

## What's On

### Inaugural Professorial Lectures

22/6/09, 5.30pm, Michael Heron  
Lecture Theatre, First Floor, Hunter Wing  
(Reception after the lectures in Boardrooms 3 and 4, Second Floor, Hunter Wing)  
Dr Anna-Maria Belli, Professor of Interventional Radiology, Division of Cardiac & Vascular Sciences, and Dr Baskaran Thilaganathan, Professor of Fetal Medicine, Division of Clinical Developmental Sciences, will be giving lectures on their respective fields, following the bestowment of their professorships. To book a place at the lectures contact Angel Onwochei in the Alumni and Development Office on 020 8266 6816 or at a.onwochei@sgul.ac.uk

### Equality and Diversity in the Management and Professional Practice of Health and Social Care

23/6/09, 9am-5pm, Dorich House, Kingston University  
This one-day workshop has been organised jointly by SWan's Institutes of Leadership and Management and Interprofessionalism (Health & Social Care). The event will cover race and ethnicity, gender and ageing and migration. Attendees are also encouraged to put forward their own discussion topics. For more information contact Christina Bulter on 020 8417 5123, and to express interest email Wendy Murphy at w.murphy@kingston.ac.uk

### Cellular and Molecular Medicine Seminar - Generic mechanisms in Neisseria Meningitis for resistance against complement mediated killing

24/6/2009, 1-4pm, Boardroom 4, Second Floor, Hunter Wing  
Professor Christopher Tang, Centre for Molecular Microbiology and Infection, Imperial College London, will speak at this seminar. For more information contact Vivienne Marvell on 020 8725 0905 or at vmarvell@sgul.ac.uk

### Rheumatology update for the primary care physician

25/6/09, 1.30-6.45pm, The Sir Joseph Hotung Centre for Musculoskeletal Disorders  
This one-day educational meeting is aimed at GPs, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and rheumatology nurse specialists. Sessions will include 'Meet the Consultants', 'Patient Care Update' and 'Joint Injection Techniques'. Places at the event are £20. To register contact Caroline Cooper on 020 8266 6814 or at ccooper@sgul.ac.uk

### Open day for BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing and Accelerated Diploma in Nursing for Graduates

29/6/09, 2-7pm, Boardroom 4, Second Floor, Hunter Wing  
This open day is for anyone considering a career in nursing to come and find out about the courses offered at St George's and Kingston University's Joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences. For more information contact Admissions on 020 8417 5736 or at preregadmissions@sgul.kingston.ac.uk



## Devon - A Sound Mind

23/6/09-9/7/09, seven days a week, The Gallery, The Restaurant, First Floor, Lanesborough Wing

Staff and students are invited to this photographic documentary by Kris Allan, charting five years in the daily life of a schizophrenia patient. For more information contact Catherine Wilson on 020 8725 5948.

### St George's Cardiovascular Research Group Seminar Series - Cerebrovascular disease and dementia: insights from neuropathology

8/7/09, 1-2pm, John Parker Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Atkinson Morley Wing  
The seminar series continues with a talk by Professor of Neuropathology Margaret Esiri from John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. For more information contact Dr Atticus Hainsworth on 020 8725 5586 or go to <http://www.cardiovascular-research.co.uk>

### Principal's Open Forum

17/7/09, 1-2pm, Lecture Theatre G  
Open to all staff and students.

### The 9th Jenner Glycobiology and Medicine Symposium

13/9/09-15/9/09, Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium  
This annual symposium is held by the Royal Society of Medicine, and has been partly organised by Professor John Axford, Director of The Sir Joseph Hotung Centre for Musculoskeletal Disorders at St George's. The symposium objectives are to advance understanding of glycosylation and to promote research. For more information go to [www.rsm.ac.uk/9jenner](http://www.rsm.ac.uk/9jenner)

### St George's Cardiovascular Research Group Symposium 2009

17/9/2009, 8.15am-6pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre, 1st Floor, Hunter Wing  
The Cardiovascular Research Group is holding its annual symposium, which is open to clinicians, scientists and trainees in cardiology and nephrology. There will be presentations by clinicians and scientists, discussion sessions with experts, short presentations and a poster session. The event will be chaired by Dr Debasish Banerjee and Professor Juan Carlos Kaski.

For more information and to register contact Carrie Victor-Smith on 020 8725 5939 or at [crg@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:crg@sgul.ac.uk) or [victors@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:victors@sgul.ac.uk)

### Fetal Monitoring in Labour (CTG & ECG) Study Day

21/7/09, 8.45am-5pm, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Seminar Room, Third Floor, Lanesborough Wing  
This study day is aimed at obstetricians and midwives. The topic will include the pathophysiology of ECG, clinical interpretation of CTG and ECG, case scenarios and the use of STAN equipment and education package. The day costs £85 for midwives and £110 for doctors and lawyers. For more information contact Jill Edwards at [obsandgy@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:obsandgy@sgul.ac.uk)

## WIN a George's bear



Congratulations to Soma Mukherjee, the winner of the March/April competition. The Clinical Lecturer and Subspeciality Trainee in Fetal and Maternal Medicine has scooped herself a cuddly mini medic.  
To win a bear, just answer these questions about this month's George's News:

- On what furniture did John Hunter die?
- Where is Sean Gardiner going this summer?
- Who is the England football team physio?

