



St George's  
University of London

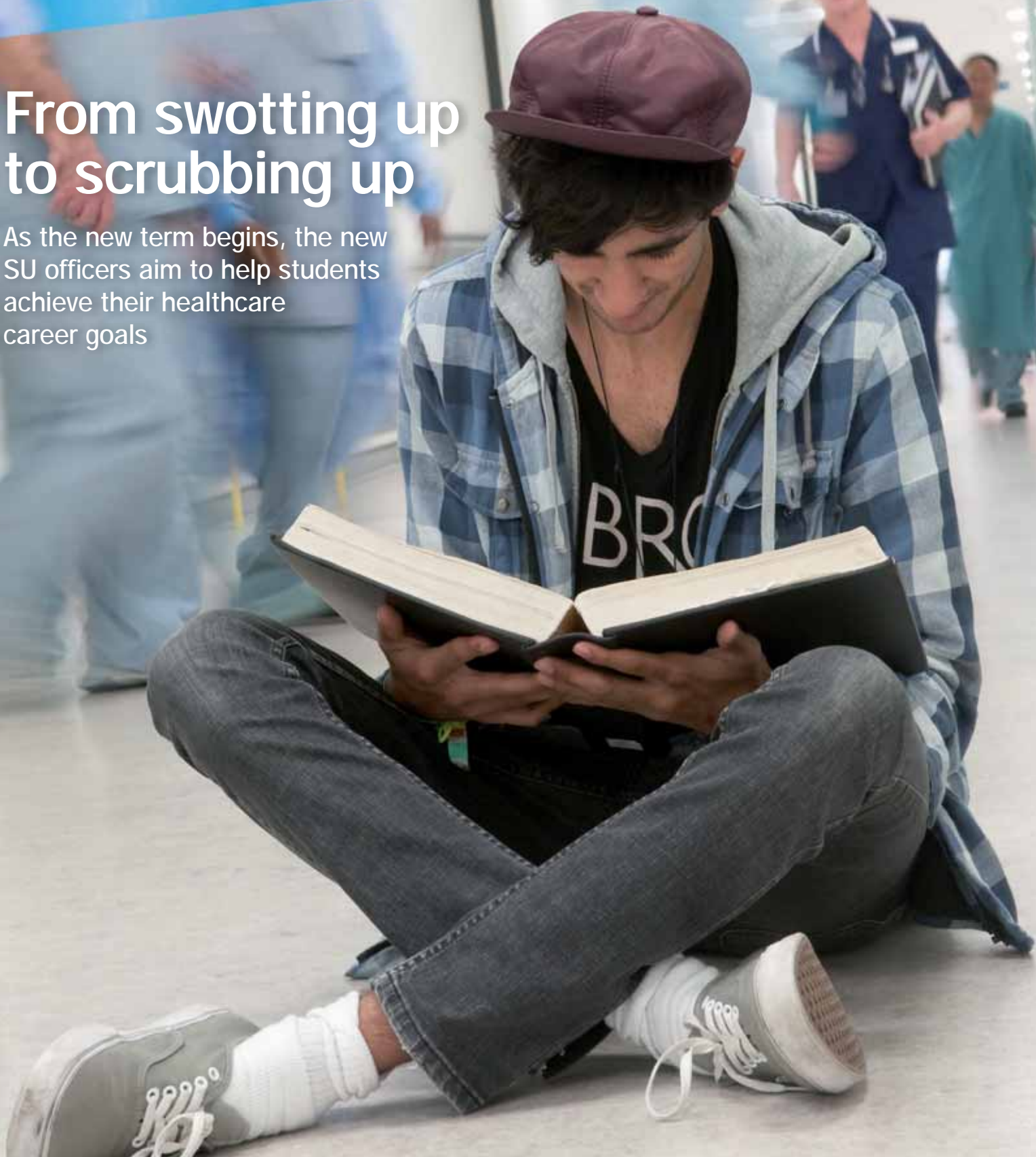
# george's news

Issue 28, October 2010

Newsletter for St George's, University of London

## From swotting up to scrubbing up

As the new term begins, the new  
SU officers aim to help students  
achieve their healthcare  
career goals



## Your George's...

Press Officer  
Gordon Coultts

WELCOME to the new issue of George's News, and welcome to all new and returning students. All the best for a great year. In this issue you can read about the new student sabbatical officers and their plans for the next year, the curious tale of how the world's most famous cow helped create the world's first vaccine, the new School of Rehabilitation Sciences, and a student doing excellent charity work to honour her hero Michael Jackson. There's also the chance to have your picture chosen for the official SGUL Christmas card.

Professor Cathy Wilson,  
1936-2010

There was sad news at St George's in September with the death of Professor Cathy Wilson, who had been here for more than 30 years.

Principal Professor Peter Kopelman paid tribute to Cathy, saying her death was "tremendously sad".

Cathy was appointed to St George's in 1979, and retired in October 2001 as professor of reproductive physiology. Later that year, she returned to pursue research funded by the Wellcome Trust. In 2005, she was awarded the title of emeritus professor, and contributed to a range of academic activities.

Cathy had been ill with cancer for several years, but continued to supervise BSc students until her last weeks. She even corrected the dissertation of a student who was by her bedside. Many postgrad students will remember her as instrumental in helping them get their degrees.

Cathy was involved in many aspects of St George's life and will, in particular, be remembered for her energetic role in supporting the 'Arts for the Teaching and Healing Environment' project, which held art exhibitions and displays throughout the site. She pursued her academic and artistic interests through a number of periods of ill health.

Cathy's husband, Bryon, died earlier this year. They are survived by daughters, Natalie and Joanna.

# Hitting the headlines

## • Thought control can't help smokers trying to quit

*The Observer; The Daily Mail; The Baltimore Sun; The Times of India*

'Smokers who try to quit by just not thinking about cigarettes end up puffing more, new research suggests.

Simply blocking out thoughts leads to a temporary drop in nicotine consumption, but within three weeks devotees of "thought suppression" are lighting up more often than when they began, according to a study led by Dr James Erskine, a psychologist at St George's, University of London.

The phenomenon of initial success followed by relapse is called "behavioural rebound". Erskine has shown the same result occurs when people suppress thoughts of chocolate."

## • Madness in the Fast Lane

*BBC 1*

St George's criminal psychiatrist Dr Nigel Eastman took part in this documentary about an incident in 2008, when BBC cameras filmed two Swedish sisters throwing themselves into traffic on the M6. The programme told the story of what happened over the next 72 hours, which saw one of the sisters fleeing the scene of a crime after stabbing a man through the chest.

Dr Eastman explained the difficulties the judicial system has in achieving justice and deciding punishment when dealing with mental illness. He discussed the possible causes of the women's behaviour, and why, in his view, it could happen again.

