

george's news

Issue 17, May 2008

Newsletter for St George's, University of London



Have Your
Say

Shape your future

Put your
questions to the
new Principal
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Your George's...

WELCOME to the May edition of George's News. This issue features Principal Professor Peter Kopelman's first column and highlights the findings of a St George's-led study into child health. We also meet staff and students with hidden talents, from set design to writing romantic fiction.



Communications Manager
Tamsin Starr

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News in brief

Deputy Principal announced

Professor Sean Hilton has become the first to fill the newly-created post of Deputy Principal of St George's. His new duties include chairing a number of senior committees within SGUL, deputising for the Principal in his absence and representing SGUL locally, nationally and internationally at meetings and events.

Professor Hilton took up the role on 1 May and will remain in post for three years. Principal Professor Peter Kopelman said: 'Professor Hilton will continue to lead for SGUL on teaching and learning complementing the remits of Vice Principals Professor George Griffin (research) and Professor Pat Hughes (staff and students).'

St George's gets 10 per cent funding boost

St George's has been awarded one of the highest funding increases in England in the latest round.

The institution will receive £28.5m for 2008-09 from the Higher Education Funding Council for England – a 10 per cent increase on 2007-08.

Mark Bery, Director of Finance, says: 'St George's has done well to secure one of the largest funding increases in the country. However, this is contingent on us meeting

additional student number targets, which may be difficult to achieve.

'It also includes a £1.2m buffer for the decrease in charity support funding to us, which reflects a downturn in volumes of eligible income.'

Among Russell Group universities, the highest increase was awarded to Imperial College London at five per cent. The average increase in funding for universities overall was three per cent.

Your St George's degree...

St George's has taken its first steps towards being able to issue its own degrees.

Those coordinating the bid are keen to stress that this is simply a 'contingency plan' should a 'critical mass' of colleges follow Imperial in leaving the University of London federation.

Derek Baldwinson, Deputy Head of Planning and Secretariat Office, said: 'It's not something that we intend to use in the foreseeable future and present students need not be concerned, as we can guarantee they'll be graduating with University of London degrees.

'If we did get to the point where we considered awarding our own degrees, there would be a full consultation process and students would have a choice.'

As part of the application, a team of four assessors from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) will visit SGUL between 20 and 22 May.

Working out of the Harry Axton room, on the Finance corridor, the team will talk to a range of students and staff to find out how St George's is run and how we assure quality for our students.

New head of research and development

Dr Paul Craven has been appointed the new Head of Research and Development for the Trust and University at St George's.

Dr Craven is currently Deputy Scientific Secretary at the Institute of Cancer Research. He takes up his appointment at St George's on Monday 2 June.

St George's Careers Service

St George's now has a careers service for students every Thursday during term time in the Chaplain's office (next to the Counselling suite) on the second floor, Hunter Wing.

Advisers are currently reviewing the service and would like to hear from staff with views on how they could work better with departments.

To voice your views, email lmackenz@sgul.ac.uk

WIN a George's bear

Congratulations to Academic Secretary Jeyasudha Gunaseelan in Postgraduate Studies. She is the winner of the April competition and goes home with a George's bear!

If you want to be in with a chance of winning our May bear, enter the competition by answering the following three questions, based on stories in this month's George's News:

a) What is the role of President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists,

Professor Sheila Hollins, at St George's?

b) What is student Emily Sherley using to raise money for children's charity, Soft Power?

c) What prize did InSpace win for designing our eco-friendly residence, Horton Halls?

Email your answers marked a), b) or c) to media@sgul.ac.uk with 'competition' in the subject line. **Good luck!**



Principal's column

THIS is my first Principal's column since taking up the appointment on 1 April. Looking back over the last 4 weeks, the most striking feature has been the very warm reception offered by everyone I have met – it so much reminds me of what I remember about St George's friendly atmosphere as an important added value. There are many other memories as I tour around the buildings – the stairwells of Hunter and Jenner Wings remind me of night's on-call dashing between what we called the cold corridors of the Knightsbridge wing and the warmth of the Lanesborough block. The laboratory where I did most of my MD seems completely unchanged in the Hunter wing – many happy memories but a reminder that our space refurbishment programme has some way to go.

I have particularly appreciated the very evident closeness between staff and students which is a distinctiveness of SGUL and must be preserved.

I return to SGUL at a time of increasing competitiveness between universities and increasing challenges to the higher education sector both academic and financial. It is crucial for SGUL to continue to flourish and to be "fit for purpose" as a health sciences university for the foreseeable future. We must remain in a position to sustain and grow our distinctive strengths in teaching and research in south west London. These are the reasons why we will need to explore in detail the options identified by the Strategic Options Working Group and SPARC.