Email your answers marked a), b), and c) to [gcoutts@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:gcoutts@sgul.ac.uk) with 'Competition' in the subject line. **Good luck!**



Issue 23, May/June 2009  
Newsletter for St George's, University of London



# Splash into Summer with HealthyLiving2020

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## Your George's...

WELCOME to the May/June edition of George's News.

Summer is just about here and hopefully, once the stress of exams is a distant memory, everyone can get outside and enjoy some healthy activity.

In this issue you'll find features on the new St George's health and fitness scheme, the new museum and the student ambassador awards, as well as a novel use for medical packaging and the latest news from around the campus.



Press Officer Gordon Courtts

## Honours and achievements

### Dr Fiona Jones,

'Inspirational' Dr Jones of the Joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences has won the Stroke Association's Excellence in Stroke Care Award. She was nominated by fellow lecturers and patient Eileen Collins, who Dr Jones worked with after she had a stroke. The award judges praised the Stepping Out initiative, which Dr Jones launched last year to help stroke survivors.

Dr Jones said: "I'm really humbled by the award because my work has always involved trying to consider the needs of people who have experienced a stroke as much as possible."

### Nikolas Stanojic,

Congratulations to fourth year MBBS student Nikolas Stanojic, who scooped the prestigious annual Duke-Elder prize in Ophthalmology. He scored 92%, outperforming 400 undergraduates to win the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' award.

Nikolas, who donned his St George's robe to collect the award, said: "I feel honoured to have won the award and am aware of the level of responsibility it carries. This prize is well known around the world and I'm proud to go there and represent St George's."

Sir William Stewart Duke-Elder (1898-1978) was founder of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, Oculist to the Royal Family, and a surgeon at St George's Hospital- the Department of Ophthalmology in the Lanesborough Wing is named after him.



# Hitting the headlines

### • 'Legal highs' crackdown is doomed to failure, say experts *The Independent*

Experts have claimed that the government's crackdown on 'legal high' drugs will not affect drug dealers, as they are constantly ahead of the law and have 'already developed alternative substances that will escape prohibition'.

The government has announced plans to classify ecstasy-like drug BZP as a class C substance, outlawing its trade and possession. However, drug manufacturers are already producing large quantities of mephedrone, a legal alternative to cocaine.

St George's toxicologist and director of TICTAC Communications John Ramsey said: "The UK is slow and behind the times in banning BZP", and that, rather than relying on the Home Office to "play catch up when it comes to these drugs", "We need a sensible debate in the media about their potential risks."

He added that the effects of such legal drugs are not yet known.



### • Infection killing cancer children *BBC News website, Euronews 24 website*

A study led by St George's Clinical Lecturer in Child Health Dr Jessica Bate found that infection was the cause of death of 82 child cancer patients over two years in England and Wales. Dr Bate's study appeared in the journal *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*. It revealed that, between 2003 and 2005, 25% of children with blood cancers such as leukaemia who died were actually killed by infection rather than the cancer itself. Dr Bate said that, while better treatments mean children are far more likely to survive cancer than in the past, treatment weakens the immune



### • Sow good for you *The Guardian (Work)*

Students are saving a fortune by growing their own vegetables. Fourth year St George's medical student Charlotte Long started growing her own vegetables last summer. Charlotte planted her first vegetable seeds "just for fun", after being inspired by a newspaper gardening supplement. She has since been able to cut her shopping bill by £10-£15 a week. Charlotte said: "If you're looking at £60 a month, that's quite a lot on a student budget, and nutritionally and taste-wise it was much better than anything we could have bought."

system. She added that some infections should be treatable, and that there should be better diagnosis and treatment.

### • So you want to study - A master's in mental health *The Guardian (Work)*

Dr Steve Gillard, MRes mental health course director at St George's, took part in a Q&A to advise anyone looking to begin postgraduate study of mental health. Dr Gillard was joined by a mental health MA student at London Met and an MSc graduate from the University of Nottingham.

### • A whole new world of studying *The Guardian (Education)*

From video marking to Second Life, technology is transforming the student experience. As well as online marking, where students can follow tutors reviewing their

work, schemes such as the Second Life paramedic training tool devised at St George's are becoming more prevalent in Higher Education.

### • Stroke patients facing unacceptable delays *BBC News website, The Telegraph, Daily Express, Nursing Times*

St George's researchers have shown that just one in five UK patients receive surgery to reduce their risk of stroke within the two-week target time set by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The team, led by Professor Alison Halliday, have called for major improvements in services to enable early surgery to prevent strokes in high-risk patients.

