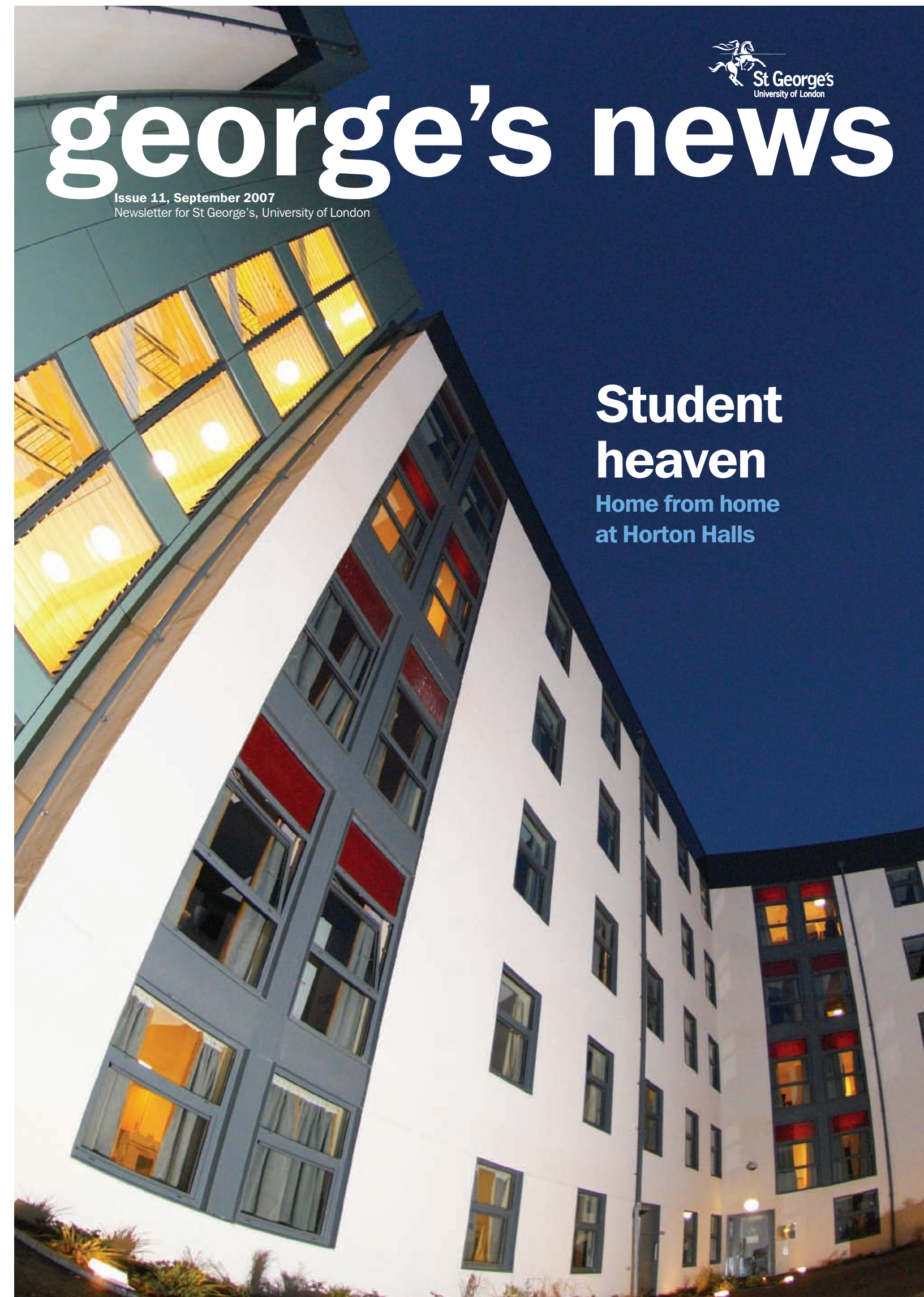


# george's news

Issue 11, September 2007  
Newsletter for St George's, University of London

## Student heaven

Home from home  
at Horton Halls



# Editorial

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## George's In The News

Tamsin Starr, Communications Manager

**WELCOME to the September issue of George's News and a new academic year that sees lots of exciting new developments around the institution. The new halls of residence have their first intake of students, the New Registry and Student Centre opened its doors and our first students on the MRes course enrolled – all being presided over by our new Acting Principal, Sean Hilton (see his first column, opposite).**

Congratulations to Arthur Brennan, Senior Lecturer in Research Methods and Statistics in the Joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences. Since appearing in the May issue of George's News, which was sent to select journalists, Arthur's study into male 'sympathetic pregnancy' has been featured on BBC Breakfast, GMTV, This Morning, Today FM (Ireland's national radio), Five Live (on two shows), BBC Radio Wales, BBC Southern Counties, BBC World Service, 36FM, Spin FM and websites including every BBC website around the world. St George's is currently in talks to syndicate the news across Latin America, and



Arthur Brennan on ITV's This Morning

has been approached by the Richard and Judy and BBC One shows.

Arthur says: 'I was amazed by the media interest in my study – it was just fantastic. It was so great to have the profile of my research raised all round the world.'

Other exciting news includes BBC London's

Inside Out film that was due to be screened last week, which followed the collaboration between the UK African

Microbicides Working Group and St George's HIV teams (as featured in the last issue of George's News). Take a glimpse behind the scenes of the filming on page 9 of this issue.

Dr Deborah Bowman has featured as a panel

member for the fourth time on Radio 4's Inside the Ethics committee, which started in August and ran for three episodes.

We look forward to many more exciting developments keeping St George's in the news over the coming months.



Dr Deborah Bowman



## Win a George's bear

You can take home one of our lovable St George's graduate bears, or our medical genius bear in scrubs!

All you have to do is answer three simple questions.

1. What is Cherie Woolmer's role?
2. What percentage of St George's total income comes from research?
3. Who are the new halls of residence named after?

Email your answers to [tstarr@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:tstarr@sgul.ac.uk) by the end of September. Congratulations to Jack Sugrue who correctly answered last month's questions. The answers were: 1) The Solomon Islands, 2) Henry Gray or John Hunter, and 3) Nutmeg.

