



St George's  
University of London

# george's news

Issue 24, October 2009

Newsletter for St George's, University of London

## grad tidings

Page 7

## Your George's...

WELCOME to the first George's News following the decision not to merge with Royal Holloway. The announcement was made just as we were going to press, but the Principal has managed to include some of his thoughts in his column.



Press Officer  
Gordon Coutts

This issue includes graduation pictures (Congratulations to the Class of '09, and welcome to all our new students!), Q&As with the outgoing and incoming SU Presidents, and the latest news from around the campus.

## Honours and achievements

### Dr Abdelamin Moumen

Dr Moumen, Lecturer in Cell Signalling Proteomics in the Division of Basic Medical Sciences, has been awarded the Grand Prix for invention and research in science and technology by the Moroccan government, in honour of his work on the DNA damage response.

### Christine Eberhardie

Christine, Honorary Principal Lecturer in Nursing at the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, has been awarded a Long Service and Achievement Award by the World Federation of Neuroscience Nurses.

### Professor Ross Anderson

Prof Anderson co-authored a paper about the effects of heat on mortality, which won the Kenneth Rothman Epidemiology Prize 2009 for the best paper published in the journal *Epidemiology*. The Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health in the Division of Community Health Sciences and colleagues from across Europe won the award for the paper, 'Heat effects on mortality in 15 European cities'.

### Dr Feng He, Naomi Marrero and Professor Graham MacGregor

This group from the Blood Pressure Unit in the Division of Cardiac and Vascular Sciences has won an award from the journal *Hypertension* for publishing one of 2008's top three population science papers. The paper was titled 'Salt intake is related to soft drink consumption in children and adolescents: a link to obesity?'



## Hitting the headlines

### • University 'head start' for the poor *Sunday Times, Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, The Today Programme (Radio4)*

Lord Mandelson is planning to overhaul the university entry system so applicants from poor families are awarded a two-grade head start over candidates from more affluent backgrounds. Mandelson has asked for reports on widening participation schemes run at St George's, Leeds University and another London medical school, ahead of this autumn's framework for higher education.

Widening participation at St George's has helped raise the proportion of students from state schools from 48% to 71.2% since 1997. One of Mandelson's officials said: "St George's can do it. Why can't everyone else?"

Kenton Lewis, Head of Student Recruitment and Widening Participation at St George's, said: "Treating everyone the same is not appropriate and not equitable. It is far more important to consider the context in which someone has achieved their qualifications."



### • Breaking down barriers to higher education *The Guardian*

In a letter responding to a story about state school pupils possibly missing out on university places because of private schools' dominance of A-Level results, Kenton Lewis, Head of Student Recruitment and Widening Participation at St George's, argued that: "The fact that more than 50% of A-Levels taken by privately educated students scored an A grade, compared to 20% of those from state schools ('State school pupils suffer in rush for places, 20 August'), highlights points that both Mandelson and Milburn have recently made about the need to widen access to universities. But this is not a new suggestion. In



### • Drug-related deaths in the UK Annual Report 2009

*The Guardian, The Herald (Glasgow), Yorkshire Evening Post, BBC Radio Brighton, BBC Radio Sussex Breakfast Show, ITV Meridian South East News (Kent), Addiction Today, Bournemouth Echo, Brighton Argus, Scottish Daily Mirror, Northern Echo, Shropshire Star, Sunday Sun, Sunderland Echo, WalesOnline, Burton Mail, Medical News Today, UTV, Police Oracle, Evening Chronicle (Gateshead), Daily Post (Wales), Dorset Echo*

SGUL's International Centre for Drug Policy's new Drug-related deaths in the UK Annual Report 2009 showed an overall increase of 2.7 per cent from the previous year. ICDP Director Hamid Ghodse said: "This report reinforces the need for continued vigilance and constant monitoring of the drug-related deaths situation across the UK to ensure that the reasons for such trends are understood so that appropriate measures and interventions can be put in place to prevent avoidable deaths and save lives."

fact, universities are switched on to this and many state school pupils are already benefitting from their actions."

### • HPA admits new blunders over E. coli petting farm *The Times, The Guardian, BBC News, The Herald (Scotland), Channel 4 News*

George Griffin, Professor of Infectious Diseases at St George's and Chair of the government's Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens, is heading an independent investigation into an outbreak of E. coli at a children's petting farm in Surrey. The Health Protection Agency has admitted it could have closed down the farm earlier following reports of previous cases.

### • A doctor or medic? *The London Paper*

During Clearing, outgoing SGUL Students' Union President Jack Sugrue outlined study options for students who missed out on the A-Level grades for medical school, including joining an undergraduate degree that offers the option of transferring to the MBBS course in the third year. The article featured a profile of St

George's Biomedical Sciences student Kathryn Beard, and quotes from St George's NHS Trust chief executive David Astley.

### • Clearing: Your 6-step guide *The London Paper*

St George's Student Recruitment Manager Martha Hebblethwaite provided Clearing tips for prospective students.

### • Double-sided perspective *The Guardian (Education)*

Mental health service users are increasingly becoming involved in academic research related to their conditions. There are mutual benefits of this arrangement to service users and institutions, as well as a number of difficulties.