• **12 per cent increase in drug-related deaths; Number of drug deaths in Britain soars 12 per cent in a year**  
*The Independent; Daily Mail; Daily Mirror; BBC 1 Wales; BBC 1 South East; BBC News Sussex; BBC Radio Wales; Belfast Telegraph; Metro South West; Metro Wales; South Wales Evening Post; Top News Arab Emirates; Lancashire Telegraph; MedIndia.net*



• **Children 'more active' in homes with dogs**  
*BBC News website; Evening Standard; Fox News; MSN News*  
St George's researchers showed that children with dogs were more active than those without. The team, led by Dr Christopher Owen, said dog ownership could help combat rising childhood obesity, by encouraging more children to exercise. But he was not sure whether the increased activity is a case of more active families being more likely to own a dog – or if owning a dog makes an otherwise sedentary family more active. "It's a bit of a chicken and egg question. Long-term studies are needed to answer it, but it may be a bit of both."

The number of drug-related deaths in the UK rose by almost 12 per cent to 2,182 last year, said a new report by the International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP) at St George's.

The ICDP's National Programme on Substance Abuse Deaths report showed that heroin and morphine were involved in more than half (52.9%) of the deaths, up from 45.3% in 2008, and more than four in five were accidental overdoses.

Professor Hamid Ghodse, director of the ICDP, said the increase in the number of deaths, up from 1,952 in 2008, was "very concerning and shows that we must not waver in our efforts to prevent the loss of life."

• **A second bite of the cherry**  
*The Guardian (The Fresher supplement)*  
This article featured three student case studies for clearing 2010, including second-year St George's biomedical science student Jamie Conti, who said he was now glad that he missed out on the grades for medicine the first time as doing a science course first will hopefully

improve his job prospects.

• **There's no need to panic**  
*Daily Mirror*  
St George's student recruitment manager Martha Holland offered advice to prospective students about to enter the clearing process. "If you are flexible and have reasonably good results, you'll still stand a chance of getting a place at university." Martha gave a list of dos and don'ts for students seeking places.

• **Time to make a clear call**  
*Evening Standard*  
This article offered help for students entering the clearing process. As a case study of someone who has been through the process and done exceptionally well on their course, it featured Kathryn Beards, who had just qualified as a doctor from St George's. Kathryn originally fell short of the grades required for medicine, and did biomedical science at St George's instead. After graduating with a first in biomedical science, Kathryn transferred to the medicine degree, where she excelled. ■

## Principal's column

Welcome to the start of a new academic year. I extend this welcome to our new students, new sabbatical student officers, and new members of staff. Additionally, I formally welcome our new heads of divisions and deans. As all universities, SGUL faces a challenging period ahead, but before I consider the next 12 months I will celebrate our achievements during the past year.

The initial milestones we set for Future St George's have been met:

- We have established the three divisions and created six research centres that already have been externally reviewed in a provisional context for the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

- We have successfully launched our new Finance, Information and Research System (FRIS), and SGUL should shortly be reaping benefits from this. My personal thanks to all who enabled an ambitious agenda to be fulfilled, most particularly Rob Churm, Nick Gordon and the FRIS project team.

- We have identified sufficient funding to implement phase one of the Jenner Wing G2 modernisation through HEFCE capital funding. I am grateful to Mark Bery, Mike Smith, Vaughan Williams and Chrissie Fenske for their fleetness of foot.

An outline of a new governance structure for the joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences has been approved by Kingston University's Board of Governors and SGUL's Council.

- The academic divisions and administrative departments will be introducing a revised personal review scheme during the coming terms.

- SGUL has established closer partnerships with NHS organisations. We are working very closely with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, looking to complement our mutual activities in education, training and research, and to share strategic plans. There has been similar closer working with SW London and St George's Mental Health Trust. In the last year we have seen the establishment of the SW London Academic Health and



Social Care Network (AHSN), and in collaboration with Kings Health Partners, a South London Health Innovation & Education Cluster.

- Finally, for the forthcoming academic year, we have identified significant cost savings. Nevertheless, SGUL is bracing itself for the outcome of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) which is

### "The initial milestones for Future St George's have been met"

likely to be a comprehensive review of savings that demands even greater reductions in expenditure from the public sector. The CSR was due on October 20. It was to be preceded by publication of Lord Browne's report on student tuition (top-up) fees.

By the time you read this article, SGUL will have published its strategic plan for 2010-15. The plan expands the aims and ambitions described by our mission, vision and values. Our mission is to advance, promote and share knowledge of health through excellence in teaching, clinical practice and research into the prevention and treatment of illness.

Our vision is to be a thriving medical and health sciences university, integrated with a London teaching hospital, locally, nationally and internationally recognised for excellence and innovation in education and research translated across health and social care.

To help guide the development of SGUL's strategy, we held consultations with our staff,

students and council, and have established three institutional values, which we believe are at the heart of what we do and what we strive to attain. These values are distinctiveness, diversity and dedication.

The strategic plan fundamentally provides an overview to share with staff and students, and external partners and stakeholders. It clearly identifies our six aims:

1. Education and Students: To grow our excellent reputation for education and learning by providing our students with an exceptional experience within an interdisciplinary environment
2. Research: To pursue

and attain excellence in a focused scientific, clinical and educational research portfolio

3. Share Knowledge: To promote the sharing of knowledge, expertise and opportunities with our local, regional, national and international communities

4. Collaborations: To build and sustain collaborative partnerships with universities, the NHS and other relevant organisations within and outside of London

5. Organisational Structures: To develop and maintain organisational processes and infrastructure to support our existing endeavours and enable the exploitation of new, rewarding opportunities

6. Staff: To strive to attract, retain and nurture the most talented staff

Through our Future St George's programme (FSG), we have begun the necessary changes required to reorganise SGUL to make effective gains and savings - advisable in the past and essential for the future. The programme's overall aim has been to position St George's as a strong, financially sustainable institution able to continue to build on its strength in collaborations and partnership ventures and to take full advantage of teaching, learning, research and enterprise opportunities on a regional, national and international level.

The changes that we have implemented through the FSG programme during the past year will act as enablers to better manage our institution, to pursue opportunities and to respond to the changing environment. The publication of SGUL's strategy for 2010-15 is a pivotal step in the aspiration to achieve a sustainable environment. I encourage you to read the strategy and provide your comments through the FSG portal pages, or to the programme team at [future@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:future@sgul.ac.uk)

Professor Peter Kopelman  
Principal ■

# New student sabbaticals lead way to charity and welfare at Students' Union

**Once again, it's all change at the St George's Students' Union. As last year's sabbaticals remove the chains of office and head back to their studies, the new group is preparing for a year at the helm of the SU.**

With big changes afoot at the SU, the new officers have a very interesting year ahead of them, and they are relishing all challenges.

This year's president is third-year medical student Luke Turner. He is joined by vice president (education and welfare) Helena Thelin Johansson, a second-year medic, and vice president (finance and operations) Ray Sacks, a third-year medic.

So why did each of them decide to give up their studies for a year to take on such demanding roles?

"I've absolutely loved my time at St George's, and I was already involved with the student executive," said Luke. "I always thought about how things could be improved and I decided that, as I was always saying how things should be run, I should really see if I could actually make a difference."

Helena said: "This was a really good opportunity to take a year out of my studies and do something for St George's, and I'm passionate about looking after students' welfare."

"When you come to university from school it's also good to do something different for a while so you can increase your knowledge outside of studying."

Ray, who has been involved in the student executive for the last

four years, said: "I've dipped my toe in enough, so I thought it was time to finally take the plunge. You go from worrying about yourself and getting through your exams to worrying about how other students are doing, so it's a completely different experience but it should be really good."

