



**ANNUAL
REVIEW
09**

Contents

- 2 Message from the Chair of Council for St George's** Baroness Murphy
- 4 Message from the Principal** Professor Peter Kopelman
- 6 The Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences** Shaping the future workforce
- 8 South West London Academic Health and Social Care Network**
New network to address health and social care inequalities
- 10 Future St George's** Building sustainable excellence
- 11 Fighting infection** Professor George Griffin
- 12 Promoting equal access to medical and healthcare education**
- 13 Lord Mayor's Volunteer of the Year** Rosie Spooner
- 14 Transforming the St George's environment**
- 16 An illustrious history**
- 18 General Medical Council reviewers find plenty to admire at St George's**
- 19 Dr Patricia Hamilton awarded CBE**
- 20 At the cutting edge of e-learning innovations**
- 22 Stepping Out** improving care for stroke survivors
- 23 Joint Faculty lecturer becomes UK's first learning disabilities consultant nurse**
- 24 Focus on research**
- 26 St George's researchers develop a new HIV microbicide and a way to mass produce it**
- 27 Taking forward a new approach to preventing allergies**
- 28 The professor who's still saving lives at 90**
- 29 Exceptional impact on women and baby care earns Professor Arulkumaran the highest accolade**
- 30 A student perspective** David Rawaf, Students' Union President
- 32 Alumni & Development**
- 34 Vital statistics**
- 36 Who's who at St George's**

Message from the Chair of Council for St George's

Last year was undoubtedly a difficult one for St George's but it is a cause for celebration that we emerged with improved self-knowledge about our strengths and weaknesses and a very clear direction for the future.

As I said last year, mergers are never easy and after many months of exploratory work with Royal Holloway, University of London, our Council, with the strong approbation of staff and students, decided not to merge with Royal Holloway. Instead we decided to strengthen our existing partnerships, through the South West London Academic Health and Social Care Network, the South West London Academic Network (SWan) alliance with Kingston University and Royal Holloway, and with other health partners south of the river.

Before St George's began merger talks, we had already begun our internal transformation and restructuring project, Building Sustainable Excellence, with the objective of ensuring we can enhance our academic quality whilst remaining a sustainable institution in the financially challenging times ahead. This initiative will improve our competitiveness, allow us to focus on our strengths, and ally ourselves closely with local NHS Trusts' objectives.

We have also continued our strong commitment to the national widening participation strategy I wrote about last year. This helps to promote higher education opportunities to people from less affluent backgrounds to aid social mobility and has been praised nationally by ministers on a

number of occasions for its success. The University is looking good too. The new permanent exhibition of the famous surgeon, and St George's alumnus, John Hunter adds interest to the foyer and reminds us of our proud heritage. A number of refurbishment projects have been completed too, making SGUL an even nicer environment to work in.

We've won many accolades this year. I particularly want to mention the success of our e-learning team in winning the Times Higher Education (THE) Outstanding ICT Initiative of the Year 2009 for the pioneering project that trains paramedics in the virtual world of Second Life. The project, launched in October 2008, helps to train paramedic students using problem-based learning (PBL) in Second Life. The initiative was judged on its demonstration of an 'innovative, strategic and potentially far-reaching use of ICT in support of the goals of that institution'. Key criteria were innovation, institutional impact and implications for the HE sector.

I must also mention the truly remarkable Professor Denny Mitchison, still a very active researcher at 90 years old who has been a major contributor to developing effective treatments for TB for 60 years! Congratulations too to Professor Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, renowned for his work advancing women's health and maternity care, who was honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2009 with a Knights Bachelor for services to medicine. And to Dr Patricia Hamilton, senior lecturer in neonatal paediatrics at St George's, who was awarded a CBE for services to medicine in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2009. Dr Hamilton adds this latest honour to a distinguished career that includes her appointment as Director of Medical Education for England, a post she took up in April 2009.