Kati Turner, a service user and researcher in SGUL's Mental Health Division, said she would not have been able to 'work up to her present level of responsibility without enormous support from her department' but 'she observes that there are still occasions when it is difficult to get her voice heard.'

• For these stories and more, go to the Media Summaries in the news page on the SGUL portal. ■

## Principal's column

**WE ARE at the start of a new academic year that promises to be a busy and important one in the history of St George's. I welcome all of our Freshers to the University and wish them an enjoyable and academically successful future. As always, the first few weeks of term include an attractive Freshers' programme which, I anticipate, will be hugely successful.**

We commence the new year with a disappointing outcome from the National Student Survey – SGUL has slipped from being in the top 20 universities for satisfaction to very much the middle of the pack. There are a number of explanations for this that include the first graduates of new programmes and substantial changes to existing programmes where the NSS outcome makes it clear that additional work is needed to support our students. However, there are a number of surprises in areas where previously we were strong. The NSS is one barometer for evaluating student satisfaction that can be hugely influenced by a modest number of adverse comments. Our own evaluations of student satisfaction across each year of the programmes are far more reassuring. However, we can and must do better. Jeannette Strachan is leading a working group that includes student sabbatical officers to review the NSS results and make recommendations for the future. Anyone with any thoughts should pass these on to Jeannette. We should never overlook our students, as they are our future.

There is much activity at the moment that considers our past and our future. On September 14th



there was an official unveiling by the Mayor of Wandsworth and local MP Sadiq Khan of the St George's - Hunter & Our Heritage exhibition, a reminder of our historic past.

Looking to the future, the South West London Academic, Health and

University with NHS Hospital Trusts, Primary Care Trust, Mental Health Trust and Social Services. We have appointed a substantive project manager to take over and build on the very considerable work achieved by Sarah Fox during her consultancy.

**"We should never overlook our students, as they are our future."**

Social Care Network (AHSN) was formally launched on October 1st at SGUL. The network is a platform upon which a south London bid for a Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC) is being made. The Network is a unique and distinctive partnership in London that brings together St George's and Kingston

The priority following the launch is to begin to work on a number of thematic areas identified and developed through workshops and consultation. Our partnership with Royal Holloway in SWan is part of the AHSN that provides additional opportunities.



## A knight royal knees-up

PROFESSOR Sabaratnam Arulkumaran has been knighted in this year's Queen's Honours List. The Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St George's has been recognised for four decades of outstanding work in maternity care.

Principal Professor Peter Kopelman called Sir Sabaratnam a "truly inspirational clinician

and a true professor to the students at this University".

Sir Sabaratnam has been head of O&G since 2001, and he is also President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

He said he was "delighted" and "overwhelmed" at his knighthood. ■

### Merger Decision

As you are no doubt aware, it was decided not to go through with the merger with Royal Holloway. Following a full and detailed discussion of the business case, the wider economic climate and various issues around implementation of the proposed merger, it was agreed that on balance it is in our best interests to continue to remain an independent college within the University of London.

We will continue to work closely with Royal Holloway on a number of collaborative projects, including the provision of innovative health and social care programmes through SWan.

I'd like to thank all of you who have contributed so much to the process, and I am very proud of how we have worked together within our community to engage with the issues. This shared experience has helped bring us together as an institution and we look forward to building on this process in creating and realising our vision in the years ahead.

I fully appreciate that there is still much to discuss about the future of St George's, and I look forward to hearing your views at the Open Forums.

Professor Peter Kopelman  
Principal ■

# Handover of power

After an eventful and successful year at the helm of the Students' Union, Jack Sugrue has just stepped down as President to return to his studies. He has now handed over the chains of office to David Rawaf, who is settling into the role for the new term. We caught up with Jack and David to talk about Jack's year in the hotseat, and what David has in store for him...



## Jack Sugrue, SU President 08/09

### What were your goals for the year, and do you feel you've lived up to them?

I have to say that my goals changed throughout my time as President, especially when you first get in the job and realise what it actually entails. My manifesto when running for the job focused on continuing the estates developments, increasing links within the University of London and to tackle the challenges that the merger proposals were bringing up. I hope that the redevelopment of the library, the changes to levels four and five of Hunter Wing and the great steps forward the Robert Lowe Sports Centre has made showed that I was successful in pushing for investment in the estate. I ran for and was elected Chair of the University of London Union Senate which helped me to increase other UL Colleges' awareness of St George's.

### What have been the year's highlights?

This may sound like a cliché but the whole experience was the best year of my life, and a lot of that was down to the fantastic SU team as a whole, especially Laura and Jonny, the two Vice Presidents. I found being part of important strategic decisions fascinating and relished the opportunity to represent the views of St George's students in these discussions. Other opportunities, like being invited to the House of Lords and witnessing the conferment of an Honorary Degree to Desmond Tutu, were also great highlights.

### What has been your biggest achievement?

That is a really difficult question to answer as you have to work towards such different goals in many varied areas. An early achievement was managing to redesign the Students' Union Office, turning it from a dumping ground to a more professional working environment. I am also very proud of the Healthy Living 2020 initiative which will provide so many great opportunities for St George's students for years to come.