"It's an exciting time to be involved in the SU, as we're going through the process of becoming a charity. That's a big responsibility as it will change things massively for everyone after us."

Following groundwork laid by the previous incumbents – president David Rawaf, welfare VP David Hobden and finance VP Jonny Hollow – the new team will follow through on the plan to turn the SU into a registered charity. This follows the Charities

**"It's an exciting time to be involved in the SU, as we're going through the process of becoming a charity."**

Act 2006, which demands that student unions register with the Charity Commission. The process to becoming a charity involves a major review of the SU, including its finance and governance. So, the team is using the internal review as a chance to look at how it can offer the best service possible.

"It's so hard to get into university these days that students should expect a lot when they get here," said Luke. "It is a little disappointing that not as many people use the SU services

as we'd like, so this year we'll be doing a push to speak to students and find out what they need us to be doing. With the charity process taking place at the moment, this is actually the perfect time for us to be looking at ourselves and figuring out what we can change and improve."

Among the priorities for the team is improving participation in events and membership of societies.

Luke said: "Event turnout has been dropping and it's easy to say it's because the courses are getting harder and students are working harder, but if they're choosing not to come to things then we need to work harder to find out what they really want."

Luke believes that engaging in SU activities can help students

get the most out of university.

"Sports, for instance, isn't just a frivolous activity. When people start university it's a big change, and things like sport can really help settle into university life. Being in a club can even help with studies. They have study sessions and can be a really supportive network, so it's something I'm keen to encourage students to get involved in."

Helena stressed that she wants more students to make use of the support services she will be responsible for over the next year.

"Students can feel a lot of pressure from themselves and their families, and when you feel pressure like that you can do any amount of studying and still not do as well as you hope. We're here to help students, so we need to look at how we promote ourselves and let them know no one's judging them if they're struggling and need some help."

In their short time at the reins, the new team has already succeeded in introducing a card payment system into the school shop. And they have even been seen manning the tills to get an understanding of how the SU-run shop operates. They have also been ensuring there are plenty of activities for new and returning students prior to Freshers' Week and during the main event (actually lasting two weeks) itself. Among the other key targets for the year is negotiating extra opening hours for the library.

The team thanked the previous sabbaticals for doing a "great job" and leaving the SU in excellent condition. And they praised the university staff they have so far dealt with, from the student centre and registry to the finance department.

Luke added: "I've been having regular chats with the principal, and he's really open and accessible, which is great. The staff and students here have an excellent relationship and it means you can just go and sort something out when you need to. We have a lot of freedom, which gives us extra responsibility, but that's a good thing." ■



Helena, Luke and Ray promise to be a steady hand at the tiller of the Students' Union



Dr Ian Barnes takes a sample of the precious hide. Picture by Yusuf Ozkizil

## A horn in her hide

Have you heard the one about the cow who saved millions of lives? No, there's no moo-laden punchline, instead there's a story about how one humble cow became the world's most famous bovine, and entered into legend...

**For more than 200 years the hide of the world's most famous cow – Blossom, who aided the development of vaccination and helped wipe out smallpox – has been a resident of St George's. That is until earlier this year when this important, yet deteriorating, part of medical history was taken away to undergo professional restoration.**

Before the hide left, scientists took molecular samples to confirm it is indeed the hide of a late 17th century Gloucestershire cow, and to match the hide with one of the several sets of horns around the UK claiming to belong to Blossom.

Medical history tells of the crucial role Blossom played in the development of the first vaccine and the eradication of smallpox. According to records from the time, physician Edward Jenner – an alumnus of St George's – had always been intrigued by the country lore that people who caught cowpox from their cows could not catch smallpox.

In 1796 he began investigations

into his theory that cowpox offered protection from smallpox – when a dairymaid, Sarah Nelmes, consulted Jenner about a rash on her hand which he diagnosed as cowpox. She had caught this from milking her cow, Blossom, who had recently had cowpox. Jenner extracted materials from the cowpox blisters on Nelmes' hand and injected some into a young boy called James. He repeated this process over a number of days, gradually increasing the

*"...Blossom became somewhat of a local celebrity"*

amount what would later be called 'vaccine' (from 'vacca', the Latin for 'cow') he put into the boy. He then deliberately injected James with smallpox. James became ill but after a few days made a full recovery with no side effects. So successful was Jenner's discovery, that in 1840 the government of the day banned any other treatment for smallpox. Following almost two centuries of global vaccination, smallpox was

finally eradicated in the 1970s.

After her work with Jenner, Blossom became somewhat of a local celebrity and lived out her retirement in Gloucestershire. After Blossom died, Jenner hung her hide in his coach house and his family later donated it to St George's. Her hide has been displayed at the campus ever since, until earlier this year when it was temporarily entrusted to the careful hands of conservator Mark Winston Smith.

But before the hide left the St George's site, Dr Ian Barnes, reader in molecular palaeobiology from Royal Holloway, University of London, took small samples for molecular analysis. This analysis, together with the limited documentary evidence and a contemporary painting of Blossom, could help establish the hide's provenance as that of a late 17th century Gloucestershire cow.

The information will also

be used to establish which of the multiple sets of horns claiming to belong to Blossom have the legitimate stake.

Here at St George's, fingers are crossed that the horns affixed to the hide are the real ones. But it is not a certainty, as Professor Andrews, who is overseeing the project, explains: "Any one of these pair of horns could be a match to the hide, as it is not inconceivable that over the years, the hide and its original horns were separated and the hide horns replaced with a different pair."

Blossom will be back at St George's soon. "At the minute, we're not entirely sure where we are going to display Blossom once she's back from the conservator," said Prof Andrews. "But her continued conservation will be the key consideration. Ideally, we'd like to have her in the University's main foyer, where she can be seen and appreciated by everyone. However, we're currently working out how she could practically be both displayed and conserved in such a public location." ■

## St George's Christmas card competition is now open!

St George's is giving all staff and students the chance to have their best festive photograph used as this year's official university Christmas card.

To enter, dig out your best Christmas photo – from snowmen and snowball fights to Santa and sleighbells – and send as a high resolution jpeg to [xmascard@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:xmascard@sgul.ac.uk), or drop it off at the Alumni, Development and Communications office on the ground floor of Hunter Wing. The deadline for the competition is 5 November.

The winning design will be selected by a panel headed by the principal. ■



The picture for last year's card was taken by Kingston and St George's social work graduate Emma Hounsell

## Globe-leading cardiology researchers come to St George's for annual symposium

Some of the world's leading heart experts visited St George's for the Cardiovascular Research Group's annual symposium.

**Around 200 delegates attended the event, this year titled Cardiac Arrhythmias and Sudden Death: From Bench to Bedside.**

Researchers from St George's were joined by UK and international colleagues, including clinicians, scientists, research nurses and genetic counsellors, as well as SGUL students, at the one-day symposium. Speakers involved in the latest cardiology research discussed arrhythmia and sudden death, highlighting recent developments in the field and the clinical implications of translational research. The day also included a poster session and competition.

The symposium was organised and hosted principally by Dr

Elijah Behr and co-chairs, Professor John Camm and Dr Ayesha De Souza, all of whom are St George's-based cardiology experts. Ms Carrie Victor-Smith acted as coordinator for the

meeting.