We are also proud of Professor George Griffin, Professor of Infectious Diseases at St George's who chairs the government's advisory committee on dangerous pathogens, and who was asked to lead an independent review of a large E.coli outbreak Surrey, that was high up on the national news agenda during summer 2009. He will consider how the outbreak was handled and what lessons can be learnt.

And finally I want to mention our amazing MBBS student Rosie Spooner, who was awarded the Lord Mayor's Dragon Award for Volunteer of the Year 2009. This recognised her exceptional commitment to volunteering, her engagement with the local community, and her support of disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

The St George's research base will always be crucial for driving forwards the excellence of our academic environment. This year we have had some major successes and, in fact, beat our own targets for research income, through the determination of some of our research stars. In a very competitive year for national and international research funds this is encouraging for the future.

Elaine Murphy

Baroness Elaine Murphy
Chair of Council
St George's, University of London





Message from the Principal

Professor Peter Kopelman reflects on the challenges and changes of the past 12 months and looks to the future as St George's seeks to strengthen its position as a specialised, independent institution delivering world class research and education.

The most important news from a challenging year for St George's was our Council's decision not to pursue a merger with Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL). We will now continue as a strong, independent college within the University of London.

The decision followed a detailed consideration of the business case and a wide ranging discussion around the implementation of the proposed merger.

Much has happened nationally since the original Council decision, in September 2008, to progress a possible merger with RHUL, most particularly the serious economic downturn and the anticipated cuts to public sector funding. This is inevitably leading to significant restructuring and reshaping across the entire public sector. Nevertheless, a merger must be one of partnership with an agreement for a transformation across both university campuses. Unfortunately, the conditions expressed by the RHUL Council around merging did not provide the SGUL Council with sufficient confidence to progress the partnership to a merged institution.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with RHUL that has brought many benefits to our students and partners. I am confident that we can continue to achieve our mutual goals and work together as strong independent colleges.

The decision not to merge has significant consequences for St George's. We have not forgotten the conclusions of last year's strategic options review that highlighted the risks if SGUL remains a small, independent institution without strong collaborative links to disciplines other than medicine. The national economy heightens such concerns and underlines the importance of our putting into place realistic and strategic plans. Survival alone is not acceptable – we need to plan to strengthen and grow our position in London, nationally and internationally.

The strategic planning for SGUL pre-merger had resulted in the Building Sustainable Excellence report, which recommended divisional restructuring to

interface more closely with our NHS partners, establishment of research centres, further development of the personal review system, and a commitment to modernising Jenner wing. The objective is to make SGUL fit for purpose for the challenging times ahead, and financially sustainable.

An important part of this transforming strategy is redefining our identity, taking account of our combined strengths with the joint Faculty and our partnerships in south west London. We will promote the excellence of our teaching across health disciplines and the associated learning environment. We shall invest in research in distinctive areas that have strong translational and applied clinical relevance. There will be hard decisions ahead, informed by both quality and reputation. SGUL will need to achieve, rather than aspire to, world class status, and ensure that all of our activities are affordable and attract new sources of income.

Building Sustainable Excellence has enabled us to consolidate and strengthen our position with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and we intend make the most of our co-location and joint interests.

Our strategy is helped by the close alliance with Kingston University and with RHUL as part of South West London Academic Network (SWan). The multi-disciplinary nature of SGUL's joint Faculty education programmes and research is a genuine strength in London. There has been additional gain from the development of the SW London Academic Health and Social Care Network (AHSN) that is leading to closer collaboration with local NHS and social care partners. The network aims to improve patient

care across the boundaries of health and social care, and enhance training for all health and social care professionals. Service and training will be informed by applied research across the sector. We have utilised the momentum created by the AHSN to successfully apply to the Department of Health, in collaboration with King's Health Partners, for a South London Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC).