### Following the decision not to merge with Royal Holloway, how do you now view all the work the Students' Union put into the process?

The SU had a specific work stream dedicated to the development of the merger and we made great steps forward in deciding how to continue to best represent two very different groups of students. We decided on the overall structure of the Students' Unions and what funding system they would have. While all this will not come to fruition now, the work that went in will stand the SU in very good stead. It was good to benchmark ourselves against other SUs and it gave us fresh ideas for how to keep developing and improving.

### Anything you weren't able to achieve that you really wanted to?

I did want to make some major changes to the School Shop and Book Shop, as I feel that in comparison with the SU space on level two our two shops on the ground floor have been neglected. Unfortunately, due to the financial climate and huge potential changes coming with the merger it was not possible to spend significant amounts of money to make improvements at this time.

### What will you miss most about the job?

I will miss many things. I really will miss being involved in the important discussions regarding the running of St George's, and working every day with people who have as much passion and dedication to making George's better as the Students' Union. I really won't miss having to send about 80 emails a day though.

### Biggest lessons you've learned?

My time management and organisational skills have benefited immensely from the role. Not wanting to sound too pessimistic, but I've learned that you can't please everybody all of the time, although you can be satisfied if you have tried your hardest. I think my general communication skills have improved, as well as my confidence in pressurised situations.

### Are you looking forward to studying again?

Yes, I am. I think one year is enough to have all the responsibilities that come with the job. I will relish being able to just enjoy all of the great things that the Students' Union provides without having to help set them up myself!

### Any last advice for David?

I would say that to do the job really well you need to be enjoying it. You should take advantage of all the opportunities provided, as you will never get these offers again. Also, it is easy to forget what you put in your manifesto as your time in the job goes on. Your manifesto forms the principles on which you were elected and you must keep these in the forefront of your mind. ■



## David Rawaf, SU President 09/10

### Please introduce yourself and tell us a little about your background.

Hello, I'm David Rawaf, and I'll be representing the Students' Union for the next year. I have been a student here at SGUL for two years and I am studying Biomedical Sciences. I have taken a year out from studying between my second and third year to take on the role of President. I like to think I have been involved with a variety of activities here at St George's. I am one of the many George's performers here, and have played guitar, acted and danced in the Revue, SGUL Musical, Fashion Show, George's Got Talent and at the SU Awards Evening. I have worked with the student magazine, Sharp, and the London Student Journal of Medicine as graphic designer. I have also played with the football team and was previously an Entertainments Officer in the Students' Union Executive.

### Why did you want to become President?

My previous experience on the SU Exec opened up my eyes to the workings of the Students' Union. I had noticed what the previous president, Jack, was up to, and so knew what the role entailed. This experience, coupled with my interest in bettering the Students' Union, made me run in the elections for the position. I believe if you want to effect change, you have to get involved!

### What do you think you can bring to the role?

I hope that my experience in working with the SU Exec last year will have given me a head-start in the new role. I know mostly how everything works and I have an extensive and committed team behind me enabling me to spend more time improving what we have and thinking of new ideas rather than just 'running' the SU. It's especially nice that I know the two Vice Presidents, Jonny Hollow and David Hobden, very well and, as Jonny has already been in his role for a year, the transition process has been incredibly smooth. I also think with both Jack and myself being Biomedical Sciences students, and only in our second year, this has helped make the SU Executive accessible to students from a range of courses and earlier years.

### Now that the merger with Royal Holloway isn't going ahead, what will this mean for the future of the Students' Union?

It's business as usual. The Students' Union backs the decision and we'll continue to work closely with the institution to ensure St George's students continue to have a fulfilling and enjoyable time here. We also have a really good relationship with the Royal Holloway SU and I'm sure that will continue. Although the merger isn't happening, the process leading up to the decision has allowed us to look at ourselves a little closer, so we're exploring ways to offer an even better service at the St George's Students' Union.

### What are your other main aims for the year?

The last few years have seen positive changes in how the Students' Union looks and is operated. My main aim this year is to build on this and focus more on involving every student in all aspects of this University. In my few years here, I have seen a large amount of students not getting involved because the doors are not always open to everyone, and because of a negative response to the big changes at SGUL. I hope to change things this year by running new and exciting events, and improving the facilities that help our students flourish in their lives, both academically and socially. I believe in the old adage, 'Work hard, play hard!'

### What are your impressions of the job so far?

Very busy, and there are a lot of names I need to learn. The most pleasant experience is being able to make positive changes to the SU space easily and very quickly. Probably the least pleasant experience is dealing with hordes of emails.

### As tradition dictates, what Jeremy Beadleesque prank did your fellow students use to welcome you into Presidential office?

They installed a fake security camera in my office. It was pointing straight at my desk and, unfortunately, I'm embarrassed to admit that I believed it for a whole day and half. I only realised it wasn't real after it fell on my head when I closed my office door. ■

# Summer school students sample careers in health

**As St George's was preparing for this year's new students, an even fresher-faced bunch of possible future medics were getting a taster of life as a health professional.**

Dozens of school pupils came to St George's for its week-long residential summer schools, run by the award-winning Widening Participation team.

