land for cultivation in Geneiri, Gambia, 1948

Below: PL 14529 Ministry of Food stall at the Ideal Home Exhibition, King's Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1950



aboard an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf, pregnant women and young children.

The collection is particularly rich in records relating to multi-disciplinary surveys in Africa in the first half of the 20th Century. These include food diaries, maps and published papers from the Nyasaland Survey, (1938-1943), and The Gambia Experiment, (1946-1950), of which Professor Platt, the first head of the Department of Human Nutrition, was heavily involved.

There is also a wealth of documents from the Second World War era which include recipe leaflets for families living on rations issued by the Ministry of Food as well as dietary surveys of servicemen, schoolchildren and working and middle class families. Perhaps the most unique materials from this period are Dr Michael Woodruff's and Dr Dean Smith's Prisoner of War patient and administrative records from the Changi civilian internment camp, Singapore and Stanley civilian internment camp, Hong Kong, (1942-1945). Although the work was carried out under considerable duress, it provides a vivid insight into the management and treatment of malnutrition in prisoners of war.

The nutrition collection strongly reflects the global and collaborative nature of the School's work in the field of nutrition, with records relating to countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe and to projects with a range of organisations, including





ALUMNI PHOTOLIBRARY

Competition winner



The winner of the Alumni Photo Competition is the photo entitled 'Patiently waiting' by Dan Wiklund, which was taken while working in the field in Africa. Dr Wiklund is a DTMH Aumnus from the USA

The judges were impressed by the high standard of photos entered into the competition and would like to thank all those who participated.

To view all of the competition entries go to: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/archives/photolibary/>

and search under Competition entries where you will find the Alumni Competition 2010 category. ■

Left: 'Patiently waiting'
by Dan Wiklund.

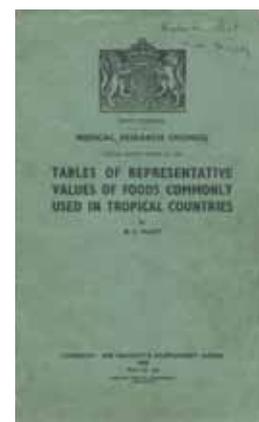
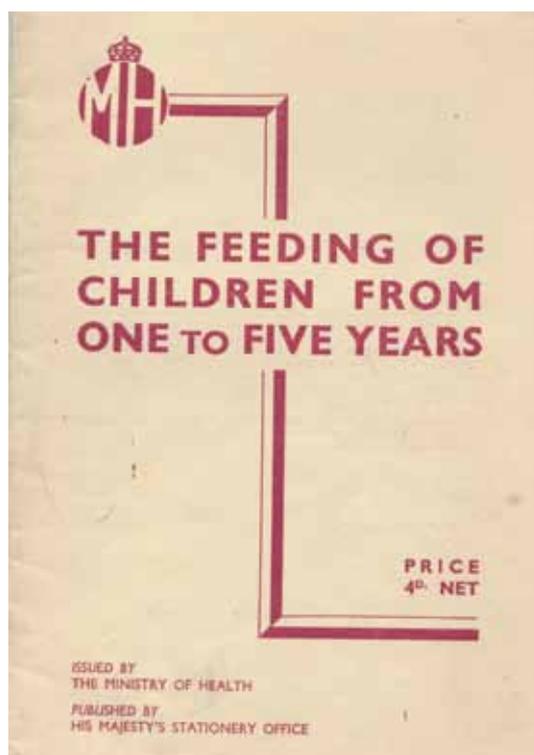
the World Health Organisation, United Nations, British Medical Association and Medical Research Council.

Nutrition is one of the most important public health agenda items of the 21st Century and the completion of this cataloging project has opened up this previously inaccessible resource to the medical research community and researchers in associated areas, including epidemiology, anthropology, geography and social, colonial and military history.

Below: PL 18169 – Professor Platt
on a rickshaw in China, c.1930s



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



Left: PL 19815 – Ministry of Health booklet, The Feeding of Children from One to Five Years, 1943

Right above: PL 18036 – Tables of Representative Values of Foods Commonly Used in Tropical Countries, by Professor Platt, 1945

LSHTM runs prestigious Pilot Project under Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education

LSHTM has introduced an innovative approach to helping international students as they face the prospect of travelling thousands of miles to start a course.



During a series of special events, former students shared their experiences with people considering moving from Nigeria, Kenya or India to study in the heart of Bloomsbury.

Alumni were able to provide firsthand advice and practical tips about life in London, describing it as feeling like the 'centre of the world' with better Southern Indian food than in Delhi! Others commented on the weather while others warned that maps should be carried at all times, as Londoners "can't be relied on to give good directions". In one case students were advised not to fall in love as they were only going to be there for a year while another alumnus highlighted the importance of a comfortable pair of shoes for walking around the city.

The links were made possible after LSHTM won a Pilot Project Award under a scheme run by the UK Council for International Student Affairs with funding from The Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education. The project's focus to prepare international students for the British higher education experience, using regional alumni hubs has proven so successful that the School is using similar methods at events in other countries later in the year. There are also plans for local alumni chapters to invite potential students to events to give them a chance to get advice from former students before they set off to the UK.



Above: Alumni Dinner at Magnolia Hall, Habitat World, New Delhi on Saturday 21st August 2010

As part of the project, volunteer Alumni Ambassadors were appointed in Nigeria, Kenya and India. At events in those countries, the Ambassadors met students offered places at LSHTM and chatted about their experiences. Alumni also offered practical advice including visa issues, bank accounts, transport and housing, useful contacts, and places to visit, as well as advice as to how to get the most out of the educational opportunities available.