Firstly, and importantly, we have a responsibility to our local population for the provision of excellent health care informed by

globally. This is why one of my main priorities for the next few weeks and months is to strengthen our relationships with our local NHS

"I share the pride in SGUL and feel extremely privileged to be leading the university at this exciting time."

high quality research. We are particularly privileged by our location in London in serving a diverse population that mirrors many parts of the UK and more

partners, most particularly St George's Hospital Trust and St George's Mental Health Trust.

Secondly, we need to examine how best to sustain our academic

mission as a health sciences university and to be best placed to seize opportunities as they present in the future. This will require a more detailed examination of the potential to strengthen partnership arrangements with other universities. We are drawing up a strategic framework that identifies the opportunities and potential threats to SGUL with an overall objective to sustain the distinctiveness and brand of SGUL, which we all hold so dear. These issues, and resulting questions, will be tested against other universities strategic plans in a systematic way that will engage representatives from across the university.

I am very keen to meet with as many people as possible to hear their thoughts. Monthly open fora have been scheduled for this semester and these will continue during the next academic year. I am re-instating the Principal's Blog once I have mastered the technology and I have arranged smaller focus groups with Divisions, students and Administration. These will include people from all levels and grades and will be regularly repeated.

I share the pride in SGUL and feel extremely privileged to be leading the university at this exciting time. I am extremely grateful to everyone for making me feel that I am "back home" – now, as they say, "onwards and upwards". ■

Best wishes

**Professor Peter Kopelman
Principal**



All staff and students are encouraged to voice their opinions to the Principal at this year's series of "Have Your Say" Open Fora.

Anyone can write in with a question for the Principal to answer at one of the meetings by emailing it to media@sgul.ac.uk.

Questions will be printed out and sorted into subject matter – such as the Strategic Options Review, our

building projects or finance issues – and the Principal will answer questions from each topic. After that, the Professor Kopelman will invite questions from the floor.

The Have Your Say meetings take place:

Tue 27 May, 12.30pm, Lecture Theatre G

Wed 25 June, 12.30pm, Lecture Theatre G

Tue 22 July, 12.30pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre

Tue 23 Sep, 12.30pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre

News

Focus on the future

FOCUS groups are being held to canvass the views of staff and students on the options which we have to maintain a sustainable future for SGUL.

DURING May and June, Divisions, the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, Administration and the Students' Union will field a cross-section of representatives to discuss the options review and other topical issues.

The Principal wishes to hear thoughts on the three approaches from Kingston, Royal Holloway and Surrey, our plans to strengthen ties with the Trust, plus other options for growing our research, teaching and enterprise portfolios to meet future challenges posed by an anticipated funding squeeze because of the national economic downturn, fewer opportunities to increase student numbers and the settlement post-RAE 2008.

'The Principal wishes to hear thoughts on the approaches from Kingston, Royal Holloway and Surrey'

Staff and students will also go on fact-finding missions to Kingston University, Royal Holloway and the University of Surrey between now and September. They will be investigating what each would have to offer in a partnership with St George's. Many of the questions they will be asking the "suitors" will be based on issues raised by staff and students. These will include the future of our distinctive "brand", plans to expand our course portfolio on our Tooting campus, continuing to develop SGUL as a good place to work and study. The framework of these questions is posted on the website.

Updates to the Strategic



Options Review will be given at every Staff Forum, Academic Forum and Senate meeting. Special meetings of Academic Forum and Senate will be arranged for the beginning of September. A final recommendation is expected to be made to Council at the end of September.

There are still other opportunities to feed in your views. There will be a series of "Have Your Say" meetings open to all staff and students, where anyone can submit a question to be put to the Principal by emailing it to media@sgul.ac.uk. And look out for the Principal's blog on the Portal, where you will be able to post your comments and questions. ■

Timetable

May 2008

Beginning of fact-finding visits
Principal's Open Forum – 27 May
Start of focus groups with staff, students

June 2008

Fact-finding groups' first reports, visits ongoing
Academic Forum Update – 2 June
Senate Update – 9 June
SPARC Update – 11 June
Principal's Open Forum – 25 June

July 2008

Fact-finding report submitted to Council – 1 July 2008
Principal's Open Forum – 22 July
July – September 2008
Follow up work including more site visits

Mid-September 2008

Extra Academic Forum meeting
Extra Senate meeting
Final report to Council
Council decision on preferred option – 30 September 2008

Party pill, prison sentence or headache pill?

POLICE, doctors and pharmaceutical companies will be able to identify drugs and drug lookalikes more efficiently than ever before, thanks to the latest version of a drug identification system created by St George's toxicologist John Ramsey.