The summer schools have been running for the last eight years, and help those who do not necessarily come from a traditional medic's background find out about the wide range of professional roles available in the health sector, and how they can develop a potential healthcare career. They are part of St George's' commitment to attracting a more diverse cross-section of students.

This year's summer schools were open to Year Nine and Ten pupils as well as anyone studying for A-Level or equivalent qualifications. The age of summer school students

this year ranged from 14 to 23-years-old. Pupils came from schools around the country where there is generally less expectation of studying medicine.

Over the course of four summer schools, almost 150 students came to St George's. They spent

**"The week opened my eyes to all the interesting career options in healthcare."**

the week living the life of a medical student, sleeping in halls of residence and attending lectures and practical sessions on campus.

Kenton Lewis, Head of Widening Participation at St George's, said: "Summer school was brilliant this year. Everyone who took part really got into it and I hope it's given some of them the desire to pursue

a career in healthcare.

"Choosing what you want to do with your life is obviously a massive decision, so we aim to give young people the chance to make the right choices for their future. Summer school lets them investigate whether medicine and

a manikin that replicates a range of heart conditions - and assessing and diagnosing patients using the Second Life virtual world. They also diagnosed actors posing as patients, which meant having to deliver bad news in a sensitive manner.

As well as medicine, students learned about other healthcare careers, including physiotherapy and radiography.

Summer school student Geri Tipping from Presley College in Warrington said: "The week opened my eyes to all the interesting career options within healthcare. It was educational and also lots of fun - I particularly enjoyed getting involved in all the practical activities."

Kenton added: "By giving people the realisation that medical school isn't out of reach we open ourselves up to new reserves of talent, which can only be good for St George's, the healthcare profession and a shift towards a more equitable society." ■

healthcare is the career for them, as well as showing them what it's like to come to university."

Mentored by SGUL student ambassadors, summer school participants got to practise clinical skills on mock wards. Skills included testing each other's reflexes, identifying heart conditions using a 'living dummy' -



Summer school students threw themselves into all the activities.

# A day to remember for St George's graduates

**The latest cohort of graduates crowned their time at St George's with a glittering send-off at London's famous Barbican Centre.**

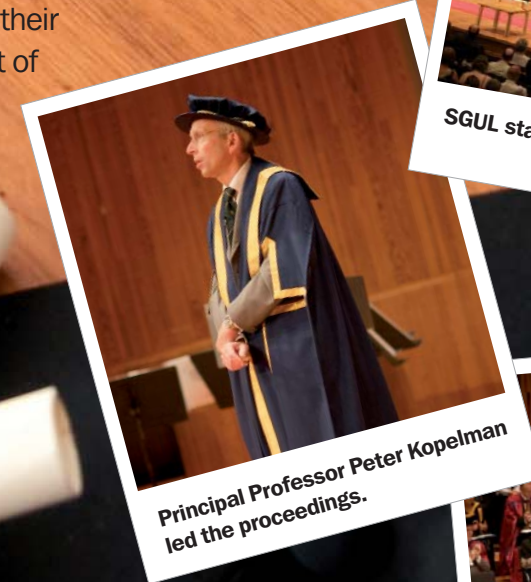
A total of 498 undergraduate and postgraduate students from across SGUL donned their robes and mortars to receive the hallowed scrolls that mark years of hard work and dedication.

Honorary degrees were also conferred on a husband and wife academic duo from the U.S. Dr Elizabeth Nabel and Dr Gary Nabel were honoured for their respective contributions to the advancement of knowledge in clinical sciences. Elizabeth is Director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, and Gary is Director of the Vaccine Research Centre at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

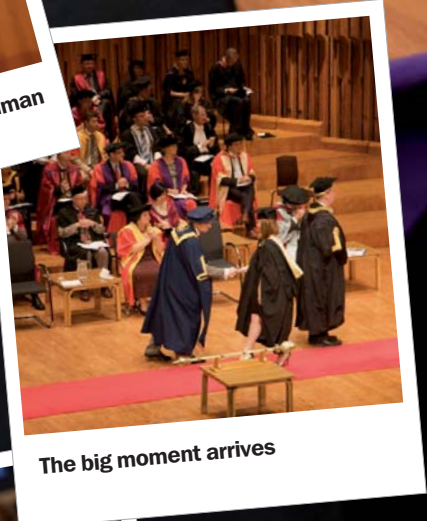
Well done to the class of '09! ■



SGUL staff in all their finery



Principal Professor Peter Kopelman led the proceedings.



The big moment arrives



Students wait their turn



Graduates picked up wearable mementoes of the occasion



The best seats in the house

## Evergreen St George's Professor celebrates 90th birthday

**At 90, the prospect of being able to put your feet up and look back at a long, distinguished and incredibly successful career would probably satisfy most of us. But Professor Denny Mitchison has made breaking the mould a lifetime habit. After 65 years of truly pioneering tuberculosis clinical trial research, Prof Mitchison has just entered his tenth decade – and is still at the forefront of his field.**

To mark his 90th birthday, a special day-long symposium was held in Prof Mitchison's honour on September 18th. Colleagues from around the world came to St George's to discuss the history and future of clinical trials held in the attempt to eradicate tuberculosis, and the pioneering role played in them by Prof Mitchison. Amongst the list of illustrious

*"We've done some good work at St George's and there's still plenty to be done, so why retire?"*

speakers was Prof Mitchison himself, whose pivotal role in TB trials has helped save millions of lives.