Dr Behr said: "The symposium was a great success and feedback from our delegates and faculty has been most gratifying. We may have to revisit this topic area for the CRG symposium in the near future."

Dr Behr also praised Professor Michael Ackerman for his keynote

speech – The Michael Davies Memorial Lecture. Prof Ackerman – from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in the US – gave a talk called Novel Pathogenic Mechanisms for the Cardiac

Channelopathies, which Dr Behr said was very well received.

Dr De Souza said: "We had an excellent line-up of speakers who are the top people in their fields, and there were some fascinating presentations."

And Dr Behr added: "The mix of international, British and SGUL delegates and faculty indicates

the strength of the meeting and also demonstrates the profile of St George's in these areas. I hope that this will inspire our undergraduates and students to pursue careers in academic cardiology."

Research posters were displayed, and four prizes were presented by Dr Behr at the end of the day. Joint first prize was awarded to Mr I Vokshi (Division of Basic Medical Sciences, SGUL) and Dr FS Ng (Cardiac Electrophysiology, Imperial College London) and joint third prize to Dr MF Ranthe (Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen) and Dr R Bastiaenen (Division of Clinical Sciences, SGUL).

For more information on the CRG, go to [www.cardiovascular-research.co.uk](http://www.cardiovascular-research.co.uk) ■



Delegates enjoyed finding out about the latest in cardiovascular research

Professor Sheila Hollins

# Appointed to the house of Lords



The new Baroness is looking forward to making a contribution in the House of Lords

**Sheila Hollins, professor of psychiatry of learning disability at St George's, has been appointed to the House of Lords – the UK parliament's upper chamber – and awarded the title of Baroness. The accolade recognises her contribution to learning disability and mental health in the UK.**

Baroness Hollins, who has worked at St George's since 1981, was named a life peer as a crossbencher – a non-party-political peer – by the House of Lords Appointments Commission.

Throughout her career, which began as an academic at St George's, Baroness Hollins has worked with people with learning disabilities and mental health issues. Her research, academic work and high profile posts have influenced policy and practice in these areas.

She said she was "thrilled by her appointment" and is "looking forward to joining esteemed peers including Lord Rix and Baroness Campbell of Surbiton, to speak on behalf of people with learning disabilities as part of my responsibilities as a crossbencher".

*"Sheila has made a huge contribution to work and thinking within her field of expertise"*

Over the last three decades, Baroness Hollins has conducted and contributed to research into clinical and social aspects of the mental and physical health of people with learning disabilities, with a particular focus on bereavement, palliative care and sexual abuse. She also worked as a consultant psychiatrist in south west London

between 1982 and 2006.

Since 2008, she has served as the chair of the World Health Organisation's Euro Steering Group to develop a declaration and action plan on the health of children and young people with intellectual disabilities. She has also worked in a number of

national advisory board roles, including as a member of the independent inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities (2007-08), and was president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (2005-08). Principal Professor Peter Kopelman congratulated Baroness Hollins on her award and commented: "I speak for everyone at St George's

when I say we're extremely proud of Sheila's appointment to the House of Lords. Sheila has made a huge contribution to work and thinking within her field of expertise, which has, in turn, made a difference to the lives of many individuals with learning disability and mental health issues. This fitting accolade will enable her to make an effective and significant contribution to the work of the House of Lords."

Baroness Hollins has also edited and written specialist books for people with, and affected by, mental health and learning disability. These include Books Beyond Words – a series of books on health and social topics for adults who cannot read (see opposite page for more details) – and You and Your Child with a Learning Disability, co-authored with her husband, education specialist Martin Hollins. ■



## Pictures as powerful as words

A series of picture books published by St George's has been recognised for its impact in tackling difficult emotional events for people who have trouble reading. The Books Beyond Words series was shortlisted for the Diversity Award in the 2010 Independent Publishing Awards earlier this year.

Jointly published by St George's and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Books Beyond Words uses pictures instead of words to communicate with adults and adolescents who cannot read, or have difficulty reading. The books aim to help readers cope with emotions and events such as going to the doctor, bereavement, sexual abuse and depression.

The stories are told through colour pictures that include mime and body language to

communicate simple, explicit messages. The series comprises 33 specially commissioned books, each of which uses expert authors and artists to actively address the problems of understanding and communication difficulties experience. Throughout the development of the each book people with learning disabilities ensure the subject matter remains relevant and clear.

"The topics covered in the series are emotional events that can affect anyone, but people who have difficulty reading do not have access to the same level of information and support as those who can read well. These books aim to address this balance," explains Jim Thornberry from SGUL's division of mental

health, who contributes to the publication of the series.

Books Beyond Words was shortlisted for the 2010 Independent Publishing Awards in March. These annual awards are held by the Independent Publishers Guild to acknowledge the quality and range of the smaller independent publishers contributions to the publishing sector.

Books Beyond Words was selected for the Diversity Award in recognition of the technical and clinical quality of its educational and counselling material. The series was also acknowledged for the innovative contribution it makes to the learning disabilities sector, whilst always involving people with learning disabilities in research

and development of each book.

"Whilst Books Beyond Words was not successful in winning the award, the fact that it was short-listed on its first attempt is a significant achievement proving that in its 21st year this small not-for-profit enterprise is a market leader in its field," concludes Jim.

Started by Professor Sheila Hollins, professor of psychiatry of disability at SGUL, over the course of 21 years Books Beyond Words has sold more than 45,000 copies in the UK, Asia and recently, through Amazon, increased its sales in the USA.

Further information about Books Beyond Words can be found on the Royal College of Psychiatry's website at: [www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/booksbeyondwords.aspx](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/publications/booksbeyondwords.aspx) ■

# New School for Rehabilitation Sciences leads the way in education and research



Physiotherapy students at the School of Rehabilitation Sciences benefit from excellent training facilities

The old St George's School of Physiotherapy has been reborn, and in its new form should cement Tooting's reputation for top-quality rehabilitation research and teaching. The new School of Rehabilitation Sciences has been launched for the 2010/11 academic year, and is taking on up to 118 new students. It is also conducting pioneering research that will lead to improved patient treatment.

The school is part of the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, run jointly by Kingston University and St George's. The change from the old School of Physiotherapy is a result of its rapid growth and success.

With innovative new courses and increased student numbers, the school is equipping undergraduates and existing healthcare workers with the skills to meet changing workforce needs.

School head Dr Iain Beith said: "The new school reflects the need for wider provision for more healthcare professionals. Our broad range of courses means we are in a great position to respond to workforce needs whatever direction the new

government decides to go."

When the physiotherapy school was set up at the Faculty in 1998, it only taught a BSc in physiotherapy. A Foundation Degree in Long-Term Conditions and an MSc in Rehabilitation have been added since. And the first students have just completed the MSc in Exercise for Health course. Following the first cohort's success, course

capacity has doubled to 30.

Dr Beith added: "If plans follow through from the last government's ideas, there will be more band four assistant practitioners, which our foundation degree will be well placed to provide. There will also be more continuing personal

professional development to support the higher bands of allied health professionals, which our MSc programmes offer.