TICTAC is the leading drug information and identification system used by UK healthcare and law and order professionals. The 50th version, released last month, now offers three products. In addition to the original TICTAC pro, a sophisticated database system

'It's our responsibility to educate our professional partners about the drugs that are out there'

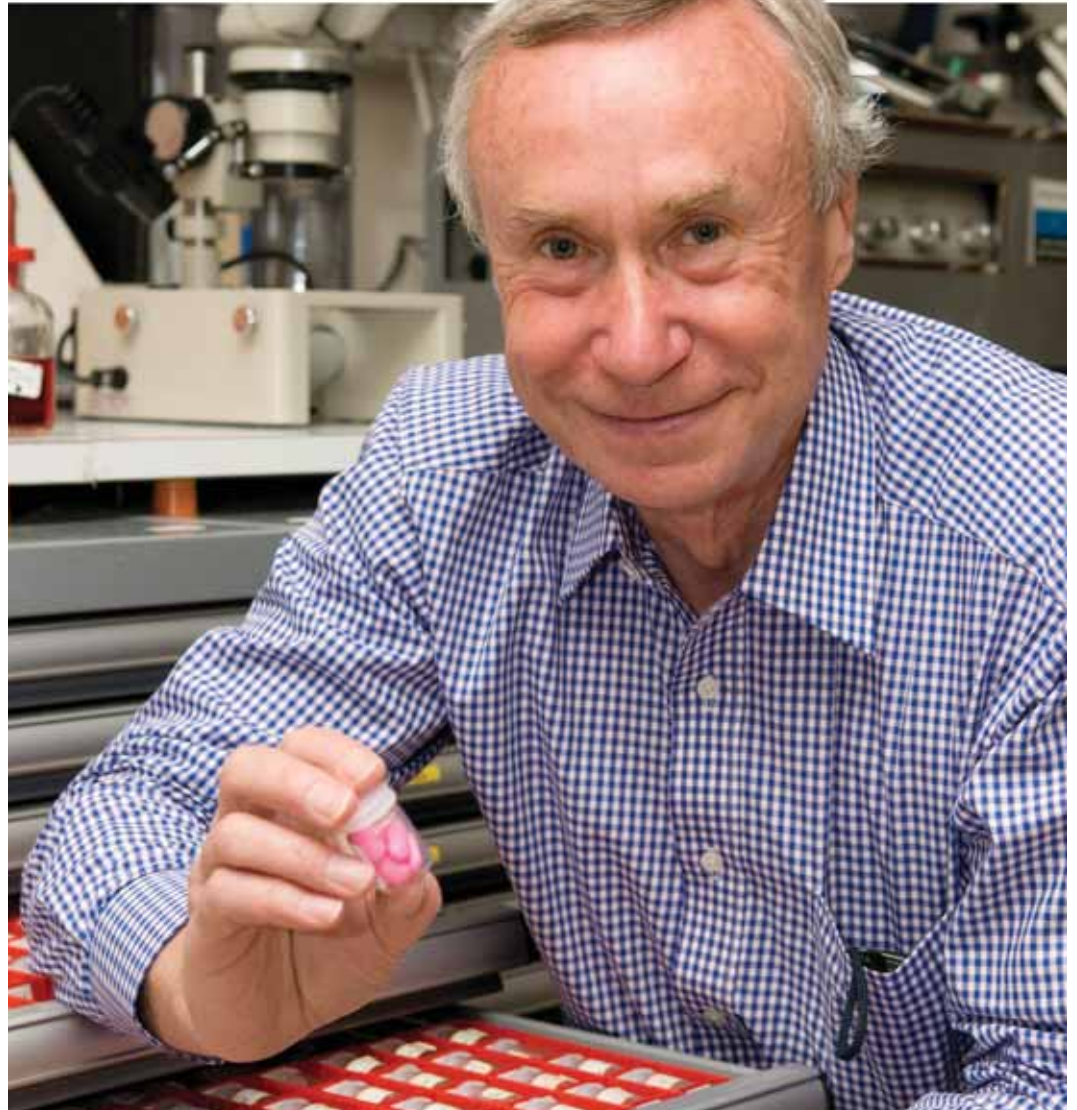
largely used by pharmacists, TICTAC now offers intranet and mobile versions.

Both TICTAC net and TICTAC mobile offer an easy-to-use version of the database that doctors and nurses can use on the spot by entering simple queries. Unlike TICTAC pro, doctors and nurses can use the net and mobile versions without training.

TICTAC can be used to identify a product or substance, find alternative sources of medicines, produce lists of products by active ingredients or find out who makes a particular product.

Doctors and nurses might use TICTAC to identify a tablet that has been taken as a suspected overdose or to identify a drug quickly in order to carry out the right treatment. Crucially, the database can save the time and money that might be otherwise spent on identifying the product through another source.

Users select the physical criteria



Spot the drug? John Ramsey believes continuing research and development of the TICTAC system is vital

that best describe the unknown tablet or capsule from a range of options. TICTAC matches the selected criteria and displays all relevant tablets or capsules from the image library. TICTAC contains photographs and information on thousands of different medicines including over-the-counter, prescription only, illicit drugs and drug 'lookalikes' such as

confectionery. Information is updated quarterly. The 50th version contains information on 24,000 drugs and lookalikes, 66,000 photographs and information including monographs, glossaries, slang terms and videos.