• For the full stories and more, see the Development and Communications page on the SGUL portal. ■

# Principal's column

### SGUL'S SENIOR management team anticipated a downturn in the economy when we began the Strategic Options Review one year ago. However, we did not appreciate then how severe and serious this would be for the national economy.

The Budget announcement in April that requires significant efficiency gains from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department of Health will likely result in substantial cuts in funding for education and training during the next few years. This was underlined by HEFCE's recent revision to next year's funding for universities, with a 1.4% reduction in funds for teaching. The establishment in London by the DoH of three academic health science centres at Imperial, King's Health Partners and UCLH present additional threats to SGUL, St George's Hospital and SW London NHS partners with regard to health services, health professional training and clinical research.

It is in this context that we have sought views from staff and students about the strategic document 'Building Sustainable Excellence for St George's'. The document comprises an executive summary and five supporting papers that have considered research, education, staff development, academic structures



and modernising the estate. The executive summary details 13 recommendations provided by the evidence from the supporting reports – these reports are background to the recommendations. They each, in turn, identify opportunities from the merger with Royal Holloway, the importance of SWan and the Joint

Faculty to our strategic direction, and emphasise the strengths from our close relationship with St George's Hospital, SW London and St George's Mental Health Trust and all of our associated NHS partners in SW London. The SW London Academic Health and Social Care Network will provide an additional crucial link between NHS

partners, SGUL and Kingston University, creating a 'cluster' to inform service, training, research issues and innovation.

'Building Sustainable Excellence for St George's' recognises the bleak economic forecast for the UK and the enormous challenges to public service funding for several years hence. Importantly, the

"I look forward to seeing the responses to the document's recommendations."

document acknowledges the strengths and opportunities for SGUL. I look forward to seeing the responses to the document's recommendations. Everyone has worked extremely hard during the past 12 months to sustain these strengths – we now need to build on them and to fully realise SGUL's potential.

A final note – sincerest thanks to Dave Iveson, Derek McKee, Helena Clay and all staff and students who put enormous amounts of time and effort into creating SGUL's impressive new website.

Professor Peter Kopelman  
Principal ■

## From Tooting to Timbuktu



### A group of St George's students are about to travel to Mali in a charity drive to supply medicine, equipment and much-needed medical expertise.

The charity MALI: Medical Aid, Lasting Impact was set up by St George's MBBS student and aspiring paediatric surgeon Sean Gardiner and fellow graduate-entry final year MBBS student Rosie Knight. The charity has bought vehicles to be converted to basic field ambulances. These will then be packed with equipment, drugs and enthusiastic St George's medics and driven down to Mali, in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sean said: "I wanted to do something constructive and adventurous during the six weeks we have off between qualifying and starting work as junior doctors with the NHS. "I knew that Mali was fairly easily

accessible by road from Morocco and Mauritania, and that there was plenty of need there for operations like fistula corrections that could be carried out quickly and safely if the expertise and equipment could somehow be put in place. So it was then that I thought about fundraising to buy some four-by-fours and driving them down, and recruiting some doctors and surgeons from George's to join me."

The inaugural trip to Mali is due to leave in July. It is hoped this will be the beginning of a sustainable and ongoing project, with final year students leaving for Mali every year, between qualifying and starting work.

Out of every 1,000 children born in Mali, 219 (more than one-in-five) will die before their fifth birthday, and there are only around 1,000 doctors working in the whole country. ■

# Couches, cadavers and cowhides

## New museum explores history of St George's

**"I think your solution is just. But why think, why not try the experiment?" From one St George's legend to another, John Hunter's word to his pupil Edward Jenner have inspired generations of modern medics. St George's legacy to the world runs from Hunter, renowned as the father of modern surgery, through Edward Jenner, who pioneered the smallpox vaccine, and Henry Gray, the author of seminal medical tome Gray's Anatomy. St George's has carved out its own substantial niche in the history of medicine, and should be proud of its heritage.**

A celebration of St George's past is about to be unveiled in the Hunter Wing foyer. The finishing touches are being put to the new museum, and it is expected to be open some time in early July.

So, in advance of the grand opening, we take a look at a few of the historical artefacts that will soon be taking pride of place in the museum, and explore some St George's history...

### John Hunter's Couch

Everyone who passes through the doors of St George's swiftly learns about this famous old couch.

John Hunter was dedicated to improving the education of medical students at St George's, and this devotion, in part, led to his death in 1793, aged 65. Hunter suffered from angina and once stated, presciently, that his life was "in the hands of any rascal who chooses to tease and annoy me".

Hunter had been arguing with St George's governors about admitting two young men as students. He wanted to allow them entry, but his wish was denied by the governors as the men could not show sufficient evidence of finishing the required preliminary studies. Following a heated discussion, a raging Hunter stormed back to his room, where he had a heart attack and is said to have died on this couch. The couch has now been reupholstered.