Our MSc Exercise for Health course is catering for healthcare provision outside the NHS, too."

Originally, the school's research was also limited, but has expanded to match the increased focus on evidence-based research in rehabilitation.

Dr Beith said: "Our research has really taken off. We have a belief that a strong evidence base should underlay all aspects of our education provision, as well as influencing practice, and we are committed to generating that evidence and using it."

Among the current batch of research are projects on self management for patients, neuromuscular conditions, immunology, pain, respiratory function including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pulmonary rehabilitation, and qualitative methodology.

Dr Beith added: "Another important aspect of the school is that we develop our courses and conduct our research in close collaboration with health and social care service users. That's crucial to our success, as everything we do should be geared towards their needs and informed by their experiences." ■

*"...we develop our courses in close collaboration with health and social care service users. That's crucial to our success"*

# Ambassadors, you're spoiling us!



If you've ever seen them grinning from ear to ear, with hordes of school students in tow, you'll know that our student ambassadors are a credit to the university. With tough, study-intensive courses to keep on top of, somehow they still find the time to spread the St George's message amongst the community, especially to youngsters. From educational experiments roadshows, school careers days, health fairs and clinical skills days, to the Primary Practice after school club and the St George's summer school, wherever you find young people becoming excited about medicine and healthcare, you'll find SGUL student ambassadors at the root of it.

Now, this year's batch of ambassadors have been awarded for their efforts over the last year. The annual Student Ambassador Awards – organised by the SGUL widening participation team – honour the students

who have shown the most commitment and aptitude for ambassadorial activities.

The 2009/10 ceremony saw a total of 29 ambassadors receive awards.

Twenty five ambassadors were presented with Community Education Awards, given to students working on projects involving teaching, mentoring, supporting and inspiring young people. They received gold, bronze, or silver awards, depending on the number of hours spent doing the following activities:

- Experiments roadshows – fun, interactive sessions delivered in schools or at St George's, designed to give students an insight into different careers or issues in healthcare.
- Primary practice – a six-week after-school programme which offers year five and six pupils in local primary schools the opportunity to learn more about medicine and healthcare by taking part in practical activities and teaching them new skills
- Student tutoring – tutors are

placed in local primary or secondary schools to act as support in the classroom, aiding the teachers and contributing to students' learning. Tutors have worked with pupils from years two to 13 in a wide variety of subjects.

- Clinical skills days – interactive days held on campus where student ambassadors teach small groups a variety of basic clinical skills and offer an insight into healthcare courses and careers.

Other students were singled out for individual awards, with the ultimate honour going to the student ambassador of the year for displaying exceptional dedication, enthusiasm and skills. This year's ambassador of the year was third-year biomedical science student Noel Emmanuel. Noel was nominated by internal staff, fellow students, and staff of organisations the ambassadors worked with. This was the first time a winner had been nominated by all three groups. ■

## Bronze community education award

This award is for a minimum of three hours of voluntary community education activities – usually four or five hours. Some of these have completed far more.

Theresinha Fernandes Pocas  
Wang Yng Lim  
Sarah-Jane Singh  
Noel Emmanuel  
Noor Kafil-Hussain  
Staci Boston  
Rebecca Harvey

## Silver community education award

This award is for a minimum of six hours voluntary delivery. Many will have done far more than this.

Hammad Ahmed  
Priya Gaglani  
Sultana Hasso  
Sajjaad Ismail  
Nahida Khan  
Kelly Marie Maltby  
Rosie Peters  
Rachel Sequiera  
Kimberley Williams

## Gold community education award

These students have done ten or more hours of voluntary delivery.

Jasmeen Bains  
Selina Bismohun  
Clint Asher  
Terri Follett  
Anthony Adimonye  
Jibran Qureshi  
Fatimah Javaid  
Wai Shun Vincent Lam  
Bhavika Parmanand

## Experiments roadshows fresher of the year

Sarah-Jane Singh

## Special commendation award for roadshows

Jibran Qureshi  
Priya Gaglani

## Experiments roadshows mentor of the year

Jasmeen Bains

## Special commendation award for ambassador work

Rachel Meadows  
Roberto Tamsanguan

## Student ambassador of the year 09/10

Noel Emmanuel

## People

# Don't stop 'til you get enough (cash for kids)

Proudly sporting a home-made Smooth Criminal-era Michael Jackson t-shirt and with Wanna Be Startin' Somethin' pumping from her headphones, the only thing Charlene Weeks is missing to complete her tribute to the King of Pop is a single silver glove.



**"Oh, my friend actually has my silver glove at the moment," laughs Charlene, surely the biggest Michael Jackson fan at St George's, if not the northern hemisphere and beyond. And it turns out that on any other day she may have turned up in full-on Moonwalker attire.**

Second-year physiotherapy student Charlene has been a huge Michael Jackson fan since she was a child listening to her dad's music. Now, more than a year since his untimely death, Charlene is channeling her love of the snake-limbed singer into helping disadvantaged children. In MJ's honour, Charlene and a group of fellow fans across the world have set up a charity – Heal The World For Children (HTWFC) – and have been hosting events for children. The group say that, 'inspired by Michael Jackson's message of love, our mission is to bring joy, fun and laughter into the lives of sick and underprivileged children.'

"My friends and I were always telling people how much we love Michael, so we thought we should stop just talking and actually do something to show how much, and try to do something positive for children,

just like he did during his life."

Along with fellow London Michael Jackson fans, co-founder Charlene helped launch HTWFC's London activities in August. The main event was a festival for disadvantaged and sick children on 29 August – Michael Jackson's birthday – in Dulwich Park, where 250 youngsters were treated to sports and games, arts and crafts, face painting, a magic show, music, and competitions.

"That was a brilliant day. The children had a range of problems, so we made sure

**"The work is really getting back to basics, and I think that will make us better doctors"**

there were activities and games that everyone could do. My physiotherapy training really came in handy, as I could put the theory into practice and devise games suitable for all the kids, that helped some with coordination and proprioception problems.

"Organising it all was really stressful, but it was worth it to see the kids smile."

The group raised money for this event by holding a charity spinathon in Peckham Square. Charlene, from Peckham, and

11 friends pedalled for 12 hours. The aim was to raise cash and promote the benefits of exercise, and Charlene and her friends passed on spinning tips to enthusiastic locals. Charlene plans to host more fitness events throughout the rest of the year.

After some wheeling and dealing with Hollywood moguls to arrange the film rights – using contacts from a previous life organising UK film premieres and hobnobbing with the likes of Johnny Depp, George Lucas, Mickey Rourke, Angelina Jolie and

Ewan McGregor – Charlene also arranged a charity screening of Michael Jackson's '80s musical/sci-fi caper Moonwalker. This was one of the few times the film has been shown on the big screen since its original release, and was attended by hundreds of MJ fans. All proceeds from the screening went to charity and, added to the money raised by the spinathon left over from the children's festival, totalled £2,000.

"The screening was amazing. We had people who had come

from all over – Greece, the USA, Mexico, Germany, France and lots of other countries. People loved it. There was one kid who got up on the stage to dance like Michael, and he was going crazy. Everyone was clapping and cheering, and it was great. All I wanted was for one kid to be inspired by Michael, so it was a big success.