TICTAC is now used in most UK police forces, throughout the NHS and by community pharmacies as well as pharmaceutical companies,

healthcare system providers and forensic laboratories. John Ramsey says: 'It is important we continue research and development with TICTAC, as it is used by such a wide group of professionals and as leaders in the field of drug and drug detection. It is our responsibility to effectively educate our professional partners about the latest versions of the drugs out there.' ■

Feature

So, what did you get up to at school today?

Every child in Britain must have been asked that question. Now, thanks to a major study led by St George's, thousands of youngsters can say: 'I helped make scientific history.' New findings from the CHASE study provides key evidence about the health of the next generation...

SHE or he will be a teenager by now. Her details are recorded, but not her name. It was back in the summer of 2004 that a St George's-led team of researchers met the first child to be assessed as part of one of the largest health studies involving nine- and 10-year-olds.

Her height, weight, body build, blood pressure and lung capacity were recorded. A blood sample was taken using local anaesthetic. Then the team repeated the exercise with another child, and another...

Three years later they had measured 5,000 children. Half of those measured also had detailed assessments of diet and fitness, and wore a physical activity monitor.

The numbers alone are impressive. Two hundred primary schools, 21 London boroughs and two major cities in the Midlands – Leicester and Birmingham – were involved in the CHASE study (Child Heart And Health Study in England).

Schools were chosen to ensure a balance of children from different ethnic backgrounds – South Asian, African and Black African and

'Nobody has done a study of this scale on children from different groups'

Caribbean among them. Now, newly-released findings from the study look set to provide the clearest picture yet of health risks facing children in our society, and how those risks may vary according to ethnic background.

Preliminary results, revealed at the recent Diabetes UK conference in Glasgow, show marked differences in risk among different ethnic groups, according to St



Above and right children are assessed.

George's Professor of Cardiovascular Epidemiology Peter Whincup, who headed the study.

'Nobody has really done a large-scale investigation looking at the health of children from different minority groups before, particularly taking a view of chronic health problems, obesity, diabetes and heart disease,' says Peter.

'Our first results show marked differences in health indicators between different ethnic minority groups.

'They suggest that the increased risks of diabetes, in South Asians particularly and to a lesser extent in Black Africans and Caribbeans, are persisting in children. This suggests the whole process begins early in life, and also that it is likely to

persist among second- and third-generation immigrant children – almost all the children who took part in CHASE were born in the UK.

'Adult South Asians have a risk of diabetes several times higher than that of the white European population, so this is a serious concern.'

Over the next few months the team will be examining new results, including patterns of insulin resistance in the children, as well as the effects of physical activity and diet in children from different ethnic groups. The first papers on the study should be submitted for publication later this year.

The CHASE study also involved

Professor Derek Cook and Dr Chris Owen at St George's, with collaborators at the Institute of Child Health in London and the Medical Research Council (MRC) Epidemiology Unit in Cambridge. Funding – in total around £1.5m – came from the Wellcome Trust, the British Heart Foundation and the MRC National Prevention Research Initiative. ■

Lighting up young lives



Student volunteers from St George's can make a big difference to a child's life
Right, Vice Principal Pat Hughes with refugee children and volunteers

ABABUO Onuma was 11 years old when she and her mother fled Chad, one of the most unstable and violent states of Africa. She had witnessed torture, rape and murder – horrors that would have left most adults shattered.

Now Ababuo is almost unrecognisable from the fragile, damaged child who arrived as a refugee in London in 2006. Now she is an outgoing, ambitious 13-year-old who has fought to overcome language and cultural barriers. While significant problems remain, she is learning to deal with her experiences – and St George's students have helped her on her way.

STAR (St George's Student Action for Refugees) is a voluntary organisation that runs projects, including an after-school club, for about 120 refugee and asylum-seeker children like Ababuo living in Wandsworth. Christopher Hands, chair of St George's STAR and a third-year medical student, says: 'It

can be very isolating for adult and child refugees when they arrive in this country. Though refugee children are resilient and good at bouncing back, they need help because a different country with a different culture can be a bewildering place.'

STAR's mentoring project is just one programme run by the club. Volunteer mentors support children both academically and socially. Their work has proved so effective that psychologists have

'It can be very isolating for child refugees – a different country can be bewildering'

commended the project, and refer patients aged five to 18 to the service. Christopher adds: 'Through the mentoring project, we are able to build up strong relationships with people and make an obvious, positive difference in young people's lives. It's hugely important.' Regular STAR activities take place every

Tuesday night at St Nicholas Church, Tooting. There's also STAR's two-week summer scheme, which sees St George's students take children on day trips to places such as London Zoo and Chessington, and annual residential

holidays like last year's four-day trip to the Surrey countryside.

Christopher says: 'Most of the children don't get to go on holiday. And because they don't normally get the opportunity to leave south London, it's a big deal for them to see animals, to see hills.' STAR Week took place earlier this month,

its highlight a fundraising dinner with a talk on asylum issues from Tooting MP Sadiq Khan and entertainment from St George's ethics lecturer and magician Daniel Sokol.