### Stained glass windows

These four stained glass windows are a gift from St George's Hospital, where they were previously on display. Three of the windows are from the late 19th Century, one showing Christ on the cross, another showing St James, to represent the affiliation with the old St James' Hospital, and another showing a patient being administered to in bed, with the words "I was sick and ye visited me". The fourth window is from 1960, and is a representation of a doctor and a nurse receiving the Holy Spirit.

### Painting of Hunter

This painting is a copy of a famous portrait of John Hunter by Sir Joshua Reynolds. In 1834, St George's was given permission by the Royal College of

Surgeons, where the original hangs, to take a copy. The artist was a Mr Smith – probably Herbert Luther Smith. In the background, the feet of the famous Irish giant Charles Byrne can be seen. Byrne, said to be 8ft 4in but actually about 8in shorter, died at the age of 22 after fame and wealth turned him to drink. He was so afraid of being dissected after his death that he arranged to be sealed in a lead coffin and buried at sea. However, Hunter's professional curiosity could not be sated and he managed to bribe the undertaker and buy the corpse for £500.

### Statue of Hunter

This statue of Hunter is a copy of a sculpture by Henry Richard Hope-Pinker that was given to Oxford University by Queen Victoria in 1886. Hope-Pinker presented the plaster copy, which was painted bronze, to St George's in 1920. For many years it stood at the entrance to the main corridor and was later moved to the Barnes Pathological Laboratory, which became the library. During this time, the statue stood gazing at the famous hide of Blossom the cow, who was invaluable in Jenner's development of the smallpox vaccine. The upheaval of moving to the museum should present no problem to the immortalised medic, whose death did not exactly bring everlasting peace in the first place. Following his death on the couch, Hunter was buried in the vaults of St Martin in the Fields. However, in 1859 the eccentric English naturalist Frank Buckland, whose interests included encasing live toads in limestone, debunking mermaid myths and buzzard-rearing, spent 16 days looking for Hunter amongst 3,000 coffins. He eventually found the deceased Scottish surgeon, whose body was reinterred with full honours at Westminster Abbey. ■



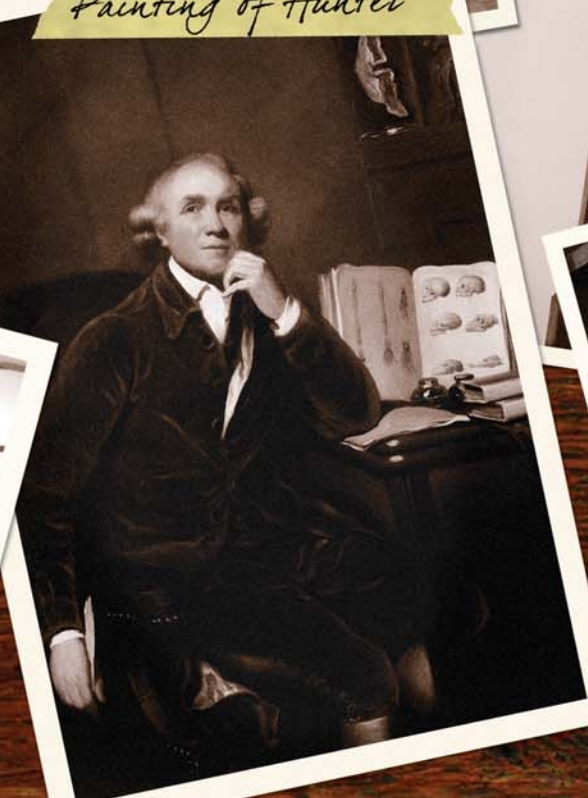
*Statue of Hunter*



*Painting of Hunter*



*Stained glass window*



*John Hunter & Couch*



# HealthyLiving2020 speeds out of the blocks



England physio Gary Lewin is a hugely respected figure in football.

**TWO OF the country's top elite sports medics have made inspiring appearances at St George's as part of the HealthyLiving2020 initiative. Gary Lewin, the England football team's Head of Physiotherapy, and Dr Ian McCurdie, Chief Medical Officer for Team GB Beijing 2008, gave talks on how to apply cutting edge science to community health projects. They came to St George's for the Elite Sports Medicine Event, the second in the planned HL2020 series.**

HealthyLiving2020 events have been organised by the Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, and aim to help staff and students become involved with community health and fitness schemes. The first event – HealthyLiving2020 and You – focused on student and staff volunteering opportunities. Following the success of the inaugural event, Mr Lewin, who once saved Chelsea and England centre back John Terry's life after he swallowed his tongue on the field, and Dr McCurdie, who helped propel Britain's Olympic heroes to

glory, appeared at the follow-up. The two elite sports medics talked about their varied experiences and offered tips to students about how they could follow in their footsteps. Professor Sean Hilton, Chair of the HL2020 Steering Group and Deputy Principal, was delighted with how the first two events went.

"These first HL2020 events were very well attended, and showed the high level of interest in this area

**"There is massive interest within the student body regarding sport and physical activity"**

amongst both staff and students. The feedback was excellent, and mostly featured the comment 'more please!' So further events will follow on a regular basis."