Head of Alumni, Alice Perry says: "The project was very successful. Prospective students told us they really valued the interaction with alumni and felt supported, with some saying they would never have been able to come to the School if it wasn't for the advice they received.

"We have students from more than 120 countries and alumni in more than 180 countries so this initiative has huge potential to boost learning and support across our international community. Once students arrive at the School, they receive excellent support. This pilot project has given students an opportunity to feel better prepared before they leave their home country and is an important part of improving the overall student experience.

"Feedback from the alumni surveys has shown graduates value what they learn from each other as much as what they learn from their teachers. The project has been fantastic for initiating peer to peer learning and support between the students and recent graduates." ■

"Feedback from the alumni surveys has shown graduates value what they learn from each other as much as what they learn from their teachers."



ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni Reception – San Francisco, USA

Over 70 alumni and their guests attended an alumni reception at the Berkeley Faculty Club on Thursday 17 March. This event was hosted by the Alumni Office and Peter Piot, LSHTM Director.

Alumni Reception – Seattle, USA

The LSHTM Alumni Reception in Seattle took place at the Westin Seattle on 14 March. The event took place during the three day conference Global Health Metrics & Evaluation: Controversies, Innovation, and Accountability. The reception was hosted by Peter Piot and was attended by 70 alumni and their guests. Special guest speaker was Ade Lucas, Adjunct Professor of International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, Honorary Fellow of LSHTM and former President of the LSHTM Alumni Association.

Alumni Reception – Montreux, Switzerland

An alumni reception was held at the Grand Hotel Suisse-Majestic in Montreux on 17 November. 70 alumni and their guests attended the event which took place during the First Symposium on Global Health Systems Research.

Alumni Meeting – Denver, USA

An Alumni Meeting was held at Rack & Rye Gastropub in Denver on 8 November. The event took place during the American Public Health Association 2010 Annual Meeting.

Alumni Reception – Atlanta, USA

An Alumni Reception was held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta on 5 November. The event took place during the American Society of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine 2010 Annual Meeting. The reception was hosted by the Alumni Office and the ACT Consortium and was attended by over 180 alumni and their guests. Alumni were addressed by speaker Dr David Brandling-Bennett, Deputy Director of Malaria at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Alumni Reception – Vienna, Austria

An Alumni Reception was held in Vienna on 20 July during AIDS 2010: International AIDS Society Conference. The reception was hosted by Professor David Ross and the LSHTM Alumni Office. Special guest speakers included Peter Piot, Director of LSHTM, and Dr Sam Phiri, Deputy Director of the LSHTM (see profile on Page 13).

Forthcoming Alumni Events

Alumni events are planned in Canada, Italy, UK, Germany and the USA. Further information is available at: www.LSHTM.ac.uk/alumni/events

News from our Alumni Chapters



Berlin Chapter

We are a small group of LSHTM alumni forming a chapter in Berlin. We want to meet on a regular basis and share our experiences from our various working areas as well as give advice to students who want to take a course at LSHTM. The idea is to start with a small network that eventually becomes a big one. Please do not hesitate to get in touch via lshtmberlin@gmail.com.

Nairobi Chapter

The Nairobi LSHTM Alumni chapter is newly formed having just 'begun' in October 2010. We're still figuring ourselves out, but we hope it will serve as a mentoring and networking platform. All current students and alumni based in Nairobi and other parts of Kenya are welcome to join in. Email lshtm.alumni.nairobi@gmail.com to be included in our mailing list. We also have a group on LinkedIn, the Nairobi LSHTM Alumni Chapter.

Toronto Chapter

The Ontario LSHTM Alumni chapter welcomes alumni from all years to get in touch. We are based in Toronto but open to members from all over the province or elsewhere in Canada. We plan to hold at least three social/networking events per year, including happy hours, health-related presentations and fun activities. Please email lshtmontarioalumni@gmail.com to get on our contact list. We look forward to hearing from you.

Bogota Chapter

The Latin American Federation of Parasitologists and the Colombian Association of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine will hold a joint congress in Bogota, Colombia, at the University of Los Andes between 27 September and 1 October. More information can be obtained from the Presidents: Felipe Guhl: fuhl@uniandes.edu.co, Ivan Dario Velez: idvelez@udea.edu.co. The LSHTM alumni will have a reunion during the mentioned Congress on 30 Friday September, 5.30pm, venue to be confirmed. More information can be obtained from Maria Victoria Valero: lshtm.bogota.alumni@gmail.com ■

For Alumni Chapter contact information see back cover.

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Contact information for our Chapters is as follows:

● **ONTARIO, CANADA**

lshtmontarioalumni@gmail.com

● **FRANKFURT, GERMANY**

frankfurt.lshtm@yahoo.com

● **BERLIN, GERMANY**

lshtmberlin@gmail.com

● **LILONGWE, MALAWI**

lshtmlilongwe@gmail.com

● **NAIROBI, KENYA**

lshtm.alumni.nairobi@gmail.com

● **WASHINGTON DC, USA**

lshtmalumdc@gmail.com

● **NEW YORK, USA**

lshtmNYC@gmail.com

● **SEATTLE, USA**

lshtmseattlealumni@gmail.com

● **BOSTON, USA**

lshtmboston@gmail.com

● **MADRID, SPAIN**

madridlshtm@googlemail.com



● **GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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● **BOGOTA, COLOMBIA**

lshtm.bogota.alumni@gmail.com

● **DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

lshtm.dar@gmail.com



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 your own Chapter:

If there is no LSHTM Alumni Chapter in your region and you are interested in setting one up, we would love to hear from you.

Please visit our website for further information or email: alumni@lshtm.ac.uk