**Submissions deadline for the next issue of George's News is the end of September**

**Email [tstarr@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:tstarr@sgul.ac.uk), or call extension 1139.**

**Thanks to staff writer Anna Jenkins for her contributions.**

# Principal's column

**IT is an enormous pleasure to write my first column as Acting Principal, St George's, University of London, and I am very proud of all those words (maybe not the of!). St George's has had six Principals (Deans until 1992) since making the move from Hyde Park Corner to Tooting in the 1970s (Alastair Hunter, Richard West, Sir William Asscher, Sir Robert Boyd and Michael Farthing). I was a student during the time of the first two, and staff member with the others. All were different, of course, but I have learnt a great deal from each of them. As I write this, the formal process of appointing a new Principal is commencing, but it is likely to be some months until the appointee is in post. Until then, I will relish the challenge of helping to keep SGUL moving forward successfully.**

My approach to the challenge, in a nutshell, will focus on three Cs: commitment, continuity and communication. My commitment to St. George's is absolute. Our stated strategic aim is 'to be a successful and independently governed higher education institution as part of the federal University of London' (with a number of key partnerships, including our longstanding



relationships with Kingston University (KU) and the NHS, and our developing tripartite alliance with KU and Royal Holloway within

the Southwest London Academic Network). During the coming term, the Council and the Executive will be carrying out a mid-term review of our 2005-2010 strategic plan. I am committed to our current strategy, but am not resistant to further developments or changes if they are demonstrably in our best interests.

Continuity comes from my involvement at senior academic level since 1997, through the highs and lows of that period. The external world has been constantly changing, both in health and in higher education, and may well become more turbulent in the future. I hope that a degree of continuity will be helpful as we go through the process of appointing a new Principal.

Communication is the most important part of any strategy. Although I believe that George's News has become a really vibrant and effective asset for

communication, I know that there are some who feel that our existing channels – for example Academic Forum – are not working well. I would like to improve that situation. I have some ideas, and this term I will be chairing a group to review all of our communications. I would be glad to hear from anyone with ideas about this.

Students and staff comprise SGUL's greatest asset. A warm welcome from me goes to the new students and staff joining us this term. I would also like to mark, with thanks and best wishes, the retirement of two of our longest serving and most distinguished staff: Joe Collier (in May) and Roger Horton (in September).

As we wish Michael Farthing well in his new role as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, we look forward to another very busy academic year. I have mentioned the midpoint review of institutional strategy taking place this term, but whatever the strategy, we know we have a good deal of 'core business' - teaching, learning, research, enterprise, management - to deliver. We have an imminent UK research assessment exercise (RAE2008); a record number of students enrolled; plans for a new education building on this site; an application for our own degree awarding powers; exciting (but challenging) developments in the NHS, and increasing activity within SouthWest London Academic Network.

Thanks to everybody's efforts over the past four years, SGUL now has a strong financial base from which to move forward its agenda for research, education and partnerships. I really look forward to working with you in all of these areas.

Best wishes

**Professor Sean Hilton  
Acting Principal  
September 2007**



**Looking to the future: Professor Hilton with the outgoing Principal of St George's, Professor Michael Farthing**

# News

## St George's by numbers

Number  
**one**

St George's has the highest retention rate into the second year of study of any higher education institution at **98.8%** (Oxford University is second at 98.6 per cent).

**8<sup>th</sup>**

is where St George's comes in the projected outcome table – meaning **91.1%** of our students are expected to complete their degree.

**29%**

of St George's total income comes from research, placing it higher than Cambridge University (**23%**) in HEFCE's research income league table.

**99%**

St George's has a **99%** rate for employment or further study, and comes fifth in the table (behind the Royal Veterinary College, School of Pharmacy, Cranfield University and, at the top, the Courtauld Institute of Art), though it has a larger population than the four institutions ranking above it.

Top  
**3**

Ranked third in the top ten of highest average salary of full-time first degree qualifiers in full-time paid work, with an average wage of **£26,655**.

## Fresh approach to Clearing

ST GEORGE'S new 'clearing hub' swung into operation for the first time this summer. Staffed by existing course students, the hub was the first port of call for those entering through clearing. Rather than head straight for an academic interview, students were able to make an initial assessment of candidates' suitability for a particular course.

Despite increasing Biomedical Sciences capacity from 80 to 130 students, the course 'sold out' within hours, as did Physiotherapy. This was quite an achievement given the bad publicity over the lack of physiotherapy jobs.

As term approaches, the Radiography course is virtually full and the number of new Biomedical Informatics students is

on a par with last year's. As always, St George's medical courses continue to attract an especially high calibre of student, with excellent qualifications.

Caroline Persaud, Head of Student Services, said: 'The new system worked particularly well and I am pleased that St George's remains such a popular university choice.'



# News

## The term ahead

### What's in store at St George's this new academic year? Your update on some key events this term



#### September

- Students move into the first phase of the new halls of residence (see page 8). The New Registry and Student Centre opened.



#### October

- The start of the new MRes course, overseen by Dr Deborah Baines and aimed at applicants who want either a stand-alone master's course with a strong emphasis on biomedical research, or a year of postgraduate training before a PhD in the biomedical field.

- October also marks the first of the SouthWest London Academic Networks roadshows (see page 12).

- This autumn also sees the first intake to the five-year stream of the new MBBS course. Eventually, this course will replace both the traditional five-year MBBS degree and the four-year MBBS degree programme for graduates (the Graduate Entry Programme, or GEP). It will have two entry streams: one for school leavers and foundation students, and one for graduates.

The streams, organised to meet students' different educational needs, will work separately for the first year of the graduate entry stream and the first two years of the school leaver stream. In the following, transitional year or 'T Year', students will start to come together. They will unite for their clinical placements, which stretch over half the year, but will continue to be separate for problem-based learning for the other half. In the final two years the two streams will be completely integrated.

An immense amount of work on the detail and implementation of this structure, led by Prof Pat Hughes (Dean of Undergraduate Medicine) with support from Soosan Atkins (Deputy Academic Registrar) and Sandra Bailey (MBBS Development Coordinator), lay behind the successful validation of the new MBBS course earlier this year. A Course Director has since been appointed (Prof David Oliveira), and a new Development Coordinator (Carla Cretan).

David Oliveira said: 'This new, integrated course represents a real opportunity for St George's to maintain and enhance its reputation for innovation in medical education.'

For more information on the new course, contact Carla Cretan ([ccretan@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:ccretan@sgul.ac.uk)).



#### November

- Submissions for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) close at the end of the month. The RAE helps decide how £8bn of research funding from 2009-10 will be distributed over the next six years by evaluating the quality of research across all UK higher education institutions.

Each research area submitted will be rated on a scale from 'unclassified' – meaning of below the standard of nationally recognised work – to four-star (of a quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour).

St George's will be making submissions in six broad research areas. These are currently: Cardiovascular Medicine; Infection and Immunology; Hospital-Based Clinical Subjects; Epidemiology and Public Health; Psychiatry and Pre-clinical; and Human Biological Sciences. St George's will also make two further submissions in collaboration with Kingston University: Nursing, and Midwifery and Education.

Assessments will then begin, with results published in December 2008.



#### December

- Research Day takes place on December 5. Professor George Dickson, Director of SouthWest London Academic Networks Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences, is giving an introductory lecture. For more information, contact Dr Deborah Baines by emailing [dbaines@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:dbaines@sgul.ac.uk) or calling extension 0916.