The events programme is, however, only one strand of the HL2020 initiative. From the outset, the team has looked beyond the 2012 Olympic Games and other major sporting and cultural events due to take place in the UK, and considered how SGUL might best

play a central part in their legacy. Sport is just one focus of a programme concerned with wider aspects of healthy living, and future activities will reflect a range of longer-term local and national health agendas and priorities.

HealthyLiving2020 builds on a number of SGUL's strengths, including the award-winning Widening Participation programmes, and a Healthy Living Experiments Roadshow has been

developed and will be piloted at July's Summer School. A key HL2020 ethos is to build on the long track record of student volunteering at SGUL, this time within a joint staff-student initiative. An HL2020 Society has been set up, and Students' Union President Jack Sugrue believes there is a great enthusiasm for the project.

"There is massive interest within the student body regarding sport and physical activity and the legacy

and implications for the local community of forthcoming events," he said. "By providing volunteering and networking opportunities, HL2020 is destined to be a very important, long-term programme, which SGUL students will be delighted to be fully involved in."



The next HealthyLiving 2020 event will be 'Give It A Go @ George's', and will take place between July 20th-23rd. It will feature plenty of opportunity to try out a wide range of activities, with the aim of offering something for everyone. The HL2020 team is keen for all staff and students come along and try something new during the week. Contact the team at [hl2020@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:hl2020@sgul.ac.uk) for more information. ■

# Student ambassadors do St George's proud

**ST GEORGE'S student ambassadors have been honoured for their voluntary work at a special awards ceremony. The 2008/09 ambassadors have spent the last year taking part in community and school events, and have played a vital role in maintaining St George's excellent reputation.**

Around 180 students have worked as ambassadors over the course of the academic year. Of these, 23 were presented with prizes for their exemplary contributions. The ceremony was organised by the Widening Participation Unit, which runs the student ambassador scheme.

Nine ambassadors were given a Gold Community Education Award for committing at least seven hours to Experiments Roadshows, which

give school pupils hands-on opportunities to find out about prosthetics, physiotherapy, radiography and para medicine. Another five students received Silver awards, and seven were given Bronze. In addition, the year's most outstanding ambassadors were presented with individual prizes. The

**"It is a privilege to work with these students."**

awards were presented by Dr Deborah Bowman, Associate Dean (Widening Participation).

The ambassadors work with schools and community partners to give pupils and other young people the chance to learn more about medicine and healthcare. They include students from every year

and every course at St George's, and they undertake both voluntary and paid work. As well as the Experiments Roadshows, over the last year the ambassadors have taken part in school careers days, health fairs and clinical skills days. In addition, they were involved with the Primary Practice after school

modest, many people at SGUL will be unaware of their achievements. Quite simply, the range of Widening Participation activities at SGUL would not exist without our students. I was delighted to be able to acknowledge the tremendous efforts made by every one of our ambassadors at the awards evening and express my personal thanks for all their exemplary work."

Widening Participation coordinator Ruth Squire agreed with Dr Bowman.

She said: "The ambassadors have done a great job of representing St George's throughout the year and we should be really proud of them. It's great for the young people they work with, as they have someone they can talk to and ask questions. They're excellent role models so well done to them all." ■



## Student Ambassador Awards 2008/09

**Outstanding Ambassador of the Year –** Georgina Chase

**Ambassadors of the Year –** Genevieve Shouls; Raisha Nurani

**Experiments Roadshows Mentor of the Year –** Leda Yazbeck

**Experiments Roadshows Fresher of the Year –** Andrew Telesia

**Special Commendation Awards for Experiments Roadshows –** Vongai Madanire; Adrian Ho

**Gold Community Education Award –** Hasnain Ahmed; Kavir Amin; Mukhtar Bizrah; Amali Chandrasena; Ali Hassan; Adrian Ho; Andrew Telesia; Vishal Vipinchandra; Leda Yazbeck; Manaf Khatib

**Silver Community Education Award –** Robert Sean McGuire; Fatimah Javaid; Vongai Madanire; Michael Akinfala; Fahad Zaman

**Bronze Community Education Award –** Georgina Chase; Katie Hames; Nahida Khan; Vincent Lam; Kathryn Ryland; Sophie Strickland; Richard Symes; Noor Kafil-Hussain

## People

My day...My hobby...My job...

## New merger manager relishes the challenge



Merger project director John Bolton is splitting his time between St George's and Royal Holloway

**STARTING A new job can be tricky enough when you only have one place of work and one set of colleagues to get to know. So spare a thought for John Bolton, as in a few short weeks he has had to get to grips with two complex institutions and double the new workmates.**

John took up the post of Project Director for the St George's/Royal Holloway merger on April 15th. His job is to oversee all aspects of the merger process, and ensure the disparate elements of each institution are joined cohesively. John will develop the business case for merger, as well as define the benefits and opportunities that the new joint institution will bring to staff, students and external partners. He is dividing his time between St George's and Royal Holloway and has swiftly immersed himself in the traditions and idiosyncrasies of each.