Funding for the group also includes grants from St George's Alumni and Development Office.

But while funding is essential, volunteers are just as valuable, says Christopher: 'A big aim is to try to get more people on board, especially men.'

'We know what a big impact this work can have – we just need more people to join us.'

To find out more, visit the after-school club on a Tuesday at 6pm at St Nicholas's Church, Tooting, or email starsgul@gmail.com ■



Raising pulses

He reached out and took a strand of her hair, curling it around his finger. 'Am I the only man you've ever kissed?'

YOU might be thinking this sounds like something from a Mills and Boon novel, and you'd be right. Second-year MBBS4 student Emily Sherley is a published author of the world-famous romantic fiction brand and must be, if not unique, at least highly unusual among her peers. When not penning love stories or training to be a medic, Emily also works as a telephone fundraiser for St George's Annual Fund.

Emily's novel, *The Rogue's Kiss*, was published in 2006 and like all good romantic novelists, she writes under a pen name, Emily Bascom.

'I used to read Mills and Boons when I was a teenager and I love writing. So I thought, why not write

'Orthopaedic surgeons would make good romantic heroes – they tend to be strong, broad-shouldered rugby-playing types'

my own?' The plot of *The Rogue's Kiss* is classic Mills and Boon; a historical novel featuring a heroine in peril, attracted to a dangerous highwayman.

Emily is currently working on her second book and may write medical romances in the future, perhaps inspired by her experiences as a St George's student.

The medical genre has strict rules regarding characters and plot. Romance must never take place between doctor and patient, always between a doctor and another member of staff, usually a nurse.

While Emily denies having any 'Mills and Boon-esque' encounters

at St George's, she thinks that orthopaedic surgeons would make good romantic heroes as 'they tend to be strong, broad-shouldered, rugby-playing types'.

Unsurprisingly, this aspect of Emily's life is a source of much amusement and even disbelief among her friends, but Emily is convinced it helped her get on to the GEP course as it caught the attention of the interviewers.

Emily is a graduate of Royal Holloway's prestigious drama department and set up her own theatre company. But surely the leap from luvvie to medic was a step too far? Emily disagrees, saying that drama graduates have excellent communication skills: 'It definitely helped in my interview,

and I always enjoy role-plays at George's, but I find I start directing my fellow students.'

Such skills have proved useful in her role as an Annual Fund caller, where she and her team mates raise valuable funds for St George's by phoning alumni and asking for support.

'It's important to establish a rapport with people,' says Emily.

'Obviously a big part of the initiative is to find out what alumni are doing, not just raise money, but if you make that personal connection it really encourages them to give.'

Emily feels it's important to do your bit: 'As a student, I know only too well the costs involved.



Stranger than fiction? Medic Emily's CV includes a degree in drama

I received hardship funding while at Royal Holloway and the Annual Fund is a great way for those who've benefited from their education to give something back.'

Emily is keen to help those worse off than her. She is currently fundraising for Soft Power, a children's charity in Uganda. She has volunteered with them in the past and is preparing for her next trip. Her main fundraising tool this time around is – cake.

Admin staff can testify to the deliciousness of her courgette cake in particular, and she will make cakes to order – for birthdays, bar mitzvahs, anything. There is even a Facebook page to whet your appetite. To order cakes email esherley@hotmail.com or search 'Soft Power Cake Extravaganza' on Facebook. ■



Rippingly romantic
UNDER cover of darkness a highwayman silently waits. In an approaching carriage travels a beautiful woman – alone. Can Roisin persuade this daring rogue to take no more than a kiss...? For more on *The Rogue's Kiss* see www.millsandboon.co.uk

People

My day... My Hobby... My Job...

Private passion on a grand scale



Main picture, Ray at work. Inset, near right, one of a preliminary design. Far right, his stage sets

FOR a man whose job is photographing 'angels on a pinhead', Ray Moss's ambitions outside St George's are on an impressive scale.

The manager of the Electron Microscopy and Image Resource Facility is never short of work photographing cells and tissues for staff and students at up to 500,000 times magnification – but at home he divides his time between pursuing 'hobby photography', looking after a stableyard of ten horses and critically acclaimed set design.

When asked how he got hooked on set design 28 years ago, Ray jokes: 'I have to blame the wife for that!' His wife, Jill, is a pathologist at Charing Cross – and a leading lady of amateur dramatics. 'I started off helping out, knocking

nails in and painting walls,' says Ray. 'Five productions later, the set designer was called away to work in Italy and it was up to me to build the rest of the set for this Agatha Christie play – a whole conservatory and a library!' Now his sets for the Claygate Dramatic Society win accolades – and praise

'Usually am-dram groups keep it simple, but we take on the realms of stupidity'

from drama festival judges including Sir Michael Caine, who singled out Ray's work for acclaim at last year's Leatherhead Festival.