#### January 2008

- The official grand opening of the new halls of residence will take place, and the Vaccine Institute will celebrate its tenth anniversary.

# News

## St George's around the world



### Adelaide

SINCE the inception of the Graduate Entry Programme (GEP) in 2000, a strong partnership has been established with the University of Flinders in Adelaide. This partnership began with the purchase of problem-based learning (PBL) cases from Flinders and a series of visits by faculty members to train St George's staff in PBL facilitation. The link is now very much in both directions with exchange of staff and students – annually around eight students are involved in a three-month exchange. Some joint publications have resulted from this partnership and there is a regular flow of visiting staff in both directions. These links will be strengthened at the Ottawa International Medical Education Conference in Melbourne in 2008.



### Brunei

ST GEORGE'S has used its educational expertise in two long-term curriculum design projects with the Universiti Brunei Darussalam in Brunei, Borneo, in South East Asia. The first of these was developed by Caroline Starkey and Brian Mathews, under the overall leadership of Sean Hilton. Initially developed as a diploma level programme, it was turned into a three-year postgraduate master's degree in Primary Care Education for Brunei GPs. The course was designed, taught and assessed by experts from St George's who flew out for a week or so at a time. After five years the course was handed over to the UBD in toto and was entirely taught by local staff. This initiative directly led to Brunei being established as a regional centre for the MRCGP International – a notable achievement.

The second project began three years ago – the design of a modern, innovative and exciting

three-year Bachelor of Health Science degree preparing students for joining partner medical schools in the UK, Australia and Canada to study clinical medicine and, after three years, gain a medical degree. The St George's team, largely from the Centre for Medical & Healthcare Education (CMHE), is led by its head, Peter McCrorie, and it will therefore come as no surprise that the course is problem-based, skills-oriented and patient-centred. A state-of-the-art purpose-built extension to the university campus is almost complete, although student numbers will need to increase dramatically if all the available space is going to be occupied.

St George's role in this project has been extensive, with around 20 members of staff regularly involved in course design, staff development, assessment, provision of learning resources, course validation and clinical course provision.

Kath Start is now exploring the development of further links with Brunei – this time in nursing, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

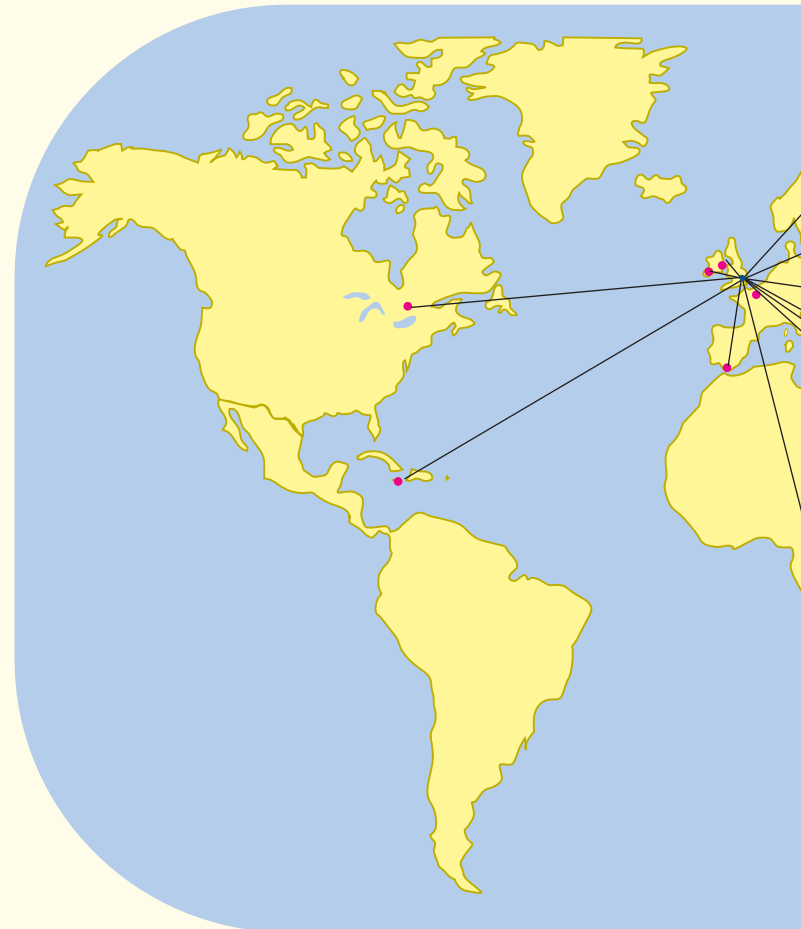
### Limerick

THE University of Limerick has recently been granted permission to run a graduate entry programme in medicine. This is a new venture for Limerick and for Ireland. The GEP programme has been adopted (i.e. purchased) in its entirety by Limerick, along with all its learning resources and a continuing contract for further expertise, advice and staff development. Imitation is the best form of flattery!



### Tokyo

LINKS are being established between the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences at



St George's and a number of universities in Tokyo including the Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU) and Jikei Medical University. This link began with a visit last year from Nobuo Oshima, an occupational therapist from TMU, to explore aspects of interprofessional education, a concept foreign to Japan. This was followed by an invitation to Susan Strong (Nursing) and Peter McCrorie (CMHE) to a conference on interprofessional education in Tokyo and return visits to the UK by a dozen or so faculty members from several Japanese universities. It is hoped to set up both a staff and a student exchange programme, exchange of educational material, some

joint research and some further faculty development.

### Dublin

LESLEY Southgate has led a team to Ireland to carry out a quality assurance of the undergraduate medical course at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland against the WFME (World Federation of Medical Education) standards. Future evaluations are being planned, possibly in the Middle East.

### Ajman

A SHORT-TERM consultancy has been established with the other GMC – Gulf Medical College – in Ajman, one of the states in the

## by Peter McCrorie



United Arab Emirates. The purpose of the consultancy is to assist in the development of an integrated approach to learning medicine, an aspect which received considerable criticism from a recent international course validation. Peter McCrorie is again the lead consultant involved.



### Rome

STAFF at St George's are exploring the possibility of delivering a GEP-style programme in English to medical students in Rome in 'Intelligence City' – a private university campus associated with La Sapienza and Lazio Universities and the Gemelli University Teaching Hospital in Rome. Talks are under way with Mark Brincat

from the University of Malta to evaluate whether or not this could be a real possibility. The concept is known locally as The Italian Job!



### Maastricht

CEES van der Vleuten is the inaugural Visiting Professor in Medical Education, based in the Centre for Medical and Healthcare Education. Cees is Professor of Medical Education in the University of Maastricht in The Netherlands, and an acknowledged world expert in assessment and educational research. His main role is the provision of advice for any staff at St George's wishing to undertake educational research, but his appointment has also led to the

development of a Master's in Health Profession Education, to be jointly delivered by Maastricht, St George's and the University of Manchester.