What makes SGUL different? We have cause to celebrate many successes in 2009. Our research grants and contracts income for the year increased to £20m with major grants from The Wellcome Trust, European Union, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Medical Research Council.

Our medical undergraduate programmes have been commended by the General Medical Council (GMC) following a detailed review as part of their Quality Assessment of Basic Medical Education (QABME). I encourage anyone who is interested in medical education to visit the GMC website to compare the favourable SGUL report to

“ We shall invest in research in distinctive areas that have strong translational and applied clinical relevance. ”

those of other London Medical schools.

Terry Poulton and his team from the Centre for Medical Education deservedly won the 2009 Times Higher Education ICT Initiative of the Year for the development of their Second Life paramedic training tool. This is truly a laudable distinction given the meritocracy of the award and the smallness of SGUL compared to the strength of the competing universities. Elsewhere on the same evening, Rosie Spooner,

one of our medical students, received the Lord Mayor's Dragon Award for Student Volunteer of the Year. Well done to Rosie and to all of our students who are so engaged with local communities – this is very special to SGUL and important to our strategy of being a civic university.

The Secretary of State for Innovation and Skills, Lord Mandelson, has called for universities to look beyond A Levels to identify the potential of all those who should benefit from a university education. And ministers hailed the adjusted criteria scheme at St George's as an example of how this can be done. The strength of SGUL in this important area has been additionally recognised by a number of awards received by Kenton Lewis and the widening participation team.

I close by commending the many successes of our joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences. These include the prestigious commission from the Royal Marsden Hospital to train their nurses, the award by NIHR of a Masters programme to develop academic careers in nursing and allied health professions, and the Stepping Out programme for stroke recovery that has won national and international acclaim.

It has been a testing 12 months and we anticipate that the challenges facing all universities will certainly not diminish in 2010. I am very grateful to

everyone - staff, students and business partners - for their continuing commitment and enthusiastic loyalty to St George's.



Peter Kopelman
Principal
St George's, University of London



The Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Shaping the future workforce

As a leading provider of health and social care education, the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, jointly run by St George's and Kingston University, is proud to be playing a pivotal role in shaping the future workforce for London.

Our programmes depend for their success on having positive partnerships and working relationships with employers in the sector. At the heart of this is the shared approach to providing students with high-quality and supportive placements, where they can learn about the challenges of contemporary practice and develop interpersonal and clinical skills necessary for good care. By valuing the individual student and supporting their learning needs, we believe we can help inspire them to contribute to a high-quality service for people in both health and social services in London.

This last year has been very successful. Our programmes have performed well in terms of quality ratings, for example, radiography is top in London and our social work courses are leading in London and Surrey. We continue to be a popular choice for students

who enjoy the variety of opportunities offered by learning on a busy clinical site in Tooting, but also being part of a large, successful and multi-faculty university of Kingston.

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008 outcome for nursing and midwifery was excellent, putting us in the top ten universities nationally for the proportion of international (3*) and world class (4*) research. Also in the last year we have secured two prestigious contracts through external competition. We have been selected by The Royal Marsden Hospital School of Nursing and Rehabilitation to provide validation and quality assurance services for their cancer programmes for nurses and allied health professionals. Secondly, we are the only university in London to have been awarded a National Institute of Health Research grant to run a MRes Clinical Practice. This gives us three years of funding to provide a full-time sponsored programme with fees and salary replacement for a cohort of 10 clinical staff. It is part of an ambitious and innovative government programme of modernising clinical and academic careers.

the Medical Research Council in The Gambia as well as a consortium of universities in Japan. As a result of our reputation in workforce and primary care nursing research we have been commissioned to evaluate community nursing services in Hong Kong. This work will take place in 2010 and make recommendations about service models and career pathways in Hong Kong.

For more information please visit our website www.healthcare.ac.uk.