"Michael was a genius. I love him for his music, his dancing, his compassion, and the way he opened the door for other black artists and made so much history. Doing the charity work has actually made me feel even closer to him than when he was alive."

Future charity plans involve a 24-hour spinathon, giving out toys to children in hospitals ("Michael used to do that wherever he went on tour"), including St George's, and more children's festivals.

Charlene, added: "We're growing all the time. The charity now has people all over the world organising events and we're in talks about hosting children's festivals in different countries. There's so much enthusiasm for continuing what Michael did. Michael always said 'It's all for L.O.V.E.' and we all say it too as it helps us remember why we're doing this." ■

## People

# A lifelong battle against malaria

**As a child in Tanzania, Sanjeev Krishna would watch as a stream of malaria patients filed into his parents' GP surgery, looking for help. While his parents fought to save the lives of many who would eventually die, an indelible goal formed in the boy's mind. Years later, as an Oxford University medical student, Sanjeev wrote down this goal, the black and white ink serving as a promise to himself. Now, as one of the world's leading malaria researchers, Professor Krishna can look back on his younger selves with satisfaction, knowing he has not let them down.**

"I had it in mind that I wanted to study tropical diseases from the word go," said Prof Krishna, sitting in the office he has occupied at St George's for many years, initially as a Wellcome Trust senior clinical fellow. "And it's been a wonderful and important area of work. It's always provided some great scientific questions, and the quality of the science has been a key aspect in keeping me involved for so long.

"Of course, the aim of all we do is to help save lives."

Prof Krishna's group at St George's is involved in research on several fronts in the battle against malaria. Broadly, it is investigating how antimalarials kill parasites and how parasites form resistance to antimalarials, as well as the discovery of new drugs.

A major strand of work involves investigating malaria parasites' nascent resistance to artemisinin, which was previously heralded as a wonder drug. The St George's team was among the first to sound a warning about potential artemisinin resistance, discovered in Cambodia in 2008.

"This resistance has made people very worried. If you

can't use artemisinin you're in trouble, as artemisinin combinations are currently the only effective drug treatments.

"There's not enough information about artemisinin resistance at the moment, so we don't know whether it will be a minor problem or whether it will become widespread, but other antimalarials could be years away so we need to work with what we have now."

So, the team is working on new drug combinations, informed by research into how artemisinin reacts with the parasites.

"We have changed the parasite genetically to predict how it may change naturally, and are looking at how these changes affect how artemisinin works on it. If we can increase our understanding of artemisinin, we can hopefully figure out new combinations to stop resistance spreading."

The group's work on monkey malaria in the jungles of Borneo – led by Dr Janet Cox-Singh – is one area that Prof Krishna believes could yield excellent results. The team has shown that P.knowlesi, a malaria parasite previously thought to infect only monkeys, is widespread among humans in Malaysia. This revelation led to the recognition of P.knowlesi as the fifth cause

**"...it's been a wonderful and important area of work."**

of malaria in humans. The discovery has given researchers an unprecedented opportunity to understand how artemisins react with malaria parasites.

"That is hugely exciting. The beauty of this work is that this parasite has never seen the drug before. These are virgin parasites, in a way. That means that we can use them to enhance our understanding of how the parasite changes and becomes

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



less sensitive to the drug."

Other work being done at SGUL involves developing prophylactic therapies to prevent disease transmission. The team is also looking at how artemisinin can be used to treat other diseases, thought to be an area with massive potential. Prof Krishna is co-investigator on a study into its potential benefits for colorectal cancer patients.

Previous work by the team on the use of rectally delivered artesunate – part of the artemisinin drug family – in

remote, healthcare-deprived regions has also led to one of the most important recent developments in malaria research; the team's groundwork paved the way for a World Health organisation study that showed rectal artesunate could halve the death rate in vulnerable areas.

With so many promising fields of work it's no wonder that Prof Krishna hasn't lost his obvious passion, and he makes sure to

visit trial sites as often as he can.

"It's pretty special being able to go from the lab to the clinical study environment. It's very important to me to go and actually see the work being done on the ground at sites in Malaysia and Gabon, for example, as it helps me understand the problems that I'm working on in the lab."

Although Prof Krishna concedes that a world without malaria may never exist, he believes real progress is being made, and stresses that St George's is at the centre of it. He credits progress to the excellent team, particularly Dr Cox-Singh, Dr Henry Kovacsevics, and long-term collaborators such as Professor Peter Kremsner in Tübingen and Gabon, Professor Christian Doerig in Lausanne and Professor Steve Ward in Liverpool.

"Nothing we've achieved could have been done without their input."

• In September, Prof Krishna hosted a meeting at St George's of fellow malaria experts from Europe and Malaria. The AntiMal project is a five-year scheme that aims to develop new antimalarial drugs. ■

# People

## New Staff

### Administration

Ms Debbie Matthias – Research support (FRIS)

### Basic Medical Sciences

Miss Lucy Addae – Research assistant  
Mr Daniel John Greenwood – Research technician  
Dr Susan McNally – Research assistant

### Cardiac and Vascular Sciences

Dr Samrah Ahmed-Ali – Postdoctoral research associate  
Miss Georgeena Ariaratnam – Research technician  
Dr Inna Davies – Clinical trials coordinator  
Dr Jason Dungu – Clinical research fellow  
Dr Patrick Houston – Postdoctoral research assistant  
Dr Fiona Kennedy – Clinical research fellow  
Dr Stephan Kohlhoff – Clinical lecturer in child health  
Professor Kausik Kumar Ray – Professor of preventative cardiology  
Miss Michelle Levene – Research assistant  
Ms Rita McCormack – Senior research nurse  
Miss Abigail Neal – HIEC administrator  
Mr Matthew Traylor – Research associate  
Ms Melissa Werndle – McKissock and UKSCIRN research fellow

### Communications

Mr Oliver Hannan – Web content editor

### Estates and Facilities

Dr Colin Paul Sandiford – Safety, health and environment advisor

### Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Mr Muhammad Sadique Bhanbhro – Research associate  
Professor Ann Patricia Bowling – Professor of healthcare for older adults  
Dr Kaushik Chattopadhyay – Research associate  
Mr Robert Grant – Senior research fellow in quantitative methods

### Human Resources

Mr Jerrold Cheam – Staff development administrator  
Mrs Erica Shannon-Turner – HR manager

### Joint Research Office

Mrs Caroline Corbett – Clinical trials monitor manager

### Management Services

Mr Errol Elliott – Business applications developer  
Mr Sanjiv Patel – Business applications developer

### Planning Unit

Mr Aashish Khadia – Strategic information and analysis manager

### Population Health Sciences and Education

Dr Julia Critchley – Professor in epidemiology  
Ms Lisa Karner – Cochrane systematic reviewer  
Dr Rossana Salerno-Kennedy – Senior lecturer in clinical skills  
Dr Jared Smith – Postdoctoral research fellow

### Registry

Ms Diane Beverley – Clinical medicine assistant  
Mr James Richard Birkett – Head of postgraduate education  
Miss Janice Howard – Learning support tutor (SPLD)  
Miss Kay Edwards – Postgraduate administrator  
Miss Kate Johnson – Senior examinations officer

### Planning and Secretariat

Mr Timothy Russell – Administrative officer

## Royal College vice president relives St George's football glory

**St George's alumnus Mr Richard Collins – vice president of the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) – is arranging a reunion of SGUL's victorious 1965 United Hospital's Challenge Cup football team.**

Richard was captain of the team, the only St George's side to bring home the hallowed trophy. Members of the team will be meeting in November to relive their glorious cup campaign.