### St Petersburg

BOTH CMHE and the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences have for several years had strong links with St Petersburg. Chris Bithell leads a three-year Tempus-funded project, involving working with Helsinki and the Pavlov State Medical University in St Petersburg. The purpose of the funding is to create a four-year undergraduate programme and a two-year Master's programme and it will bring together two faculties in the two universities. The project runs from April 2005 to January 2008, and the aim is to develop a written curriculum, train teachers and provide resources for the teaching programmes. The Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences is also involved in a BRIDGE project. This is funded for two years by the British Council and is in the area of nursing and midwifery.

Lesley Southgate has a permanent link with MAPS (Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies) in St Petersburg. Over the last ten years or so, she and others including Peter McCrorie have worked extensively with MAPS staff in areas such as assessment, teaching methods and course design. This work was initially with GPs, but subsequently involved staff in all postgraduate specialties. Current funding is at an end, but new funds are being sought to continue the work. Lesley has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate at St Petersburg for her work there.



### Stockholm, Munich, Heidelberg, Maastricht, Cluj-Napoca, Krakow

TERRY Poulton is leading the development of a trans-European online repository of virtual patients. This large collection of electronic virtual patients from the

above six institutes (plus St George's) will be pooled, adapted to a common technical standard and repurposed for multicultural, multilingual access.



### Europe/Canada

IMEX (International Medical Educator Exchange) is a staff development programme between Europe and Canada aimed at senior medical educators. It involves staff making week-long exchange visits to three of the five participating institutions – Utrecht, Stockholm (Karolinska), London (St George's), Montreal (McGill), Halifax (Dalhousie) – as a group to observe teaching, learning and assessment with a view to comparing and contrasting different approaches which could be brought back to their own institution. Currently Deborah Bowman and Sarah Pettman are St George's participants.



### Denmark/Sweden/ South Africa/Barbados

DR VAL Collington and Kath Start from the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences have strong links with these countries around staff exchange and curriculum development.



### Gibraltar

THE Gibraltar Health Authority selected the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences as the educational provider to support its pre- and post-registration nurse training programmes. The Joint Faculty was selected from a shortlist of three universities following two days of presentations and interviews with a team led by Dr Val Collington and Professor Sean Hilton.

Professor Fiona Ross, Dean of the Joint Faculty, said: 'Our strong record in interprofessional approaches to health and social care training, as well as the development of bespoke training packages for learning in the workplace, will contribute to Gibraltar's modernisation programme in nursing.' ■

## Feature



# No expense spared



Des res: Plasma screens, touch-pad heating and even dishwashers come as standard at Horton Halls

**THE new £15.5 million St George's halls of residence, Horton Halls, named after the recently retired Vice Principal, Roger Horton, are finally swinging their doors open to residents. For 180 first-year students arriving on September 28, a delight will be in store.**

Luxury is undoubtedly the byword. Every bed unit has an en suite bathroom, shipped in as a 'pod' from Prague and dropped into place by crane. Each communal kitchen area is equipped with a dishwasher – no excuses for not doing the washing up – along with two of everything: cookers, hobs, ovens and fridge freezers. And for students who feel the cold, there is a touch-pad heating booster in every bedroom and common room.

The technology to hand is particularly impressive. Each of the

five common rooms – one in each block – is equipped with a 42in plasma TV screen, while individual rooms have TV, satellite and radio aerials, along with phones that operate via the Ethernet (technology designed specifically for local networks). And, for students who don't wish to be confined to their own quarters, there are communal IT rooms.

Interior designers Inspace and architects Hunters & Partners have also pulled out the stops on the eco front. All windows have an 'A' rating for energy efficiency; there is extra fibre in the walls for insulation and the roof is strong enough to support solar panels. Even the finer details haven't been missed, with water-saving spray taps fitted in the bathrooms.

Three of the five vertical blocks will open in September, with the remainder becoming functional in

December. The blocks comprise two or three wings, each with five to six bedrooms plus a shared kitchen.

By the time the final 152 students arrive, the whole project, including demolition of the previous 290 rooms, will have taken just over a year to complete.

As Stewart Jones, St George's project manager, said: 'All the students need to bring is bed linen, clothes and food.'

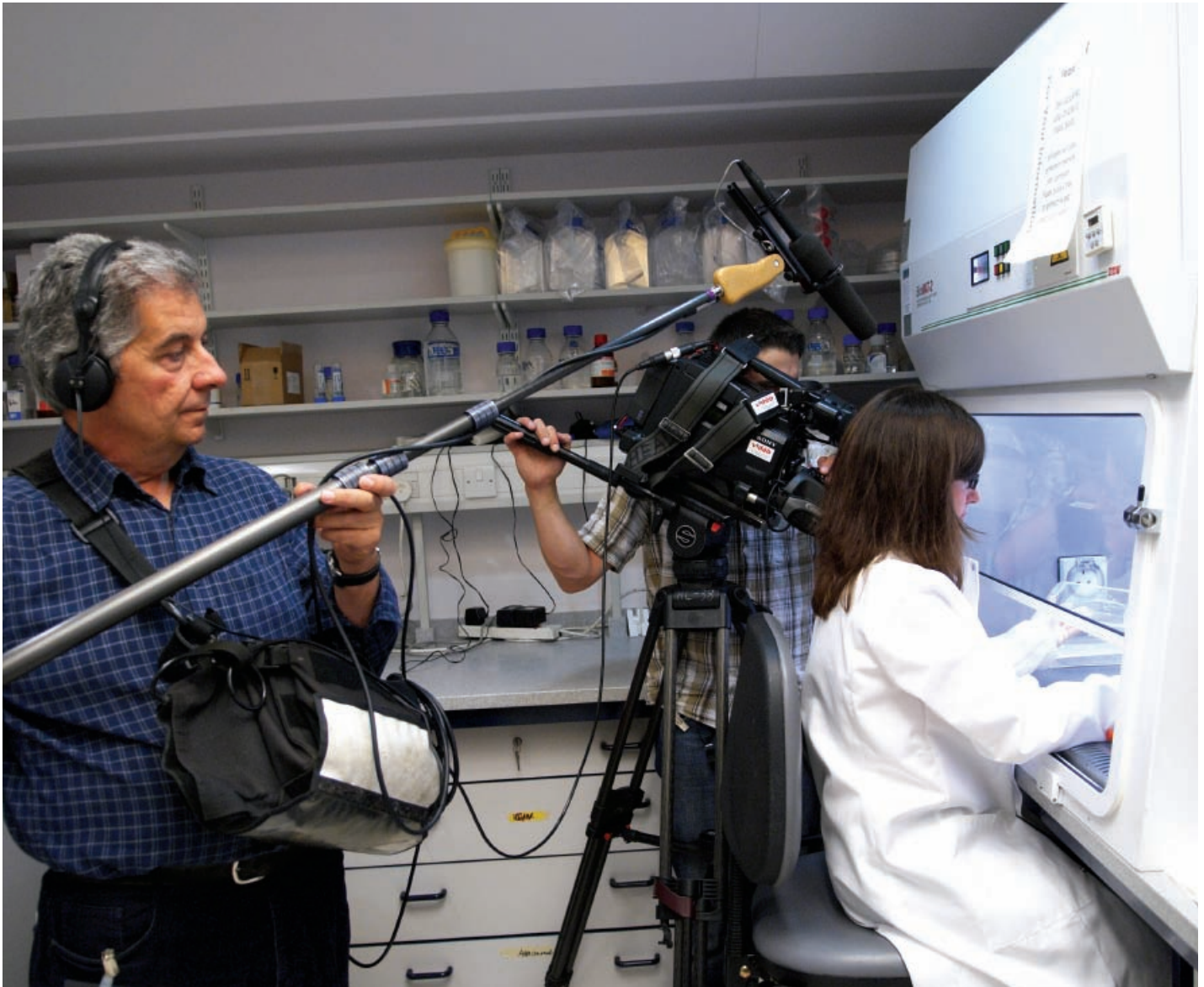
Admittedly this may have always been the case, but there are surely few who have embarked on student life from such comfortable, modern surroundings. ■