Professor Fiona Ross
Dean
Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

We continue to be a popular choice for students who enjoy the variety of opportunities offered by learning on a busy clinical site in Tooting, but also being part of a large, successful and multi-faculty university at Kingston

Internationally, the Faculty is working with a number of organisations to promote cross-cultural benefits from sharing educational and professional experiences. Partners include the Gibraltar Health Authority, the Royal College of Midwives in Macedonia, and



 The AHSN builds upon existing relationships to improve health by adopting best practice to tackle long standing problems and more effectively connect research to practice. 

South West London Academic Health and Social Care Network

New network to address health and social care inequalities

St George's, University of London is a member of a new, pioneering network of organisations, spanning health, social care and higher education. Its mission is to improve existing high-quality patient care through better trained clinicians and faster translation and adoption of research and innovation.

The South West London Academic Health and Social Care Network (AHSN) is a partnership of key health and social care organisations across south west London. Its strategic objective is to deliver real and measurable positive health and social care change, especially in disadvantaged communities.

Partner members include NHS Wandsworth, St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, Kingston University, SW London and St George's Mental Health Trust, as well as children's and social care services in each of the six local boroughs.

The AHSN builds upon existing relationships to improve health by adopting best practice to tackle long standing problems and more effectively connect research to practice. It is envisioned that this will form a virtuous circle where the latest research is developed

into new treatments that are then built into what students learn. This, in turn, is disseminated across south west London through training and education programmes for both new learners and experienced practitioners.

By making the benefits of research more easily understood, the AHSN also hopes to encourage greater participation in clinical trials across south west London.

The AHSN has consulted extensively with its potential membership to identify six strategic themes around which the network will work for the first three years. Two categories of themes have been identified:

- **Specific** - Stroke, Early Years and Infection
- **General** - Health and Social Care Boundaries, Recovery and Implementing New Patterns of Care

Work relating to these themes, including major research projects and smaller locally driven innovations, will be used to drive forward the AHSN agenda. Individuals, groups, professional groups, or

organisational areas of interest and priority may fit into several different themes.

An early success for the AHSN has been the award, with King's Health Partners, of a Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC) to cover south London. This is one of 17 HIECs that have been announced throughout the UK. Their purpose is to promote innovation, quality and productivity in the NHS through the training and education of healthcare staff, and to share best practice.

The South London HIEC will enable AHSN members to engage with different training providers to align training pathways with clinical pathways of care; spread innovative practices, such as the use of simulation centres and blended learning utilising; and to develop teaching technologies such as e-learning.

The network was formally launched in October 2009 by NHS London Chief Executive Ruth Carnell and Ian Winter, Deputy Regional Director Social Care for London.

Future St George's Building sustainable excellence

St George's is making changes to assure a strong, sustainable and prosperous future as an independent institution.

The Future St George's programme is redefining St George's to ensure that it is prepared not just to survive, but to prosper, amidst the challenging external factors that have largely resulted from an economic downturn.

This transformational strategy aims to cement SGUL's position as a distinctive, independent institution delivering excellent educational programmes to future and current doctors and healthcare professionals, whilst conducting high-quality research in specialist areas. The strategy will also assure that activities are affordable and able to attract new sources of income. The Future St George's programme aims to:

- Position SGUL as a strong, independent, financially sustainable institution on the Tooting campus
- Reinvigorate a distinctive, focused, scientific and clinical research portfolio whilst maintaining an excellent reputation for teaching and learning
- Enable St George's to continue to build on its strength in collaborations and partnership ventures. As well as to take full advantage of teaching, learning, research and enterprise opportunities on a regional, national and international level

The first phase of Future St George's refocused teaching and research within a

new divisional structure that interfaces more closely with the university's NHS partners. St George's will have three divisions: Basic Medical Sciences; Clinical Sciences; Population Health Sciences and Education.

Within these divisions are specialised research centres, undertaking research that relates to the thematic areas of: infection and immunity; cardiovascular; neuroscience; basic medical sciences; population health; human genetics

There are plans to develop an additional two research centres to focus on health and social sciences (based within the joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences), and social psychiatry.