Ray says: 'Usually am-dram groups who enter these festivals have a set consisting of a backdrop, some screens and a few props. We tend to take on the

realms of stupidity and go for it.'

This has included recreating a fully-furnished basement flat – complete with winding stairs that under festival rules had to be erected within 10 minutes. While

building an Irish cottage for Brian Friel's Irish drama *Dancing At Lughnasa*, some St George's leftovers came in handy. 'I had to build a working hand pump, so I took pieces of scrap drainpipe, a five-gallon ex-alcohol container from St George's and odd bits of piping from my sink system. It took

a whole week. I had to trial it in the back garden. The horses were quite happy to watch.'

His most challenging set was for pantomime *Peter Pan*, for which he built a full-scale ship – and had to operate the flying machinery every night. This was fraught with tension, not least because the actress playing Peter was his wife.

'Unfortunately, the first time I flew my wife, she went straight into the flats [stage walls]. She was quite understanding, though, and all she came out with were bruised knees.'

What do Ray's colleagues make of his leisure-time dramas? 'Some people take an interest, some think I'm mad, but most just wonder where I get the time.' ■

People

Honours and achievements

Research Fellow Dr Fiona Connell won first prize at the British Society for Human Genetics for presenting her work on a new diagnostic classification for primary lymphoedema.

InSpace, the company responsible for Horton Halls, won bronze in the Considerate Constructors' Awards for St George's eco-friendly halls of residence.

Celebrations for the team including Alan Johnstone, Tim Rutherford, Fran Gibson, Kay Colston, Jo Sheldon and Fiona Menzies whose bid to have the Institute of BioSci's accredited the Biomedical Science BSc course has been successful. Andrew said: 'One particularly pleasing comment from the panel was on the quality of students they spoke to. The panel said they were among the most enthusiastic and articulate they had seen in all UK universities.'

THIS year's INTERTB event saw leading experts in TB share views on the latest developments in the field in St George's Boardrooms, as publicised in The Lancet.

Students Almas Dawood and Kuan Tee published an article on possible mechanisms of acupuncture in FACT (Focus on Alternative and Complementary Therapies) with help from SSM tutor Dr Malcolm McCoubrie.

PhDs and MDS

Charles Evans, MD, April 08
Immune suppression caused by colorectal cancer and the impact of surgical resection upon tumour specific immune reactivity

Mohammad Hamid, MD, March 08
Evaluation of familial arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy

Peter Smetana, PhD, March 08
Dynamics of cardiac repolarisation



Hitting the headlines

• Diagnosis for ME sufferers?

The BBC and Channel 4 reported that St George's scientists were on the verge of developing a diagnostic test for myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, following major work on its genetic origins.

• New £500,000 London lab

Professor George Griffin was asked to comment on a laboratory to be built yards from the St Pancras Eurostar terminal and the British Library, replacing the National

Institute of Medical Research which includes one of the UK's ten top-security category 4 labs. (Guardian)

• Feast, famine or both?

Prof Graham MacGregor gave an expert opinion on the new 'Alternative Day' diet, dubbed 'part-time anorexia'. (Independent, Irish Independent, Belfast Telegraph)

• Still hope for HIV vaccine

St George's experts led a robust

rebuttal to The Independent's page one article "Is it time to give up on an AIDS vaccine?", carried on 23 April. Scientific advances in the field were outlined in one letter from Prof Robin Shattock, and another from Prof Martin Cranage, Prof George Griffin and Dr Paul McKay. They said: 'It took nearly 50 years to develop a polio vaccine. Many predicted it was impossible.'

• For the full stories and other news, see the Communications Portal page.

New Staff

Administration

Mr J Llewellyn, Credit Controller
Mrs M L Tate, Helpdesk/
Switchboard/Reception
Assistant

Cellular & Molecular Medicine

Miss K Anderson, Postdoctoral
Research Assistant

Basic Medical Sciences

Dr R Aland, Lecturer in Anatomy
Dr R Alexandrescu, Anatomy
Demonstrator
Dr A Davis, Postdoctoral Research
Assistant
Dr M Ju, Postdoctoral Research
Assistant

Community Health Sciences

Ms R Lynch, Research Assistant
Miss T McGinley, Undergraduate
Teaching Administrator
Dr S Sun, Lecturer in Biomedical
Informatics

Information Services

Miss K Austin, Information Asst

Grants

St George's Charity

Altered placental steroid metabolism in post-term pregnancies. Dr Amar Bhide and Dr Tony Michael – **£29,998**

EC

Stop Latent TB. Professor Anthony Coates and Yanmin Hu – **£389,384**

Department of Health

Assessing the impact of IPAT: Linking primary care data to psychological therapy clinic data. Dr Simon de Lusignan and Dr Tom Chan – **£20,000**

CRF University of London

How decisions about renal replacement therapy are made: A qualitative study using interviews with members of health care teams. Dr Robert Elias – **£432**