My space: Each room has TV, satellite and radio aerials

## Feature

# HIV on the BBC



Lights, action: BBC cameramen film Martha Stefanidou at work on a pioneering method of combating HIV infection

**A UNIQUE project linking the laboratories of St George's to London's African communities is now the subject of a BBC film.**

A TV crew from BBC1's Inside Out show spent three days following St George's scientists Martha Stefanidou and Dr Trish Fletcher, who are researching microbicides – a gel women can use discreetly to protect themselves against the

transmission of HIV. In the film, screened earlier this month, 600,000 viewers saw the pair showing community workers from the UK African Microbicides Working Group around the labs, explaining the science behind the gel development, and hearing how the products might be received in the community.

Dr Fletcher described her involvement with the HIV Science In

Action project as 'motivational'. She said: 'You always believe that what you do in the lab can have an effect on people's lives, but to actually meet them and discover first hand that this is true is fantastic.'

'It actually gave the disease we're working on a face.'

BBC researcher Amelia Vale, who worked closely on the show, said: 'We enjoyed the programme

and feel we have learnt so much from it from the community and scientific perspective.'

The film about the launch of HIV Science In Action can be viewed online at [www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/) until September 27. ■

For more information on the ongoing project, or to get involved, visit our website at [www.sgul.ac.uk](http://www.sgul.ac.uk)

# Feature

## 'I wish we'd known about **Marfan**'

**LIAM Gash was just 22 when he died of a condition no one knew he had. Now his family are raising funds to help researchers at St George's unlock the mysteries of Marfan Syndrome.**

It was a phone call that tore Alan and Jane Gash's world apart. The date was August 9, 2006. On the line from Australia was a doctor at the Royal Free Hospital in Perth.

His message was stark. 'Your son is very ill. He needs you now.'

Liam Gash had everything to live for: great mates, a good job and a close family. He was handsome too, slim, and exceptionally tall – around 6ft 10ins.

The day he was born, proud dad Alan noticed his big hands.

'Perhaps he'll be a goalie,' he told the relatives. Sure enough, young Liam loved football. He played in a Sunday league team and never missed a Sunderland AFC game.

In November 2005, aged 21, Liam said goodbye to his parents and sister Lucy, 19, and set off from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear to see the world. 'Living the dream' was how he described his nine months in Australia. He worked hard, played hard and kept in touch with home.

Nothing could have prepared Liam's parents for that call. And worse was to come.

Not only was Liam gravely ill with an aortic dissection – a tear in the main artery leaving the heart – that needed immediate surgery, but doctors in Australia also suspected a rare condition had caused Liam's problem. Its name was Marfan Syndrome.

Alan and Jane flew to Liam's bedside and spoke to him after surgery. He seemed to be over the worst. But hours later, on August 13, their beloved son was dead.

Two weeks later, an email arrived at the Marfan Trust, a charitable body based at St George's, University of London. Jane, 49, had found the Trust on



So much, so young: A carefree Liam Gash relaxing in the sun. His family had no idea he had Marfan Syndrome

the internet and wrote to tell them her son had died of Marfan – a condition the family had never heard of. Jane said: 'Liam had a

around one in 5,000 people. Sufferers tend to be exceptionally tall with long fingers and hypermobile joints. It can affect

exertion such as sport. But Liam had not been diagnosed, despite a series of health concerns – including a pigeon chest, clawed feet and his enormous height – that could have pointed to Marfan.

As a child he had been seen repeatedly by GPs and specialists. Doctors had said everything was fine. His parents wondered if they were being over-anxious, partly as a result of the cot death of their second son, Joe, when Liam was two.

But combing through Liam's medical records after his death, Alan found references to a Marfan feature on almost every page. There were tests, X-rays and repeated comments about hypermobile joints. By the time he

**'Liam had a true zest for life. We are devastated by his death and we want to do anything we can to raise awareness'**

true zest for life. We are devastated by his death and we want to do anything we can to raise awareness.'

Marfan is an inherited disease of connective tissue found in

the skeleton, eyes and – most seriously – the heart. Undetected, a heart defect can kill, often in young adulthood. There is no cure.

If diagnosed early, sufferers can protect themselves by avoiding

# Feature

was five, Liam was 4ft 5ins tall; at eight, just over 5ft.

Sadly, Liam's story is not uncommon, according to Marfan specialist Dr Anne Child, Reader in Cardiovascular Genetics (CVS division) at St George's. Her work, largely funded by the Marfan Trust, has included discovering the gene for the disease in 1991 through international collaboration.

At the Sonalee laboratory at St George's, blood samples are collected for use in research projects aimed at discovering the cause of, and better treatment for, Marfan.

Work has taken place on pregnancy-associated risks, family psychosocial issues, and dental and rheumatological problems. There is also a comprehensive study of ageing problems in Marfan patients over 50, who are surviving longer as a result of St George's successful medical and surgical management programme.

Dr Child said: 'We hear too many heartbreaking stories like this. Especially when a youngster is the first one in the family affected by this disease, the diagnosis may be missed. In 75 per cent of cases, the condition is inherited directly from a parent, making it easier to recognise. We are working with the families to raise awareness so that every tall child has an echocardiogram, especially important for tall young athletes. The condition is now treatable in all its aspects, but we are fundraising for more research to find a cure.'

Alan, 50, has contacted the medics who treated Liam to ask: "Did you not consider Marfan?" But it seems no one did. Alan says he is not angry, nor looking for legal retribution. He believes Liam's doctors were caring and conscientious. But he adds: 'It's massively frustrating. I'm absolutely confident that somebody, somewhere, must have thought: That kid's got Marfan.'