The next phase of the Future St George's programme (January – July 2010) features institutional and divisional level projects.

Institutional level initiatives include:

- A new strategic plan (2010 – 2015)
- The updating of SGUL's mission statement to provide a clear, succinct focus for the institution
- A revised senior academic structure
- New performance management and personal review processes, designed to support the delivery of education, research, scholarship and professional services to the highest standards
- Strengthening SGUL's relationship with Kingston University. This will include a review of the agreement that underpins the joint Faculty, and other initiatives undertaken in partnership with Kingston University such as the the South West

London Academic Network (SWan)
• An institution-wide efficiency savings project, reflecting the current economic climate, is underway and aims to significantly reduce costs for each of the next three years

- A full review of supporting processes and systems is being undertaken, with finance, research management and student information systems being renewed and updated in 2010

To create the new divisions and research centres:

- New structures and management responsibilities will be agreed
- Revised research metrics will be defined to set clear levels of expectation relating to the quality and impact of research
- Divisional planning to inform the development of the institutional strategic plan will take place in early 2010, and will identify the plans and aspirations of the newly established divisions and research centres
- The formal launch of the divisions and research centres will take place on 1 August 2010 and will establish the primary foci through which St George's will effectively achieve its academic ambitions

Phase three (commencing in August 2010) will embed the new structures and ways of working within St George's. It will also focus on the refurbishment of Jenner Wing level two in a cost-effective but innovative way to support the future plans of St George's.

Fighting infection Professor George Griffin



This year Professor George Griffin, an infectious disease specialist at St George's, was appointed to head an independent review of a large E.coli outbreak in Surrey, which dominated national news headlines towards the end of summer 2009.

Prof George Griffin was appointed by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to lead the investigation set up to consider how the outbreak was handled. The review aimed to advise on how to protect the nation from any similar outbreaks in the future, by providing insight into the regulatory framework. This will help inform future management and containment of infectious diseases in public environments.

George Griffin is a professor of infectious diseases and medicine, who heads up the Academic Centre for Infection and also oversees research activities that take place at St George's, University of London.

But his responsibilities at St George's don't stop there. He also practises as a consultant physician in infectious diseases and general internal medicine within St George's Healthcare NHS Trust's clinical infection unit, where he receives local, national and international referrals.

“Despite having these national responsibilities my prime appointment is at St George’s”

Nationally, Professor Griffin is the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) and has recently become the special advisor to the government

emergency committee on influenza, called the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE). He also chairs the committee for the Health and Safety Executive.

His national responsibilities are very significant. As Chair of the ACDP - which incorporates the Department of Health, Health and Safety Executive, and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - he advises the government on infection problems for the community and workplace.

"My work on this committee involves special national reviews, including the Callaghan Committee, which investigated the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2007," Prof Griffin says. "Following this investigation I produced a report for the Health Protection Agency on the highest level of containment facilities in the UK for working with animals and human pathogens."

Prof Griffin currently chairs the committee for the Health and Safety Executive to completely revise the regulations for working with the whole spectrum of human and animal pathogens.

"Despite having these national responsibilities my prime appointment is at St George's, having trained here and built up the academic unit and continuing clinical work in St George's Healthcare NHS Trust," he concludes.

Promoting equal access to medical and healthcare education

Over the last decade St George's, University of London has made huge strides in encouraging people from all backgrounds to access higher education.

Social mobility has been high up on the national agenda over the last 12 months and the role of higher education institutions has been one of the most hotly debated issues. St George's is very much at the forefront of this debate.

As a specialist medical and healthcare higher education provider – an area of study notoriously difficult for people from less advantaged backgrounds to access – St George's, University of London views it as particularly important to undertake measures to attract a more diverse cross-section of students.