Prof Mitchison's career – and interest in TB – began at the Brompton Hospital where in 1946, as a young pathologist, he was involved in the first clinical trial of the anti-TB drug streptomycin.

"When I was a medical student, 50 per cent of people with TB would die. The only available treatment back then was bed rest, so you can see there was obviously an enormous problem. Then all of a sudden these drugs started to appear that were said to offer a cure. This was potentially marvellous, but people were sceptical about whether they would work."

Following the success of this first trial, Prof Mitchison continued his work with other emerging drugs elsewhere, first in collaboration with Dr Philip D'Arcy Hart of the Medical Research Council's Tuberculosis Research Unit, then as Director of the new

MRC Unit for Laboratory Studies of Tuberculosis. Later, he worked with Professor Wallace Fox, Director of the MRC Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases Research Unit, for 35 years.

Through clinical drug trials in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, India, Hong Kong, Singapore and Czechoslovakia, Prof Mitchison and his colleagues devised a regimen of up to four prescribed anti-TB drugs that provided an effective solution affordable enough to be used in developing countries. Following this, they managed to reduce the treatment period from 12 months to six months. The regimen they created is still the main treatment model today.

"It was wonderful to achieve such successful results, and it was an absolute privilege to work with such brilliant people. I've been very lucky."

After his official retirement in 1985, Prof Mitchison continued his work at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and, for the last ten years, as Emeritus Professor at St George's.

"Things have changed a lot since I started out. I'm not sure if the work we did back then could be done these days, as we had so much more freedom to experiment and try things our own way. Now there's so much more bureaucracy and it makes it more difficult."

Despite the changes he has seen, the grandfather-of-four's enthusiasm is undimmed, and retiring to spend more time in the garden and with his classical music isn't on the agenda quite yet, although he says he is now "too old for lab work".

"We've done some good work at St George's and there's still plenty to be done, so why retire?" ■



## Fight to rid world of TB 'disgrace' continues

About two million people still die of TB every year, which SGUL expert Dr Amina Jindani says is a "disgrace, considering that with the right treatment the survival rate should be 100 per cent."

No new anti-TB drugs have become available since Prof Mitchison and his team devised the current standard regimen, although large sums of money are currently being poured into drug development. While there are some promising candidates being trialled in cases of drug-resistant TB, it could be several years before new drugs are ready for trial in drug-sensitive cases. Drug-sensitive TB accounts for 98% of cases in countries with high TB burdens.

In the meantime, Dr Jindani and Prof Mitchison are in the process of setting up a new series of clinical trials in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Using existing drugs, they hope to reduce the current standard six-month treatment course to four months. This could save many lives as it would mean more people would finish their treatment.

The work is being funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, and preliminary results should be compiled by the end of 2010. ■

## A stern test of nettle

**SHOULDER-HIGH NETTLES; a forest of electrified wires; burning hay bales; slaloms of near-vertical mud-slicked slopes; stagnant ponds of neck-high sludge. It may sound like a nightmarish Dickensian version of It's A Knockout but, believe it or not, this is what Mike Boland does for fun.**

Mike, who manages the Robert Lowe Sports Centre at St George's, has just conquered the world's toughest assault course. Tough Guy is a gruelling biannual event that involves events with such cheery names as Colditz Walls, Behemoth, Death Plunge, Tyre Torture, Vietcong Tunnels and Fiery Holes. The most recent event was dubbed Nettle Warrior, and saw 3,500 athletes converge near Wolverhampton to crawl through barbed wire-covered mud fields,

*"I don't like heights so I wasn't keen on being 40ft up."*

clamber over 40ft walls, dodge and dive through electrified wires, swim through flooded tunnels and run through a forest of nettles. The event is considered so tough that its nearest equivalent is the US Navy SEALs assault course, and competitors have to sign a death warrant disclaimer before taking part.

This was super-fit Mike's first Tough Guy event, and he signed up after deciding it would be a great personal challenge and because he "never got to do The Krypton Factor". After increasing his cardiovascular training in the month or two beforehand, Mike completed the eight-mile course in two hours and 52 minutes.

"It was great fun," said Mike. "Really challenging but great fun. It's a tough course, but the atmosphere was amazing and there was a lot of laughter, even when you were doing some of the



**Above:** Mike shows off his Tough Guy medal  
**Left:** Mike and his fellow competitor didn't stay this clean for long

harder obstacles.

"For me, the worst ones were the high climbing walls. I don't like heights so I wasn't keen on being 40ft up. The Vietcong Tunnels were horrible too - really claustrophobic. And the slalom hills were bad. Overall, it was pretty hard going."

While Mike's achievement may already sound like torture, others were intent on making it even harder.

"There was a bunch of lads from the Army carrying a huge cannon.

It looked like a nightmare to get round the course, but they managed it so fair play to them."

Mike said the best part of the event was the camaraderie, and added: "Everyone was willing to help each other out and give you encouragement. I was in one of the muddy trenches and I couldn't get out, so the guy in front of me put his hand out and helped me up. Then there was quite an old guy behind me who couldn't get out so I helped him. It's that kind of event where you feel like you're

all in it together.