The whole family has been tested. Lucy, now 20, is clear, as is Alan. Jane awaits the result of final



Passion for sport: Tall young athletes like Liam should be tested routinely for Marfan, says Dr Anne Child

tests. Now they want to make others aware of Marfan to prevent other tragedies.

They are also fundraising for research. Cash from a sponsored walk has already gone to the

Marfan Trust, with a benefit evening taking place this month.

No fundraising or research can help Liam now. His ashes lie scattered on the pitch at his beloved Sunderland AFC.

Alan said: 'He's not going to come back. But somebody with Marfan will benefit, so someone else won't have to go through this.'

[www.marfantrust.org](http://www.marfantrust.org)

# Notices

## Roadshow

SouthWest London Academic Network Roadshows



Cherie Woolmer

**THE SouthWest London Academic Network is holding a range of lunchtime roadshow events across Kingston, Royal Holloway and St George's in October. These events will give staff at the three sites an opportunity to hear more about the research and teaching opportunities within the three institutes – of Biomedical and Life Sciences, of Leadership and Management, and the Interprofessional Institute (Health and Social Care) – which form part of the tripartite alliance.**

Cherie Woolmer, Strategic Partnership Project Manager, says: 'We have spent the summer term finalising the detailed operating plan for the alliance over the next three years. The three institutes have identified a variety of new programmes and research opportunities that they will be wishing to promote to staff during

the academic year. These include seed funding for research collaborations, joint PhD studentships, and new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in a variety of subject areas.

In addition to the planning process, we have begun detailed work on academic regulations and learning technologies to support students and staff who will be working across the three institutions.'

The roadshows will give staff an opportunity to meet staff involved with the three institutes as well as senior colleagues. People from different disciplines may well find they have research and teaching interests that span the institutes and so will benefit from having the chance to explore ideas.

Please send an email to swanenquiries@kingston.ac.uk to register to attend. For more information, contact Cherie Woolmer on 0208 725 0248 .

\* Roadshow diary dates: October 15, St George's, Board Rooms 2 and 3, noon-3pm; October 17, Kingston University, Kingston Hill, BS374, noon-3pm; October 31, Royal Holloway, Windsor Auditorium, noon-3pm; November 14, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, noon-3pm.

### American date for cardiac research findings

**ABSTRACTS presented by Professor Karski's Cardiac and Vascular team have been selected for inclusion at several forthcoming congresses. The research, conducted partly in conjunction with the Renal Unit and Hammersmith Hospital, has produced findings likely to have implications for the treatment of coronary heart disease.**

Research into the high rate of death from cardiovascular disease among sufferers of chronic kidney disease has proved a link between inflammation, a dysfunctional endothelium layer – cells lining the interior of blood vessels – and hardening of the arteries (atherosclerosis). This discovery has

been selected for representation at the prestigious American Association of Nephrology's research conference in San Francisco in October.

The team also looked at why patients with Lupus, an autoimmune or 'self-allergy' disease, were particularly susceptible to heart disease. They found sufferers had a higher than average number of specific T-cells, known as CD4+CD28 lymphocytes, and that these cells correlated with endothelial dysfunction and early atherosclerosis. The third piece of research aimed to establish whether inflammation might also result in coronary microvascular dysfunction, an early marker for atherosclerosis.

## Faculty News

### Heritage2Health – Tooting to the Tor!



Access all areas: Heritage2Health participants at Stourhead in Wiltshire

**AT THE end of August, medical, nursing and physiotherapy students from St George's and Kingston University took part in a pilot event for Heritage2Health. This involved a group of adults and children of mixed abilities and ages climbing Glastonbury Tor.**

Heritage2Health was established to promote wellbeing in members of the community who are usually unable to enjoy heritage sites, either through lack of opportunity or mobility, due to physical, mental and/or learning disabilities.

The idea is for individuals from across the community including heritage, health, social, creative and business sectors to work together to gain access to and appreciate areas of historic and natural beauty.

In addition to climbing the Tor, the group also visited Chalice Well for the Full Moon Party, took a tour round Stourhead House and gardens, and had optional visits to Stonehenge and Wells.

The Faculty's Enterprise Team, led by Theresa Nash, worked closely with the National Trust and English Heritage to organise the event and more than 50 people took part over the three days. All felt that the trip was a success and

everybody worked hard to support each other. One participant, Monica, who helped an elderly lady to get to the top of the Tor, said: 'She was just as concerned about me as I was about her!'

'She kept asking me if I was all right and managing, rather than the other way round.'

Participants also commented on the friendly family-like atmosphere of the trip which gave people the chance to socialise with people of all ages who they wouldn't normally meet on a day-to-day basis.

The interactions between participants enabled each person to experience how barriers can be addressed, to ensure genuine involvement and to foster more positive views of health professionals and service users.

It is hoped that future trips can be run which will give opportunities for students to learn key skills in order to build effective interprofessional relationships between health and social care providers and together with the support of heritage organisations, improve heritage access for all.

For further details of Heritage2Health please email tnash@hscs.sgu.ac.uk

# Directory

## Grants

### The Wellcome Trust

A reappraisal of mycobacterial chaperonin 60 structure and function and its role in tuberculosis  
Prof Anthony RM Coates – **£254,310**

Adjunctive IFN for HIV associated cryptococcal meningitis: effect on local and systemic immune responses and clearance of infection  
Prof George E Griffin – **£293,309**

Human GM3 synthase deficiency: a new severe epilepsy syndrome  
Dr Andrew Crosby – **£228,915**

Development Programme for ADI 1.2  
Dr Clive Robinson – **£590,706**

Student Elective Prizes  
Professor Michael Farthing – **£2,000**

What are the consequences for the immune system of persistent antigen stimulation by cytomegalovirus?  
Dr Derek Macallan – **£93,700**

Value In People 2007/08  
Prof Michael Farthing – **£200,000**

Regulation of hnRNP K and 4E-BP1 in resp  
Dr Abdel Moumen – **£226,826**

### Cancer Research UK

Lymphatic function and metastatic potential in human melanoma in vivo  
Prof Peter Mortimer – **£67,406**

The effect of hydrocortisone on desire to smoke and tobacco withdrawal symptoms  
Michael H Ussher – **£34,885**

### The Royal Society

Travel Award  
Ms Kirstie Opstad – **£535**

Conference Grant for Dr Shuk Yeung – **£625**

### The Hypertension Trust

Does a modest salt reduction affect blood pressure and target organ disease in individuals with impaired glucose tolerance and diet controlled type 2 diabetes?  
Dr Rebecca Suckling – **£59,448**

### The Nuffield Foundation

Effect of calmodulin/calmodulin-dependent enzymes on endothelin-activated store-operated Ca<sup>2+</sup>-permeable cation channels in coronary artery myocytes  
Dr Anthony Albert – **£1,440**