Over the last decade St George's has implemented a number of schemes and activities specifically to encourage social mobility. These have resulted in a dramatic rise in the proportion of students joining from state school – increasing from 53 per cent nine years ago to over 80 per cent today.

Amongst these is the pioneering adjusted criteria scheme for medical degree applicants, which was introduced in 2003. This considers student applications in relation to the peer group within which they studied. So, state school pupils achieving grades 60 per cent better than the average for their school are eligible for an interview for a medical course even if they do not get the standard required straight As.

"This scheme helps to level the playing field for young people from less advantaged backgrounds," explains Kenton Lewis, head of student recruitment and widening participation at St George's. "It ensures individuals are recognised for their intelligence, achievements and promise in the context of their background, not simply the advantages they were born into. It helps to give fair options to individuals who have

shown immense promise despite a less privileged background and fewer educational opportunities."

Applicants accepted for interview through this adjusted criteria scheme have to undergo the standard rigorous entry procedures before a place is allocated to them. Exam results have shown that, once on the course, these students achieve equally as well as students who achieved the standard entry requirements.

St George's also runs an extensive programme of outreach projects. These start with pupils as young as nine years old and reach over 3,000 state school pupils each year. They are carefully crafted to support their educational development, raise their aspirations, challenge inaccurate stereotypes and inform them of their career options.

Amongst these outreach projects are the annual spring and summer schools. These residential and non-residential programmes aim to inform those who do not necessarily come from a traditional medic's background about access to professional roles in the health sector, university life and the wide range of career options open to them.

Participants spend the week living the life of a student – sleeping in halls of residence (residential route), and attending lectures and practical sessions on campus.

Individuals are recognised for their intelligence, achievements and promise in the context of their background

decision to apply to university."

St George's has been running summer schools throughout July and August for the past eight years. Participants come from locations all around the UK, from schools where there are less expectations of students going to university.

"Students are encouraged to think about what healthcare jobs really involve, not just academically, but also looking at the practical and emotional aspects of a career in healthcare," Kenton adds. "Participants spend time being mentored by current students, often from similar backgrounds, who provide excellent role models."

The summer schools are open to Year 10 school pupils and individuals studying A Level or equivalent qualifications, regardless of their age. This year's participants ranged from 14 to 23 years old.

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

Kenton concludes: "It is important that universities take an active role in encouraging promising young people from non-traditional

backgrounds into the medical profession - both in terms of improving the quality of the profession by recruiting fresh talent and in terms of creating more equitable opportunities throughout society."

Widening Participation accolades 2008/09:

***2009 The e-Learning Awards - Gold Medal winner - Excellence in the Production of Learning Content: not for profit sector**

***2009 Lord Mayor of London Dragon Awards - Volunteer of the Year (Rosie Spooner, medical student)**

***2008 The Guardian Public Service Awards - Innovation and Progress in Diversity and Equality**

***2008 Special Commendation: Times Higher Education Awards - Widening Participation Initiative of the Year**

***2008 Lord Mayor of London Dragon Award - Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Inclusion**

***2008 London Education Partnership Awards - Individual Professional Contribution to Higher Education Progression (Kenton Lewis)**

Lord Mayor's Volunteer of the Year Rosie Spooner



Most people might think that juggling the heavy demands of a medical degree while still trying to find time to enjoy university life would occupy just about every waking hour. But Rosie Spooner would beg to differ. She is one of the many students at St George's who gives up a large proportion of her already sparse spare time to contribute to community enhancing projects in and around St George's.

Throughout her studies, Rosie has helped out with volunteering and community engagement projects, including supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable people. And her commitment was recognised by Lord Mayor Ian Lidor, who presented her with the prestigious Lord Mayor's Dragon Award for Volunteer of the Year 2009.

Through her involvement with the Student Action for Refugees (STAR) group, Rosie helps run after school clubs and events for children from refugee families. This could see her helping the youngsters out with their school work, or leading activities such as sports, drama, arts and crafts, cookery, healthy eating workshops, film making, music, first aid, rap and street dance.