Richard, who also captained the St George's cricket team, said: "Being part of the football and cricket teams was immense fun, and I'm still very proud of our success. It will be tremendous to see the other team members again."

### Top prize for young researcher

St George's cardiac researcher Dr Fu Ng has won the British Hypertension Society's (BHS) prestigious Young Investigator Award. Dr Ng scooped the top prize for an oral presentation on a paper by his group at St George's, which he delivered at the society's annual meeting at Queen's College, Cambridge.

The paper – Expression and function of the K(+) channel KCNQ genes in human



Richard Collins (right) and Bill Thomas at the Royal College of Surgeons

The former crack sportsman is one of only a handful of St George's alumni to have been on the council of the RCS, one of whom was Mr Bill Thomas, who recently retired as a vice president. Richard, who graduated in 1967 and has now retired from clinical practice at Kent and Canterbury Hospital and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, remembers SGUL with fondness.

"It's a fantastic place and I had a wonderful time. It was London in the swinging '60s after all.

"I have lovely memories. Because we were small you got to mix with all the fantastic clinicians, which was a great privilege." ■

arteries (Ng FL, Davis AJ, Jepps TA, Harhun MI, Yeung SY, Wan A, Reddy M, Melville D, Nardi A, Khong TK, Greenwood IA) – was published in the British Journal of Psychology, and was co-authored by colleagues from SGUL and St George's Hospital.

As a result of the award, Dr Ng has been asked to present as the BHS's nominee to the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia in December. ■

## Grants

Ann-Marie Murtagh and Professor Hugh Markus – £168,644 from the National Institute for Health Research/Stroke Research Network; Development of NIHR Hyperacute Stroke Research Centre at St George's Hospital and King's College Hospital

Dr Chris Owen, Professor Peter Whincup, Dr Alicja Rudnicka and Professor Derek Cook – £177,396 from the British Heart Foundation; Adiposity over the lifecourse and risks of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, mobility limitation and healthy survival in older men

Dr Daniel Forton – £25,000 from Gilead; Establishment of a dedicated antenatal hepatitis clinic for pregnant women with chronic HBV infection to optimise assessment, management and contact

testing through a newly developed self-administered dry blood spot test

Professor Andrew Crosby – £70,000 from Windows of Hope; Genetic Testing for Amish Inherited Diseases

Professor Robin Shattock – £140,000 from CONRAD; Development of a model for the testing of anti-HIV microbicides

Dr Peter Garrard – £89,083 from the Medical Research Council; Perseverometry: a novel performance marker in dementia

Dr Bridget Bax, Dr Murray Bain and Dr Nicholas Moran – £790,000 from the Medical Research Council; Pre-clinical safety studies of erythrocyte encapsulated thymidine phosphorylase

# News in brief

## St George's recognised for supporting care leavers

**St George's has been honoured for its commitment to helping students who have been in public care. The Frank Buttle Trust Quality Mark has been awarded to SGUL in recognition of its exceptional service.**

The Frank Buttle Trust provides aid to children and young people experiencing serious problems, from family estrangement and illness to a range of social problems. The Quality Mark was set up in 2006 in partnership with the Higher Education Funding Council for England to recognise higher education institutions who 'go that extra mile to support students who have been in public care'.

The Quality Mark ensures students with experience of care – who may not have a suitable

family support structure, may have limited financial support, or are facing other problems – can thrive in higher education.

The St George's application was assessed on its current services, as well as on pledges set out for its continuing support of students who have experience of care. Among the pledges the quality mark commits St George's to is raising the aspirations of young people in care by ensuring they can access summer schools, open days and other events. This includes making sure that travel and accommodation costs do not stop them taking part. Other pledges include offering further guidance to prospective students, and ensuring current students are aware of all the support available to

them, including the careers service, counselling, and information on accessing financial aid.

Kenton Lewis, head of widening participation and student recruitment at St George's, said: "This is great news, and testament to our ongoing commitment to students with public care backgrounds. We were already prioritising meeting their needs, but this gives us an extra focus that will keep our standards as high as possible."

"Students who have been in care can often feel stigmatised, as if they don't fit in. But every student awarded a place to study deserves to be here and each of them deserves the support that will allow them to perform to their potential." ■

### New St George's finance and research system launched

The new St George's finance and research management system is now up and running, and its added efficiency could help the university save thousands of pounds a year. It should also make financial management easier for all staff members, from academics to administrators.

The Finance Research Information Service (FRIS) project set out to replace the finance and procurement system with a more powerful and user-friendly option. It also aimed to provide a system to coordinate management of research grants, from initial draft application through to the end of a project.

Following months of hard work by the dedicated FRIS project team, phase one of a two-stage process went live at the beginning of September.

Phase one involved the replacement of the Sage finance system with the superior and more versatile Agresso system.

Agresso should make accessing financial information much simpler, making it easier to keep on top of budgets and manage projects more effectively. Users should find raising and approving requisitions, budget checking, and checking spend so far – and what it has been spent on – a lot smoother with Agresso.

Amanda Fernando, acting head of procurement services, said: "Agresso is a lot more user-friendly and it makes the buying process more efficient, which means staff members can spend less time on it and will be freed up to focus on their core jobs."

"The feedback so far has been good. People seem to enjoy the experience of using Agresso more than the old system. There are still aspects we can improve, so we'll continue working with all users to make sure they have the best experience possible."

Amanda added that Agresso could save thousands of pounds "once the full electronic procure-to-pay process has been implemented."

Phase two will involve several

areas of work, one of which is a research award management function. The details of this are still being finalised, but it aims to give academics better control of their research project finances. This will help them meet the changing regulatory demands of how research finances are managed and reported. The Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) scheme, for example, now requires universities to calculate the full costings of research and consultancy projects.

By having a more streamlined management system, the hope is to better identify which funding applications are most likely to be successful, so making St George's more competitive in a tough time for research funding.

Another part of phase two is the development of an e-marketplace and e-catalogues, to form an online facility similar to the Amazon website. This will bring buyers and sellers together and provide access to up-to-date and competitive pricing. This will allow users to find

### Social media at St George's

St George's has launched its official social media network, to keep you up to date with friends, colleagues, students and tutors, as well as everything that's happening at St George's.

You can find SGUL on:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube

To find the links to our social media, go to [www.sgul.ac.uk/socialmedia](http://www.sgul.ac.uk/socialmedia).

This page also contains links to other departments and offices' social media pages, which offer a useful resource for staff and students.

These include:

- The Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences' Facebook and Twitter pages
- The St George's, University of London Library's Facebook page
- The Student Centre's Twitter page
- The St George's Alumni Facebook page ■

the best deals for high-volume orders, in particular laboratory consumables. The e-catalogues will have negotiated prices with strategic suppliers. The aim is to launch the e-marketplace by the end of January.