### Royal College of Surgeons

RCS Research Fellowship  
Dr Marios C Papadopoulos – **£54,154**

### Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Open Scheme Application: Pathology Museum, SGUL  
Dr Jade Wei Mun Chow – **£5,000**

### The Physiological Society

Vacation Studentship  
Dr Katalin Torok – **£1,200**

### The Birth Defects Foundation

An investigation of the behavioural phenotype of Noonan Syndrome  
Professor Jeremy Turk – **£3,000**

### Purine Metabolic Patients' Association

Carrier erythrocyte encapsulated thymidi  
Dr Bridget Bax – **£7,000**

### Pathological Research Fund –

Kinetics of rRNA processing in Diamond B  
Miss Sophie Clara Ball – **£3,000**

TGF-beta signalling in bone-role of Smad  
Dr Jade Wei Mun Chow – **£4,500**

Pilot study into the mechanism of action  
Prof Anthony RM Coates – **£3,600**

Dr Frances Gibson – **£3,000**

Analysis of Protein changes in Batten D  
Dr Michael John Warburton – **£2,100**

### Dunhill Medical Trust

Design and evaluation of two recombinant immune-complex based vaccine candidates against tuberculosis  
Dr Rajko Reljic - **£102,608**

### NHS R&D Health Technology Assessment

Asymptomatic Carotid Surgery Trial-2: International randomised trial of two stroke prevention procedures, carotid endarterectomy vs carotid artery

stenting, in 5,000 patients with asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis needing procedural intervention  
Miss Alison Wynne Halliday – **£1,242,425**

### National Institute for Health Research

Reviews of new treatments for asthma & COPD  
Dr Christopher J Cates – **£267,425**

### European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases/Wyeth

Fellowship award  
Dr M Sharland – **£54,400**

### National Institutes of Health USA

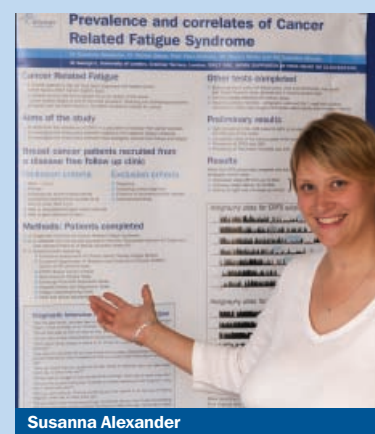
Topical Inflammatory Modulatory Strategies to Prevent HIV Transmission  
Prof Robin Shattock – **£11,511**

### National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia)

A randomised control trial of non specific clinical management versus CBT in chronic anorexia nervosa  
Prof J Hubert Lacey – **£215,931**

## Prizes

CONGRATULATIONS to Susanna Alexander, Clinical Research Fellow in Medical Oncology, whose research into breast cancer fatigue has won several awards. She presented her preliminary results at the EAPC (European Association of Palliative Care) congress in Hungary in June and was awarded third best poster prize. One month later, her research, funded by Cancer Research UK, won best poster prize at the ESMO (European Society of Medical Oncology) conference in Lugano, Switzerland. A big thank you goes to St George's Graphics Department, designers of the award-winning posters!



Susanna Alexander

## Awards

### Yvonne Erasmus (PhD): August 31 2007

Racial (Re) classification during apartheid South Africa: Regulations, experiences and the meaning(s) of 'race'

### David Farwell (MD): January 31 2007

Modern concepts in the diagnosis and management of syncope

### Jacqueline Inwald (PhD): August 31 2007

Investigation into the molecular basis of virulence in GB M.bovis isolates

### Arani Nitkunan (PhD): August 31 2007

The use of quantitative magnetic resonance imaging techniques and neuropsychological tests to study cerebral small vessel disease

### Simon Outram (PhD): 31 July 2007

The use of race and ethnicity in genetics and related biomedical research

### Michael Perkin (PhD): July 31 2007

Relationships between the farming environment and atopy in children

### Christodoulos Pipinikas (PhD): July 31 2007

Measurement of multi-marker gene expression levels in prostate cancer by quantitative RT-PCR – implications for the early diagnosis and accurate staging of disease

# Appointments

DR KATHARINE Boursicot has been appointed Reader in Medical Education and Deputy Head of the Centre for Medical and Healthcare Education, St George's, University of London. Having had an earlier career as an obstetrician and gynaecologist, she is well qualified to lead on assessment for the undergraduate medical course and on medical education research. She comes from another medical school (Barts and the London, Queen Mary, University of London) where she was Head of Assessment.

As well as the 'day' job, Dr Boursicot enjoys a number of other, related roles. She is Subject Specialist Advisor for the HEA Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine, and an adviser on assessment to the GMC and several Royal Medical Colleges. She also educates medical professionals from developing countries on behalf of the WHO.

## Staff Survey

### Making your views count

**THE FIRST St George's Staff Survey will be launched in October. The survey is an opportunity for all staff to provide their views on the factors that influence St George's ability to be a first-class employer. Information and suggestions for improvements gained from the survey will identify priority areas for development, for example in the areas of communication, leadership, employee benefits and career development. The results, recommendations and action plans arising from the survey will be posted on the SGUL website.**

The survey will cover 12 key areas including pay and conditions, staff satisfaction, staff involvement and St George's culture and values. The feedback provided will provide a better understanding of factors that influence staff morale and job satisfaction.

Capita's People Management Survey Unit has been appointed to help design and to run the survey. The Survey Unit has specific higher education sector experience and will work with a range of staff through focus and pilot groups to ensure that their methodologies are in line with current best practice in academic research. Capita's experience will

also provide us with opportunities to compare ourselves with other relevant organisations including the faculties of medicine at larger universities.

The survey will be conducted online. An email containing a unique user name and password will be sent by Capita to each member of staff. In accordance with the Data Protection Act, all responses will be treated by Capita in the strictest confidence and no one from St George's will see individual responses.

Staff are encouraged to complete the survey online but will also have the option to complete and return a hard copy. Members of staff who do not have regular access to email will be sent a paper-based copy.

The survey is expected to take approximately 25 minutes to complete and opportunity will be provided to do this during working hours.

For every survey questionnaire completed, St George's will donate £2 to a registered charity. All staff who complete the survey will have the opportunity to enter a prize draw.

Please take the time to complete the Staff Survey. If you have any comments, questions or concerns please contact Marina Malorgio in Human Resources at 020 8725 5128 or email [mmalorgi@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:mmalorgi@sgul.ac.uk)



Derek Myer

LECTURER in Biomedical Informatics Derek Meyer has been elected as a member of the Board of the NHS Health Informatics Faculty.

The Faculty's main aim is to allow members to pool their knowledge on healthcare informatics, learning and development, applied research and professional services. Through this, its 360 members can acquire new skills and knowledge and have access to specialists and academics,

sharing the latest developments in health informatics.