Also with STAR, each week for the last three years Rosie has mentored two Eritrean youngsters, striving to build up their self-esteem and confidence, and to help them integrate fully into their new community.

Managing to keep up with the intensive and challenging requirements of a degree in medicine while being so heavily involved,

both physically and emotionally, in this extra-curricular activity obviously isn't easy. But Rosie explains: "It can be difficult to fit everything in so I need to be really disciplined with my studies and time. I think it's important to put time aside to add to community projects and help others who haven't had the same advantages in life that the majority of us take for granted."

Rosie also works with the St George's widening participation team to engage the next generation of health and medical professionals. She regularly helps out with the week-long residential summer schools, which aim to inform and educate young people from less advantaged backgrounds about the many careers in health and medical fields.

And as if all that wasn't enough, she founded DIG – the student hospital allotment project which uses spare ground to grow vegetables for the local community. Rosie accepts that the amount of fruit and veg grown on campus isn't enough to single handedly save the planet but she hopes that the project is effective in helping people make more sustainable life choices both now and in the future.

Transforming the St George's environment

Redevelopment and refurbishment projects are ensuring that the St George's site supports the needs of teaching and research today and in the future, whilst new 'green' initiatives are helping to maintain the environment.

Teaching, learning and research facilities

A major refurbishment of selected areas in Hunter Wing has created new modern and flexible teaching spaces, including a number of problem-based learning rooms. These house cutting-edge teaching and learning technology, and are specially designed to suit the needs of students working in small, interactive groups to solve scenario-based tasks.

Originally planned for summer 2010, this project was brought forward to summer 2009 thanks to the Government's commitment to release capital monies in order to help invigorate the UK construction economy.

Summer 2009 also saw the library foyer reinvigorated into a light and open plan area. This has provided a new seating area, or 'social learning zone', where students can work together without the noise restrictions of a library, whilst still benefit from having its resources on hand.

For researchers based in Jenner Wing, a pressurised laboratory suite has been completed to provide extended clinical research opportunities. Back-up electrical generators are now in the process of being installed.

Creating a 'greener' environment

Environmental issues have encouraged the redesign of the University main entrance. A new seating area has replaced the car parking and delivery space at the front of Hunter Wing. This provides safer cycle parking and routes around the Hunter Wing section of the building.

On the sustainable front, the Estates and Facilities department has been awarded a £200k grant from central government to install solar photovoltaic electrical power cells on the roof at the halls of residence, Horton Halls. This will reduce SGUL's dependence on the National Grid to supply electricity to the site.

Preserving our heritage

A permanent exhibition dedicated to the St George's legend known as the father of modern surgery, John Hunter, was unveiled in the Hunter Wing foyer. The 'Hunter and Our Heritage' display includes various items from SGUL's library archive, as well as the re-upholstered couch which John Hunter died on in 1793 after a heated discussion with fellow doctors regarding admitting a pair of medical students.

Also in this display is one of four stained glass panels which were given to the University by St George's Healthcare NHS Trust last year, following its new main foyer redesign.

St George's intends to install the three remaining panels in the display cabinet in the Hunter Wing/Lanesborough Wing first floor area corridor.

Improved efficiencies

On the commercial front, the St George's Estates and Facilities department has assisted the Students' Union in outsourcing the Eddie Wilson's café, which was operating at a cost. The new service provider is now paying commercial rent to the Students' Union and aims to provide an improved service to staff and students.

Health and safety

To meet the ever-increasing demands of health, safety and the environment, SGUL now has a new door access control system across the site. This swipe card system is similar to the London Transport Oyster cards and should reduce the number of access failures which were experienced with the previous cards.

Fire safety improvements are to be gained from the upgrading of the corridor fire doors across the site and the full replacement of the emergency lighting system.