"Crossing the finish line was amazing, and I felt such a sense of achievement. Everyone gets a little bashed up doing it, but nothing too bad, and I want to do it again to try and beat my time."

Mike is, in fact, hoping to put together a team from St George's to take part in the next Tough Guy event, which is being held on January 31st, 2010.

Anyone wanting to find out more about Tough Guy should contact Mike at [mboland@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:mboland@sgul.ac.uk) ■

# People

## New Staff

### Administration

Mrs Olubunmi Akinmade - Procurement Officer  
Miss Verity Allison – Information Assistant  
Mrs Katherine Bevan – Student Accommodation and Support Officer  
Miss Pamela Bramble – HR Administrator  
Miss Eleanor Cook – Student Recruitment and International Support Officer  
Mr Ravi Nadarajah – Head of Financial Services

### Basic Medical Sciences

Ms Reka Chakravarthy – Research Assistant  
Mr Nicholas Rodin – Research Technician  
Dr Toby Scott-Ward – Research Assistant  
Miss Jessica Wu – Biomedical Vacation Scholar

### Cardiac and Vascular Sciences

Miss Minatalah Addan – Industrial Placement Student  
Miss Gemma Coombes – Industrial Placement Student  
Dr Catherine Lane - Clinical Lecturer in Critical Care  
Mr Oliver Clifford-Mobley – Placement Student

### Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Mrs Annette Fitch – Secretary  
Mr Richard Tyler – Bioinformatics Programmer

### Clinical Developmental Sciences

Dr Barry Chioza – Research Assistant

### Community Health Sciences

Dr Claudia Thomas – Lecturer in Epidemiology  
Dr Emma Welsh – Cochrane Systematic Reviewer  
Mr David Hadley – Database and Website Manager

### Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Dr Maria Psinos – Research Assistant

### Students' Union

Mr David Hobden – Students' Union Vice President  
Mr Jonathan Hollow – Students' Union Vice President  
Mr David Rawaf – Students' Union President



## Admin Director John leaving St George's for new Sussex role

**After 12 years at St George's, Director of Administration John Duffy is leaving for a new post at the University of Sussex. He has been appointed Registrar and Secretary at Sussex, and will take up his new post in November.**

John has been at St George's since 1997, when he joined the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences as Head of Administration. In 2004, he was appointed as SGUL Director of Administration.

As he heads further south for his new role, John takes "brilliant memories" of his spell in Tooting.

As well as the process leading up to the decision on whether to merge with Royal Holloway, John has overseen the development of the Joint Faculty from a disparate entity spread over several sites into the coherent unit it is today, as well as the massive improvement to SGUL's bank balance. This financial improvement paved the way for past, current and future investment in facilities across the campus.

"I'll always look back very fondly on my time at St George's," said John. "One of the things I'm really proud of is the management team I've been able to put together here. It's been a lot of fun putting the pieces in place and that's been incredibly satisfying. I'll certainly miss all the people I've been lucky enough to work with.

"There's a lot of other things I'll miss about St George's. There's plenty of energy around here and it's quite an informal environment. That's great as it means everyone is accessible and it's easy to communicate and get things done.

"I'll also miss the staff-student relationship as the students' approach here is excellent. The SU officers also really buy into the process of collaborating and that means huge benefits for the students.

"I'd just like to say thanks to everyone for making my St George's experience so enjoyable and fulfilling, and I wish everyone all the best." ■

### Chief Medical Officer honours St George's salt campaigners

St George's-based campaign group Consensus Action on Salt and Health (CASH) has won a prestigious national award in honour of its successful efforts to reduce salt intake. CASH was Silver Winner at the Chief Medical Officer's Public Health Awards 2009. Chief Medical Officer Sir Liam Donaldson praised CASH's public health campaigns, which have helped reduce the UK's average salt intake per person by one gramme a day, potentially saving thousands of lives. Chair of CASH and St George's Professor of Cardiovascular Science Graham MacGregor collected the award from Sir Liam at a prize ceremony.

Katharine Jenner, nutritionist and CASH coordinator, said: "We're delighted with the official recognition, and it's encouraging to know the Department of Health is backing the work of CASH. While it's satisfying to receive an award, the real satisfaction comes from seeing results in terms of salt reduction. We've made excellent progress but there's still a lot of work to be done to change public and industry habits. This award will give us real impetus to progress and hopefully continue reducing food salt levels."

CASH is a group of specialists concerned about health risks associated with high salt levels. Since it was set up at the Blood Pressure Unit at St George's in 1996, CASH has campaigned to

convince the food industry and the public to reduce salt use. As well as commissioning research to investigate the salt content of pub and restaurant food, CASH runs the annual National Salt Awareness Week. National Salt Awareness Week is backed by the British Heart Foundation, the Food Standards Agency and the Blood Pressure Association, as well as top chefs and food firms. The 11th week is February 1st-7th, 2010.