Royal College of GPs

Supporting informal carers of stroke survivors in primary care. Nan Greenwood – **£1,864**

Cancer Research UK

Short Training Course Bursary Practical Statistics for Medical Research. Andrew Beggs – **£600**

Ralph Bates Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund

Cytokines and pancreatic cancer: Implications of translational control for new therapeutic developments. Dr Androulla Elia, Prof Mike Clemens, Dr Judith Cartwright – **£90,000**

BHF

Identification of a novel gene mutated in autosomal recessively inherited complex lymphatic dysplasia. Prof Steve Jeffery, Prof Peter Mortimer, Dr Sahar Mansour and Glen Brice – **£90,957**

People

Welcome

The Communications team is now up to strength, with two new Communications Officers starting this month. Look forward to more proactive publicity over the coming months. Make sure you continue to let the team know what you're working on, so they can offer first class comms support.



Nina Baglin joins us as a Communications Officer. As well as co-producing the internal staff magazine, George's News,

she will be liaising with external press ensuring maximum media coverage for research and news relating to the University.

She joins us from a freelance career as a health reporter for the national consumer press.

You can contact Nina at nbaglin@sgul.ac.uk or 6845.



Julie Pottinger also joins as Communications Officer. Julie will be working on internal and external communications,

including media relations, George's news and developing the website.

Julie previously worked at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) where she managed communications for a partnership project, including the website, magazine, publications, branding and press.

You can contact Julie at j.pottinger@sgul.ac.uk or 6831.

New plan gives all staff an opportunity to shine

A 'TALENT management' programme, coaching scheme and regular staff focus groups are just some of the initiatives drawn up in response to findings of the 2007 Staff Survey.

St George's 'stars of the future' will be identified and offered extra training opportunities, including a Coaching Programme where up to 70 staff will get their own mentor, while all staff will be able to take advantage of a new careers advice service under the new Human Resources strategy.

This will be followed by a 'Total Reward' scheme offering staff more choice over their salary package, to be introduced next year.

The importance of feedback will be highlighted, with a drive to make sure more staff have performance reviews and that the sessions are more effective.

Focus groups will canvas views on workload, and Divisions will get extra support to develop job planning and resourcing strategies. Training and coaching on change management and working will also



Top teams: all staff will get access to a new careers advice service

be introduced. Mary Luckiram, Director of Human Resources, said: 'The University is committed to the development of all staff and wants to provide a working environment where all staff have access to

appropriate development opportunities and are able to work toward their career aspirations.'

You can find full details of the new strategy on the HR section of the Portal. ■

New publications

Kalsi KK, Baker EH, Medina RA, Rice S, Wood DM, Ratoff JC, Philips BJ, Baines DL (2008) Apical and basolateral localisation of GLUT2 transporters in human lung epithelial cells. *Pflugers Archive*. Feb 1 [Epub ahead of print].

CHS NEW PUBLICATIONS 2008

Atherton K, Fuller E, Shepherd P, Strachan DP, Power C (2008) Loss and representativeness in a biomedical survey at age 45 years: 1958 British birth cohort. *Journal of Epidemiol Community Health*. 62:216-223.

Bremner SA, Carey IM, Dewilde S, Richards N, Maier WC, Hilton SR, Strachan DP, Cook DG (2008) Infections presenting for clinical care in early life and later risk of hay fever in two UK birth cohorts. *Allergy - European Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. 63, 274-283.

Ecob R, Sutton G, Rudnicka A, Smith P, Power C, Strachan D, Davis A (2008) Is the relation of social class to change in hearing threshold levels from childhood to middle age explained by noise, smoking, and drinking behaviour? *International Journal of Audiology*. 47, 100-108.

Hunt KA, Zhernakova A, Turner G, Heap GA, Franke L,

Bruinenberg M, Romanos J, Dinesen LC, Ryan AW, Panesar D, Gwilliam R, Takeuchi F, McLaren WM, Holmes GK, Howdle PD, Walters JR, Sanders DS, Playford RJ, Trynka G, Mulder CJ, Mearin ML, Verbeek WH, Trimble V, Stevens FM, O'Morain C, Kennedy NP, Kelleher D, Pennington DJ, Strachan DP, McArdle WL, Mein CA, Wapenaar MC, Deloukas P, McGinnis R, McManus R, Wijmenga C, van Heel DA (2008) Newly identified genetic risk variants for celiac disease related to the immune response. *Nature Genetics*. 40, 395-402.

Morris RW, Wannamethee G, Lennon LT, Thomas MC, Whincup PH (2008) Do socioeconomic characteristics of neighbourhood of residence independently influence incidence of coronary heart disease and all-cause mortality in older British men? *European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation*. 15, 19-25.

Morris R.W., Walker M., Lennon L.T., Shaper A.G., Whincup P.H. (2008) Hard drinking water does not protect against cardiovascular disease: new evidence from the British Regional Heart Study. *European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention & Rehabilitation*. 15, 185-189.