Amanda added: "When these are implemented, researchers will be able to contribute to achieving the University's savings targets on operational expenditure."

Phase two will also introduce reporting tools in Agresso, to provide up-to-date, reliable information in an accessible format.

This will enable comprehensive reporting and analysis at all levels – from budget monitoring of individual accounts through research centres and divisions, to institution-wide analysis in areas such as Resource Allocation Modelling – planning the best way to use resources – as well as TRAC.

Details of workshops and user groups on having bespoke reporting specifications created will be arranged over the next few months. Announcements will be made in due course. ■

# What's on

## Oxjam@George's

22/10/2010, 7-11pm, Students' Union bar, second floor, Hunter Wing, St George's

Oxjam, Oxfam's month-long charity music festival is coming to St George's. The SU will host live sets from The Fantastics, The Special Ks, and Stealing Signs. There will also be DJs and fundraising activities. All staff and students are welcome, plus friends and relatives. Tickets are £3 and can be bought at the SU bar, the school shop and Horton Halls reception, as well as online at [www.wegotickets.com/event/93125](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/93125)

## SGUL Ethics Society debate: 'This house believes that the abortion time limit should be reduced from 24 weeks'

26/10/2010, 5.30pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre, St George's

The SGUL Ethics Society's first debate of the new academic year will see members tackle opposite sides of an extremely controversial topic. Anyone interested in debating either side of the subject or wanting more information about the society should contact it at [ethicssgul@gmail.com](mailto:ethicssgul@gmail.com)

## Issues in managing continence problems with people with dementia living at home: the EVIDEM-C study

28/10/2010, 1-2pm, Teaching room 38, Second Floor, Grosvenor Wing, St George's

This seminar will be presented by Professor Vari Drennan, associate dean (research) and professor of health policy and service delivery at the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences. Lunch will be available from 12.45pm.

For more information and to book a place, contact Vicky Spencer-Bowdage on 0208 725 3924 or at [v.spencer-bowdage@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:v.spencer-bowdage@sgul.kingston.ac.uk)

## The Jenner Symposium and Lecture 2010

4/11/2010, 11.45am-7pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre, St George's

The Research Centre for Infection and Immunity at the St George's Division of Clinical Sciences invites all staff and students of the university and members of the St George's Healthcare NHS Trust to this year's Jenner Symposium and

Lecture. This year's Jenner Lecture will be delivered by Professor Sir Mark Walport, director of The Wellcome Trust, and is called 'John Snow, molecular genetics and the epidemiology of infectious diseases'. The lecture starts at 5pm.

At the symposium, Dr Rachel Allen from St George's will talk about 'Alternative roles for NHC class 1 in innate immunity', Professor Tom Harrison from St George's will discuss 'Cryptococcal meningitis: promise for reducing global disease burden', Dr Blaise Corthesy from the University of Lausanne will talk about 'Secretory IgA: involvement in mucosal protection...and much more', and Professor George Griffin of St George's will give a talk called 'E.coli O157 - a disaster waiting to happen'.

To register for the symposium, which includes lunch, and/or the lecture and reception, contact Vivienne Marvell at [vmarvell@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:vmarvell@sgul.ac.uk) by 25 October.

## Which measure of quality of life performs best in older age? Development and testing of the Older People's QOL Questionnaire (OPQOL)

11/11/2010, 1-2pm, Teaching Room 3, fourth floor, Hunter Wing, St George's

This seminar will be presented by Professor Ann Bowling, professor of healthcare of older adults. Prof Bowling will discuss the OPQOL, a national survey of older people living at home in Britain.

Lunch will be available from 12.45pm.

For more information and to book a place, contact Vicky Spencer-Bowdage on 0208 725 3924 or at [v.spencer-bowdage@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:v.spencer-bowdage@sgul.kingston.ac.uk)

## Emergency care practitioners as health educators

25/11/2010, 1-2pm, Teaching Room 1, fourth floor, Hunter Wing, St George's

This seminar will be presented by Kirsty Armstrong, senior lecturer at the School of Nursing. She will discuss how emergency care practitioners can provide health promotion and advice, and look at the factors involved in equipping them to do so.

For more information and to book, contact Vicky Spencer-Bowdage on 0208 725 3924 or at [v.spencer-bowdage@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:v.spencer-bowdage@sgul.kingston.ac.uk)

## St George's Research Day 2010

1/12/2010, 10am-5.30pm, Boardrooms, first floor, Hunter Wing, St George's

The annual St George's Research Day brings together the best research from St George's and partner institutions Kingston University and Royal Holloway, University of London. This year's event will celebrate the vast range of research activity taking place, with a series of oral presentations and a poster session. Prizes will be given for the best posters, and exhibiting companies will be holding prize raffles.

The free event is open to all staff and students, but registration is essential. Lunch and evening drinks will be supplied, with coffee and tea available throughout the day. Registration and poster abstracts must be received by 15 November. The booking form and programme can be found at [www.researchday.sgul.ac.uk](http://www.researchday.sgul.ac.uk)

For more information, contact event organisers at [resday@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:resday@sgul.ac.uk)

## T lymphocyte dynamics in acute and chronic viral infection

24/1/2010 - 25/1/2010, Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, 183 Euston Road, London

This two-day international workshop is being co-organised by Derek Macallan, professor of infectious diseases at St George's, and colleagues from the Infectious Disease Research Network (IDRN), Imperial College London, the University of Tennessee, University Medical Center Utrecht, and the British Society of Immunology (BSI). The aim of the workshop is to bring together scientists working in the area of T cell immunology, both experimental and theoretical, to discuss recent advances in the understanding of how T cells control acute and chronic infections. It will consist of talks and discussion workshops. Delegates can register for one or both days. For members of the IDRN and members of the BSI, two-day attendance is £140.09, and one day is £90.09. For non members, two-day attendance is £200.09 and one day is £130.09.

For further details and information on how to register, go to [www.idrn.org/events/upcoming/lymphocytedynamics.php](http://www.idrn.org/events/upcoming/lymphocytedynamics.php)

## Staff development opportunities:

### Effective recruitment and selection

16/2/2011, 9.30am-12.30pm, St George's

This free workshop - held on various dates throughout the year - is compulsory for St George's staff involved in the recruitment and selection of staff. It will provide participants with the understanding and skills to negotiate the recruitment and selection process, covering legal issues, writing job descriptions and person specifications, interview questions, and selection methods.

To book a place, use the online booking system on the staff development pages of the portal, or contact [staffdev@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:staffdev@sgul.ac.uk) for further information.

### Writing for publication

9/3/2011, 9.30am-4.30pm, St George's

This free workshop is open to all St George's staff, and will show participants how to plan and write a paper, increase their confidence in their writing skills, and help them construct and present an effective argument.

To book a place, use the online booking system on the staff development pages of the portal, or contact [staffdev@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:staffdev@sgul.ac.uk) for further information.

## WIN a George's bear



### Congratulations to honorary clinical research fellow Vikram Talaulikar, the winner of the last issues's competition.

To follow in his footsteps and bag yourself a furry chum, answer these questions about this issue of George's News:

- Who is Charlene Weeks' favourite pop star?
- What title has Sheila Hollins had bestowed upon her?
- What is the name of Edward Jenner's bovine pal?

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