"The two institutions have different cultures, but I've been very impressed by the strong leadership on both sides, as well as the willingness to proceed,"

John said. "The way colleagues have made themselves accessible and the way they are approaching the process has been fantastic."

John has 12 years' experience in the Higher Education sector, first at the University of Leeds, where he developed and supported pioneering e-learning coursework solutions. Later, he was responsible for implementing the SAP system finance, purchasing and sales modules. Following that,

**"The lessons I learned during that process will be essential for this job."**

he joined the University of Manchester in 2002 as a project manager tasked to source and implement an integrated HR and payroll system. Within three months of starting this project, the university announced it was to merge with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. The scope of his job was revised and the project was delivered for the merged

institution on time and on budget. John then took over as Information Systems programme manager, responsible for overseeing the delivery of the other major business administration systems, and ensuring their integration.

"Going through that merger gave me extremely valuable and very specific experience that you couldn't get any other way. The lessons I learned during that process will be essential for this job."

John believes this experience means he will be able to successfully navigate some of the trickier aspects of the merger.

"Having been a member of staff living through a merger, I understand that staff will have concerns and will be wondering how it will affect them. The impact on staff is very much part of the considerations so we will keep them updated of progress."

"I've been very impressed by the passion, commitment and valuable contributions of all staff across both institutions."

John is a Yorkshireman, from Sowerby Bridge near Halifax. His wife and two children, Freya, seven, and Seth, five, have stayed up north, and John is living in south London at the moment and going back to see his family at weekends.

"Working on such a big project takes up a lot of time, so during the week I stay down here," he said. "It means that when I go back home, my time with my family is even more enjoyable. We're keen on the outdoors so we're often out on the Yorkshire Dales."

While John is enjoying his new role, and is delighted with the "fantastic welcome" he has received at both institutions, he says there are many challenges.

"The main challenge is the timeframe, as there's a lot to be done in a relatively short space of time. But having seen the enthusiasm of everyone involved I'm sure we will be successful." ■

## People

My day...My hobby...My job...

## Turning trash into fashion

**EVERY DAY, hospital staff and medical researchers throw piles of packaging from operating theatres and laboratories into the bin. Chances are that no one has the time nor the desire to ponder the aesthetic value of the plastic wrappers and bags - except, that is, for St George's artist Suzanne O'Donnell.**

Suzanne recently set up a business venture creating bespoke bodices and other garments, and was asked by an artist friend to make something for a fashion show featuring clothes created solely from recycled materials. Suzanne, an administrator in the Division of Community Health Sciences at St George's, mulled over what kind of recyclables she could use, before realising she had the perfect option right under her nose.

the yellow heavy-duty plastic bags used for sharps and contaminated material. You could say I was raking through the bins, but everything I used was clean and wasn't needed any more."

It took Suzanne a couple of days to create her unusual pieces, and they were modelled at the show by St George's students. The show was attended by almost 100 people, who were treated to a variety of outrageous recycled haute couture.

"It was a thrill seeing my stuff being modelled on the catwalk and it got a really good reaction from the audience."

"I find it really interesting to use objects like the medical packaging that people who work in hospitals see and use every day and probably don't think twice about, and make people look at them in a different way. It gives the items some mystique and creates a different level of comprehension."

Following her experiments with medical material, Suzanne has returned to more familiar territory and is again making commissioned bespoke bodices and other pieces for private clients. Some of her work is on show at four-star Wimbledon hotel Cannizaro House. She also opens her studio at Wimbledon Art Studios to the public twice a year, during its biannual Art Show. To find out more about the studio's shows, go to [www.wimbledonartstudios.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonartstudios.co.uk) ■

**"It was a thrill seeing my stuff being modelled on the catwalk"**

"I found out from talking to some people who work at St George's Hospital that there's a lot of packaging and other material that gets discarded, so I started to think that I could use those kinds of things to make something quite interesting."

Suzanne began to accumulate discarded material from the hospital and set about making some creations to be showcased at the Trash to Bling Trash Fashion Catwalk Extravaganza in Battersea, part of the Wandsworth Arts Festival 2009. She decided to use her skills to create a corset and a shirt made from an unusual selection of items.

"I managed to get paper, foil and plastic sterilized peel-off wrappers for surgical blades, bandages and gauze. I also got hold of clean items that had been discarded, like swabs, gloves and



Above: St George's student Samantha Masvoda models the corset  
Left: Suzanne at work on a new piece

## People

### New Staff

#### AV & Multimedia Services

Mr Neil Cheshire – AV & Video  
Conference Technician

#### Basic Medical Sciences

Dr Nicola-Jane Francis – Research  
Assistant  
Dr Jonathan Richardson – Research  
Assistant  
Miss Huan Wang – Research Assistant

#### Cardiac and Vascular Sciences

Miss Zuhur Balayah – Trial Coordinator  
Dr James Dodd – Clinical Research Fellow  
Miss Emma O'Connor – Lead Clinical  
Studies Nurse  
Ms Natalie van Zuydam – Research  
Assistant

#### Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Dr Yanira Riffo-Vasquez – Research  
Fellow  
Mr Lloyd Ryan – Research Technician

#### Clinical Developmental Sciences

Dr Clarissa Oeser – Clinical Research  
Fellow

#### Community Health Sciences

Mrs Milena Simic-Lawson – Statistician  
Dr Hugh Thomas – Clinical Teaching  
Fellow

#### Computing Services

Mrs Lorraine Barclay – IT Systems Trainer  
Mr David Baxter – PC Support Analyst  
Mr Antony Gardner – Student Support  
Analyst  
Mr Giuseppe Sollazzo – Systems  
Developer/Administrator

#### Estates and Facilities

Ms Anne Harris – Safety Health and  
Environment Manager

#### Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Dr Ian Beith – Head of Physiotherapy  
School  
Ms Dhruvita Shah – Research Assistant

#### Library

Miss Alice Bentley – Information  
Assistant  
Ms Anneli Lenkkeri – Information  
Assistant

#### Registry

Ms Keira Anderson – Assistant Registrar  
(Examinations)  
Miss Karolina Ossowska – PBL  
Coordinator  
Mr Yusuf Ozkizil – BSc Programme  
Manager/GEP Administrator



Ann Keen MP joins senior SGUL and  
Faculty staff at the conference

## Minister applauds Joint Faculty collaborations

**THE FACULTY of Health and Social Care Sciences has been praised by health minister Ann Keen at its eighth annual conference. More than 200 people attended this year's event, themed 'Innovation through Collaboration', which was held at the Royal Society of Medicine in central London. The conference aimed to showcase the Faculty's work and demonstrate how its collaborations with partner organisations can inspire research, learning, teaching and practice.**

Ms Keen, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, was impressed with the scope of the Faculty's activities.

"I was delighted to see the extent of the Faculty's work in collaborating with other agencies to produce good practice that can be shared locally, nationally and internationally," she said. "Work of this kind not

only enhances the university's reputation, it also helps to produce a higher quality of education, service and care."

Amongst the research topics on display at the conference were numeracy for nurses, dealing with stroke patients, preparing students for work in the NHS, and how patients and carers have influenced health policy. Much of this research was undertaken with partner organisations, including NHS Trusts.

Fiona Ross, Dean of the Faculty, hailed the conference as a success, and said: "We believe in aiming for the best while providing opportunities to develop the potential of our students and staff. We shared good practice and released ideas and energy to further build the education and academic excellence that the health and social care workforce in London deserves." ■



### Faculty students graduate

More than 2,000 students have graduated from the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences.

The students, their families and Faculty staff attended the ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall in central London. Twenty nine special prizes were awarded

for outstanding achievement at the graduation, which was presided over by SGUL Principal Peter Kopelman and Kingston Vice Chancellor Sir Peter Scott. An honorary doctorate was awarded to Shirley Smoyak, a professor in the Division of Continuous Education and Outreach at Rutgers University, New Jersey. The Faculty would like to congratulate all graduates and wish them every success.

### Social enterprise showcase

The Joint Faculty held a lunchtime seminar to raise awareness about social enterprise within healthcare. More than 40 guests from local primary care trusts and businesses, as well as academics, attended the event, which was organised by the Faculty's enterprise representatives. The seminar also outlined sources of enterprise funding and support.

### New publications

Liu W, Laux H, Henry J, Bolton T, Dalgleish A, Galustian C. A microarray study of altered gene expression in colorectal cancer cells after treatment with immunomodulatory drugs: Differences in action in vivo and in vitro. *Mol Biol Rep* 2009

Colville G, Darkins J, Hesketh J, Bennett V, Alcock J, Noyes J. The impact on parents of a child's admission to intensive care: integration of qualitative findings from a cross-sectional study. *Intensive Crit Care Nurs* 2009; 25(2) : 72-9

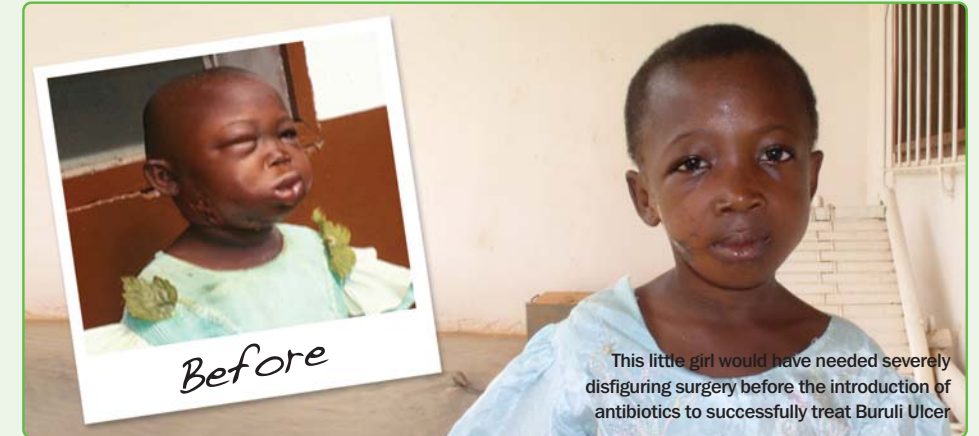
Sexton A, Harman S, Shattock R, Ma J. Design, expression, and characterization of a multivalent, combination HIV microbicide. *The Journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology*, online May 26, 2009