Listings

Puzzles by Caroline Underwood

22/04/08 – 19/05/08, 7.30am – 7.45pm,
The Gallery, The Restaurant,
1st Floor, Lanesborough Wing
An exhibition of paintings by Caroline Underwood will be on display until 19 May. Open seven days a week and located in The Gallery, entrance is free for St George's staff showing passes.

Inaugural Lecture Series

20/05/08, 5.30pm – 6.30pm,
Lecture Theatre F

Professor Thomas Harrison, Professor of Infectious diseases and Medicine will present his inaugural lecture on the management of cryptococcal meningitis. A reception will follow the lecture in the boardrooms. For details, email cconneel@sgul.ac.uk or ext 2286

CMHE Education Forum

23/05/08, 12.30pm – 1pm, Boardroom
(Hunter Wing)

Join discussions on a broad range of education matters including research, development projects and effective teaching approaches, run by the Centre for Medical and Healthcare Education. Contact Jeremy Smith jsmith@sgul.ac.uk or ext 0816 if you would like to attend.

Student Awards Evening

28/05/08, 5.45pm Monckton Theatre

Nominations are currently open so if you would like to nominate a student for an award such as 'Sports Person' and 'Team of the Year' or 'Performer of the Year' pop into the student union building to pick up a nomination pack. Winners will be announced in the Monckton Lecture theatre on 28 May. Following the Awards presentation will be a catered drinks reception in the boardrooms. For more information or to book contact Mike Dunne at supv-finance@sgul.ac.uk or ext 0512.

CMHE Education Forum

06/06/08, 12.30pm – 6.30pm, Lecture
Theatre B, Hunter Wing Ground Floor

Dr Maxine Papadakis, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of California, San Francisco will present a presentation followed by a discussion on 'Consequences of unprofessional behaviour in trainees' to discuss the lifelong consequences of unprofessional behaviour. Contact Jeremy Smith on jsmith@sgul.ac.uk

Sexual Orientation Equality in the Workplace

05/06/08, 12.30 – 2pm, Lecture Theatre B,
Ground Floor, Hunter Wing

Madeline Lasko and Brent Chamberlain, both Associates of Stonewall Workplace programmes will present a presentation on 'Sexual Orientation Equality in the Workplace'. This presentation will look at the promotion of fair treatment in the workplace and of making sexual orientation an everyday diversity issue alongside gender, race and disability. This event is open to all staff and students. Contact Kea Hovers on khorvers@sgul.ac.uk.

Put our heads Together



For the first time ever (we think!) St George's is privileged to have not one but three Presidents of Royal Colleges under one roof. Even better, they all work here! If you've ever wondered what the Royal Colleges can offer you, now's your chance to find out.

Our three illustrious speakers include Professor Sheila Hollins, who is known to us at St George's as Professor of Psychiatry of Learning Disability in the Division of Mental Health and is also the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. She is joined by Dr Patricia Hamilton of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, also Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Neonatal Paediatrics at St George's. Finally, our most recently appointed President is Professor Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, of the Royal College of

Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Professor Arulkumaran, Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St George's, hopes that this event will inspire students: "The sky is the limit in medicine provided one can face challenges and work hard – by coming to this event you may just find out the secrets of success in medicine."

If you have any burning questions that you'd like to ask our three Presidents you can email them in advance to Chris Conneely, Development Manager. Please include the name of the speaker in the subject line by Monday 19 May.

Meet the Presidents, 5.30pm 27 May, Lecture Theatre F. To book a place, email Development Manager Chris Conneely at c.conneely@sgul.ac.uk or call 020 8725 2286 by Monday 19 May. ■

Graduation

23/06/08, 10.30am-2pm, Barbican Centre
St George's graduating students will celebrate receiving their degrees at the Barbican Centre today: the first Presentation Ceremony for new Principal, Professor Peter Kopelman. Guest of Honour will be Professor Dame Carol Black, President of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, and Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell will also receive an honorary degree. Contact kchurch@sgul.ac.uk.

The Summer Ball

28/06/08, 5pm – 6am, Cobham, Surrey
St George's Summer Ball is hosted by Cobham for the last time this year and promises to be a fantastic night. Entertainment will include a three course meal, magicians, waltzers, dodgems, fireworks and a bungee run among other festivities. Tickets are available now from the Student Union offices, priced at £50 until 13 May, £60 thereafter. Contact stuunivp@sgul.ac.uk

Internal courses

- June 4: How to approach critical and reflective writing workshop
- June 6: Employment law update
- June 11: Managing personal information
- June 11: Advanced assessment
- June 12 & 13: PBL / CBL tutor training
- June 12: Handling difficult conversations
- June 16, 17 & 18: Teaching skills
- June 19 - 20: Presentation skills
- June 26: Personal Review – Being a reviewer
- June 27: Techniques for Interview

To book places, email staffdev@sgul.ac.uk