CASH also has an international arm, World Action on Salt and Health (WASH), which has been instrumental in setting up successfully lobbying action groups in more than 80 countries, including the U.S., Kenya, Croatia and Canada. WASH has more than 350 members. ■

## New publications

Twycross, A. An inter-professional approach to the ethics of undertaking research with children in the United Kingdom. *Nurse Researcher* 16(3): 7-20

Twycross, A., Dowden, S.J. and Bruce, L. (eds.) *Pain Management in Children: A*

*Clinical Manual*, Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford  
Greenwood I.A., Young S.Y., Tribe R.M., Ohya S. Loss of functional K<sup>+</sup> channels encoded by ether-a-go-go-related genes in mouse myometrium prior to labour onset. *Journal of Physiology* 587.10, 2009. 2313-2326

Liu W.M., Henry J.Y., Meyer B., Bartlett J.B., Dalgeish A.G., Galustian C. Inhibition of metastatic potential in colorectal carcinoma in vivo and in vitro using immunomodulatory drugs (IMiDs). *British Journal of Cancer*. July 28th, 2009

# News in brief

## Healthy Living a hit

Tooting became a blur of sports activity for a week as more than 250 St George's staff and students ran, danced, karate-kicked, swam and cycled their way to healthier lifestyles. The Give It A Go week offered the chance to try out a huge range of sports and activities, and encouraged everyone taking part to keep up an interest in healthy pursuits.

The week was part of the HealthyLiving 2020 initiative, which has been set up at St George's to promote healthier lifestyles throughout the UK's imminent 'Golden Decade of Sport'. It aims to help St George's staff and students get out into schools, clubs and other local groups, and use their knowledge and skills to promote healthy living.

St George's Principal and obesity



The women's five-a-side football event was one of the highlights of the week.

expert Professor Peter Kopelman, who took part in Give It A Go week's main running event, said: "As an institution concerned with health and wellbeing, it is important for St George's to encourage its staff and future healthcare professionals,

currently students, to use their expertise to engage with community sports and fitness initiatives. Give It A Go week was a great success and I look forward to equally successful HealthyLiving 2020 events in the future." ■

## International university partnerships for St George's

St George's has struck up new partnerships with two prestigious international universities. SGUL's pioneering Graduate Entry Programme - the first in the country to allow entry to graduates of all disciplines - is being used as a blueprint for the University of the Algarve's new graduate entry medical school. The arrangement involves SGUL providing course materials, expertise and training to the 9,000-student Portuguese university.

St George's has also partnered India's Banaras Hindu University in a scheme to share senior management expertise. It is one of 13 UK institutions, selected from 25 applicants, to be accepted into the UK India Higher Education Leadership Development Programme. The programme arranges exchanges between senior management staff, to build links in teaching and research.

## Faculty staff carry out health checks on Special Olympians

A Joint Faculty team carried out health checks on hundreds of athletes with learning disabilities at the recent Special Olympics.

Senior Lecturer in Learning Disabilities Jim Blair and colleagues travelled to Leicester for the event, and set up a stall at the stadium as part of the Healthy Athletes programme.

The Healthy Athletes programme is unique to the Special Olympics, and puts athletes in contact with opticians, audiologists, dentists, podiatrists, nurses, doctors, dieticians, orthopaedic specialists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and students. Athletes see clinicians outside a clinical setting in order to overcome potential worries about seeing health professionals.

Jim and his team carried out blood pressure, body mass index and diabetes checks. They screened 405 athletes as well as around 150 family members. Many were found to have high blood pressure, were overweight or had undiagnosed diabetes, and those with problems were advised to see their GP or other appropriate health professional.

The Faculty group included Mental Health Senior Lecturer Louise Howard, student nurse Cassia Lim and trainee paramedic Simon Howard. The group was joined by colleagues from St George's Hospital, including

## Grants

### The Guthy Jackson Charitable Foundation

Role of AQP4 Autoantibody in Neuromyelitis Optica. Mr Marios Papadopoulos – **\$425,165**

### PhD studentship - Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council in association with Neuroscience A/S -

Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering (CASE) studentship. Dr Iain Greenwood, for PhD student Tom Jepps – **£86,000**

## Clinical Sciences staff thanked for MBBS programme work

Teaching and support staff were invited to a reception to thank them for their help in setting up the new MBBS programme over the last two years. The event was held in July, after both MBBS streams finished their Clinical Sciences years and before they were due to begin the Clinical Practice years in September. Staff enjoyed a summer buffet with sparkling wine.

St George's Principal, Professor Peter Kopelman, said: "I'd like to thank all staff who helped with the successful restructure of MBBS teaching, and I applaud their hard work and dedication to ensuring the quality of our students' experience."

## Degree-award power granted

St George's has been granted the power to award degrees in its own right. Like at other colleges of the University of London, St George's students receive University of London degrees under a delegated authority. However, in 2004, the University of London changed its constitution to allow members to use their own degree-awarding powers without leaving the university. St George's was given authority to do so by the Privy Council on July 6th, but will hold its new power in reserve and continue to award University of London degrees. ■

# What's On

## Principal's Open Forums

28/10/09, 1-2pm, Location TBC

1/12/09, 1-2pm, Location TBC

The Principal's Open Forums are open to all staff and students, and are an opportunity to find out about what's happening at St George's, as well as to ask questions.