## News in brief

### St George's scientist helps people suffering from effects of harmful skin infection

A ST GEORGE'S infectious disease scientist has played a pivotal role in potentially improving the lives of thousands of people suffering from a debilitating skin infection called Buruli Ulcer. Dr Mark Wansbrough-Jones, a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Infectious Diseases in the Division of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, chairs the World Health Organization's (WHO) Technical Advisory Group on Buruli Ulcer. At the recent International Conference on Buruli Ulcer in Benin in West Africa, the WHO pledged its commitment to an ongoing free treatment programme to combat the disease.

Buruli ulcer is a non-contagious bacterial infection that causes extensive damage to skin and soft tissue, and leads to unsightly



ulcers on the body. It mostly affects people in poor, rural, tropical communities near water, and has been reported in 30 countries around the world. Dr Wansbrough-Jones has been involved in Buruli Ulcer research for more than 10 years, during which time treatment has developed from a purely surgical method to a successful antibiotic

approach. He attended the conference in Benin, where the Cotonou Declaration was made. This commits Buruli Ulcer-endemic countries to cooperate with non-governmental organisations and other partners to implement a full assessment, research, detection and antibiotic-led treatment programme.

Dr Wansbrough-Jones said: "Progress in understanding the disease has been rapid but its transmission remains a mystery so we have to focus on treating patients and preventing crippling debilitation. The Cotonou Declaration is an important expression of political commitment and should be welcomed." ■

### Crisis Management Plan addresses staff and student safety

Using lessons learned during the prompt, effective response by St George's to winter's extreme snowfall and the recent swine flu warnings, the SGUL Crisis Management Plan is being updated. The strategy will outline how the institution reacts in case of a natural disaster, infrastructure problem, mass sickness outbreak or other large-scale incident. It will ensure the safety of staff and students during the coordinated response to any major disruptive event.

Over the coming months, Estates and Facilities staff will work with the various departments and divisions to create detailed response plans individually tailored for the needs of each. Each bespoke plan will dovetail with the overarching Crisis Management Plan, which is itself part of an overall Business Continuity Plan, in order to provide a coherent and effective course of action. The

Crisis Management Plan covers initial incident management, including evacuation procedure, as well as recovery strategies. It is intended to anticipate as well as react to any major incident. Because of the size of St George's and its partner NHS Trust, local police have expressed an interest in staging a mock incident on the site for training purposes. Early talks have taken place, and further developments are expected when the St George's plan is decided upon.

For any further information about Business Continuity Planning, contact Ian Spires on extension 0893 or at [ispires@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:ispires@sgul.ac.uk)

### Child health meeting a hit with professionals

More than 60 child health professionals attended an academic meeting at St George's called Improving Medical Education in Paediatrics. Paediatric consultants from a range of hospitals, as well as doctors with

an interest in medical education, came to Tooting to hear speakers from St George's discuss how to develop paediatric teaching.

Amongst the St George's speakers were Dr John Spicer, who talked about ethics and law in paediatrics, Dr Terry Poulton, who talked about the principles of e-learning, and Dr Jonathan Round, who discussed optimising learning in paediatrics. Guest speaker was Dr Patricia Hamilton, the new Director for Medical Education for England and Senior Lecturer in Neonatal Paediatrics at St George's, who gave a talk called 'Medical education: evolution, revolution or regression?'. The event was chaired by Dr Jessica Bate, Clinical Lecturer in Child Health, and Professor Dafydd Walters gave an introduction to the day-long event.

Dr Bate said the meeting had been "thought-provoking and an excellent opportunity to network". She added that feedback from attendees was "very positive", with most requesting that the event should be held annually. ■

### Grants

**The Medical Research Council -** Characterisation of parasite and host determinants of severe Plasmodium knowlesi malaria. Professor Sanjeev Krishna – **£410,885**

**The European Commission -** Preventing community and nosocomial spread and infection with MRSA ST 398 - instruments for accelerated control and integrated risk management of antimicrobial resistance. Dr Jodi Lindsay – **£423,609**

**The Wellcome Trust -** BuG@S-III: translational community support for bacterial microarrays. Professor Philip Butcher – **£398,711**

**Celgene II -** To investigate the mechanisms of action of lenalidomide pomalidomide by assessing immunomodulatory, anti-angiogenic, anti-metastatic effects and cytotoxic effects in key in-vivo and in-vitro model systems. Professor Angus Dalgleish – **£181,684**