As a board member, Derek will be involved in setting out the aims of the Faculty and creating a programme of events for its members.

#### Administration

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Mr S Barbarino   | Accounts Payable Administrator           |
| Ms C Cretan      | MBBS Development Co-ordinator.           |
| Miss D A Frusher | Postgraduate Studies Administrator       |
| Dr D Rayner,     | Project Head Common Learning Environment |
| Mr I Spires      | Facilities Manager                       |
| Ms J Strachan    | Academic Registrar                       |
| Ms A Wright      | Technology Transfer Officer              |

#### Alumni, Development and Communications

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Miss Sabine Cumberbatch | Marketing and Events Assistant |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|

#### Basic Medical Sciences

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Miss J M Farmer | Postdoctoral Research Associate |
| Dr J D Moffatt  | Senior Lecturer/Lecturer        |

#### Cardiac & Vascular Sciences

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Dr V Akhras      | Clinical Research Fellow   |
| Dr E R Behr      | Senior Lecturer/Consultant |
| Miss R L Brookes | Research Psychologist      |
| Ms L Collins     | Research Technician        |
| Miss E Dwomoh    | Administrative Assistant   |
| Mr G Gulli       | Clinical Research Fellow   |
| Dr K J Phekoo    | Project Manager            |
| Miss H Shah      | Laboratory Technician      |

#### Cellular & Molecular Medicine

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Mr G Linkson      | Laboratory Assistant                           |
| Dr W M Liu        | Research Assistant                             |
| Dr E G McGowan    | Research Assistant                             |
| Miss S M McKernan | Research Assistant (Work Experience Programme) |
| Miss L Stone      | Clinical Support Worker                        |
| Dr S Thomson      | Clinical Research Fellow                       |
| Miss G Van Roey   | Research Technician                            |
| Dr J Vera         | Clinical Research Fellow                       |

#### Clinical Developmental Sciences

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Miss S Mukherjee | Clinical Lecturer        |
| Dr N Spyridis    | Clinical Research Fellow |

#### Community Health Sciences

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Miss A R Aghaizu  | Research Assistant             |
| Miss J Belbin     | Fieldwork Co-ordinator         |
| Miss D Joysurry   | Biomedical Technician          |
| Miss A Kiedzik    | Biomedical Technician          |
| Dr P Musonda      | Research Statistician          |
| Miss M H Prescott | Biomedical Technician          |
| Mr S A Press      | Assistant Courseware Developer |

#### Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Ms C Coleman | Research Assistant |
|--------------|--------------------|

#### Information Services

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Miss B K Cryer  | Information Assistant |
| Miss K L Lovell | Journals Librarian    |
| Miss L E W Wong | Information Assistant |

#### Medical & Healthcare Education

|                |                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Dr K Boursicot | Deputy Head of Centre              |
| Miss T Patel   | Industrial Placement Student       |
| Dr D K Sokol   | Lecturer in Medical Ethics and Law |

#### Mental Health Sciences

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs K A Alford | Administrative Assistant |
|----------------|--------------------------|

# Events

## The 9th Annual Varma Lecture

23/10/2007, 5pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre

Reception to follow

Safe Maternity Services

**Professor Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology**

Contact: Chris Conneely on ext 2286

## Molecular and Metabolic Signalling Centre, Basic Medical Sciences Research Seminar

31/10/07, 1pm, Charles Pasternak Seminar Room, Level 2 Jenner G1

The role of SUMO modification in regulating gene expression. Professor R Hay, Sir James Black Centre College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee.

Host: Dr Abdel Mouden

## Medical & Biomedical Management Skills Course

07/11/2007, 12:45 pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre

Whether your ambition is to run your own general practice, manage a ward or become a scientific officer the need to understand how a business runs is clear. If you're interested in gaining business skills and meeting like-minded people, sign up for the Medical & Biomedical Management course right now.

Contact Janice Barrett for more information

## The Annual Jenner Lecture

12/11/07, 5pm, Michael Heron Lecture Theatre

Reception to follow

Towards an HIV Vaccine: Lessons from Africa

**Professor Sarah Rowland-Jones, Director of Research, MRC Laboratories, The Gambia**

Contact: Chris Conneely on ext 2286

## BBSRC IP Workshop 2. The Commercial Route:

A guided tour to funding your research

21/11/07, 3pm-5.30pm, Room TBC

The Enterprise Centre and BBSRC are hosting their second meeting aimed at increasing Intellectual Property (IP) awareness and the value of translating research into products. This meeting will focus on attaining funding at various stages of development and IP related issues.

Contact Jo Lawton for more information

# Relative values on healthcare



Distinguished pair: Arthur and Richard Smith

**ST GEORGE'S, University of London played host to an evening jokingly entitled 'Live, Ugly and Dangerous' in which brothers Arthur and Richard Smith exchanged their views on healthcare in front of an audience of SGUL and hospital colleagues.**

Professor Richard Smith is CEO of UnitedHealth Europe but is perhaps best known to us as a member of the SGUL Council, whilst his brother Arthur is a well-known writer and comedian, famed as one of BBC's 'Grumpy Old Men'.

They were invited to speak at the Jenner Society, an informal social

network set up to foster stronger links between hospital and school staff. Professor John Axford, Director of the Sir Joseph Hotung Centre for Musculoskeletal Diseases, offered a lively introduction to the brothers who then joined the assembled guests for a reception in the Hunter Wing Boardrooms.

If you would like to be kept informed of future Jenner Society meetings or you have any suggestions for potential speakers, please contact Chris Conneely, Development Manager, with your details

Email: [c.conneely@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:c.conneely@sgul.ac.uk) or call extension 2286.

## Internal courses

**September 25** Writing up your Research for Publication in Refereed Journals

**September 25 and October 31** Handling Difficult Conversations

**September 27** Handling conflict

**October 5** Welcome Seminar for New Staff

**October 9** Techniques for interview

**October 10** Personal Review Training for Reviewees

**October 11** Effective Writing Skills

**October 16** Personal Review Training for Reviewers

**October 17** Effective Recruitment & Selection

For more details, contact Vicci Aquillina ([staffdev@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:staffdev@sgul.ac.uk))

## NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKSHOPS

**October 18 and November 20**, 9.30am and 1.30pm

Stress Awareness for All Staff

This three-hour session is for all members of SGUL staff and will include defining health and stress, assessing values and beliefs, and techniques for proactively managing health and stress.

**November 6 and December 7**, 9.30am-4.30pm, Work-Related Stress Management for Line Managers

This day session is specifically for staff with people management responsibilities. It will include current legislation regarding stress at work, SGUL's stress management policy, the HSE stress management standards, managing stress in the workplace and carrying out risk assessments.

For further information on any of these sessions and to book please visit <https://portal.sgul.ac.uk/organisation/sgul/cs/hr/staff-development/>