## Building Your Research Career

1/10/09, 2-5pm, Interview Rooms 3 and 4, Hunter Wing

This training event is open to contract research staff and aims to support participants in developing and managing their careers. It will be led by Laura Mackenzie, a careers advisor with the The Careers Group at the University of London.

For further information and to book a place, visit [www.sgul.ac.uk/staffdev](http://www.sgul.ac.uk/staffdev) and click on 'Learning @ SGUL' in the left navigation panel.

## The Henry Fuller Lecture 2009

8/10/09, 12.30-2pm, Monckton Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Grosvenor Wing

This year's Henry Fuller Lecture will be given by Professor Parveen Kumar of Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, and is titled 'Medicine – the past, current and future'.

For further information contact Eileen King on 020 8266 6807 or at [eileen.king@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:eileen.king@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

## Fetal Monitoring in Labour (CTG)

12/10/09, 9am-5pm, O&G Seminar Room, Third Floor, Lanesborough Wing

This study day is suitable for midwives, obstetricians and lawyers. Topics covered include Pathophysiology of CTGs, NICE guidelines, CTG interpretation, medico-legal issues and case scenarios. Places cost between £85-£110.

To book a place and for further information contact Jill Edwards at [obsandgy@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:obsandgy@sgul.ac.uk)

## Social Work Conference: Looking to the Future

6/11/09, 9.30am-4.15pm, Frank Lawley Lecture Theatre, Kingston Hill Campus, Kingston University

This day-long conference is open to staff and students involved in health and social care, as well as local council and independent sector social care agencies, service users and carer partners. The event will focus on current themes in social work and the future of the profession, as well as research findings from the School of Social Work. The conference will be chaired by Professor Olive Stevenson, and speakers will include Moira Gibb, Chair of the National Social Work Task Force, and Graham Ixer, Head of Social Work Education with the General Social Care Council. Presentations will be followed by discussion workshops.

The conference is free to SGUL and Kingston students, and £50 for everyone else. For further details contact Michelle Rondeau on 020 8725 0220 or at [m.rondeau@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:m.rondeau@sgul.kingston.ac.uk)

# In and Out of Time

5/10/09-26/10/09, seven days a week, The Gallery, The Restaurant, First Floor, Lanesborough Wing

Staff and students are invited to this exhibition of art created by past and current inmates of Wandsworth Prison. There will be a reception on Monday October 5th from 5-7.30pm. Remember to take your staff card for a free glass of wine. For further information contact Cathy Wilson at [cwilson@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:cwilson@sgul.ac.uk)



## The Jenner Symposium and Lecture

4/11/09, Symposium 1-4.30pm, Lecture 5-6pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre, First Floor, Hunter Wing

The Jenner Symposium will see a range of speakers deliver presentations on infection and immunity in honour of St George's legend Edward Jenner. The Jenner Lecture will be given by Professor Myron M. Levine, Director of the Centre for Vaccine Development in Baltimore. His lecture is titled 'Silent fate: lethal, invasive, non-typhoidal /Salmonella/ infections in Africa'. To register for the Symposium and for further details contact Vivienne Marvell in the Division of Cellular and Molecular Medicine on 020 8725 0905 or at [vmarvell@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:vmarvell@sgul.ac.uk)

## Master Class in Vacuum Delivery

5/11/09, 9am-5pm, O&G Seminar Room, Third Floor, Lanesborough Wing

Professor Aldo Vacca, the world authority in vacuum delivery is leading these hands-on workshops with lectures and specially designed manikins. The workshop is open to doctors and midwives. Places are limited to 16 per workshop and cost £200 each.

To book a place and for further information contact Jill Edwards at [obsandgy@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:obsandgy@sgul.ac.uk)

## The Varma Lecture

7/11/09, 5.30pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre, First Floor, Hunter Wing

The 11th annual Varma Lecture will be given by Professor Tili Tansey, Professor of the History of Modern Medical Sciences at University College London. The lecture is titled 'From Wandsworth to the world: selling medicines the Burroughs Wellcome way'. It will be followed by a reception in Boardrooms 1 and 2, Second Floor, Hunter Wing. To attend, RSVP by Monday October 5th to Angel Onwochei, Alumni & Development Assistant, on 020 8266 6816 or at [a.onwochei@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:a.onwochei@sgul.ac.uk)

## Music Revue

19/11/09, Evening - TBC, Monckton Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Grosvenor Wing

This fundraising night of music and song has been organised by Health Partnership Nepal, a project run by St George's students that links with Nepalese health partners to help rural people access medical care, and SGUL's Student Action for Refugees (STAR) group, which supports local refugees. Organisers are looking for talented SGUL staff and students to take part. Anyone who can sing or play an instrument and wants to take to the stage can sign up or find out more by contacting Tim Little at [m0700975@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:m0700975@sgul.ac.uk)

## WIN a George's bear



Congratulations to Adrian Ho, the winner of the last issue's competition. The third-year medical student has scooped himself a cuddly mini medic.

To win a bear, just answer these questions about this month's George's News:

- What honour has been bestowed on Professor Sabaratnam Arulkumaran?
- Where did Denny Mitchison begin his career?
- What was the Tough Guy event called

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!**