St George's has also drawn up an institution-wide business continuity plan. This will ensure the safety and security of staff, students and third parties, whilst restoring critical business operations in the event of a major incident or interruptions to the normal operations, that cannot be resolved by normal maintenance or operational procedures.

Future developments

Upcoming improvements include: the redecoration of the main corridor in Jenner Wing, known as 'The Street'; the introduction of local art to a number of blank wall surfaces; a biodiversity survey and action plan for the halls of residence site.

If successful, the biodiversity project will be extended to the main site over the next 12-24 months, so there may be more varieties of flowers, birds and wildlife around Tooting.



An illustrious history

Artefacts belonging to the St George's medical pioneer John Hunter can be seen in a new permanent exhibition.

The history of St George's is studded with some of medicine's finest minds – from Edward Jenner, who developed the smallpox vaccine and saved millions of lives, to Henry Gray, author of seminal medical tome *Gray's Anatomy*. But in 2009, St George's created a permanent exhibition as a tribute to one of the most famous of all its legendary figures – John Hunter, the father of modern surgery.

The permanent exhibition, 'St George's – Hunter and Our Heritage' features 200-year-old artefacts and personal belongings from Hunter's life.

It provides a fascinating glimpse into Hunter's world, and how he brought surgery into a new era by applying scientific methodology to a hitherto inexact and outdated practice.

Hunter's contribution to the advancement of medicine cannot be overstated, and he is still acknowledged as amongst the most influential doctors of all time.

Taking pride of place in the exhibition is the most famous couch in medical history. The story goes that in 1793 Hunter – a passionate advocate for formal medical training and a dedicated teacher to his students – had been arguing with fellow doctors about the admission of two young men to study. Following a heated discussion, a raging Hunter stormed back to his room. He was in such a fury that he had a heart

attack and died, aged 65, on the very sofa now in the exhibition. Hunter suffered from angina and once stated, presciently, that his life was "in the hands of any rascal who chooses to tease and annoy me."

St George's also located some of Hunter's personal effects, including his spectacles and shaving mirror, as well as medical books written by him. These books show his vast range of professional interests, from gun-shot wounds to animal anatomy and venereal disease.

Other artefacts on display include the John Hunter Medal – given to each presenter of the biannual Hunterian Society Oration – a statue of Hunter, and an 1834 copy of a famous portrait that hangs in the Royal College of Surgeons. There is a clue in this painting that reveals Hunter's insatiable medical curiosity. In the background, the feet of the famous Irish giant Charles Byrne are visible. Byrne, said to be 8ft 4in but actually about 8in shorter, died at the age of 22 after fame and wealth turned him to drink. He was so afraid of being dissected after his death that he arranged to be sealed in a lead coffin and buried at sea. However, Hunter's professional instinct could not be quashed, and he managed to bribe the undertaker and buy the corpse for £500.

St George's will continue to celebrate its luminous past during 2010, which is the 30th anniversary of the eradication of smallpox. Without the work of Hunter's protégé Edward Jenner, assisted by a cow called Blossom, smallpox would have killed many millions more people.



 Hunter's contribution to the advancement of medicine cannot be overstated, and he is acknowledged as amongst the most influential doctors of all time. 

General Medical Council reviewers find plenty to admire at St George's



St George's is dedicated to providing an educational experience that would rival any other across the UK and beyond, to deliver the next generation of medical and healthcare professionals.

**The Bachelor of Medicine,
Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
programme at St George's
was thoroughly and rigorously
appraised by the General
Medical Council (GMC) this
year – and was praised for its
excellent preparation of future
doctors.**

This was the first time the new MBBS course – introduced in 2007 – had been reviewed by the GMC. And it was the first time St George's was subjected to the Quality Assurance of Basic Medical Education (QABME) review, introduced by the GMC after the previous MBBS review in 2000. The QABME process was created to ensure medical courses meet the strict requirements set out in the GMC's document Tomorrow's Doctors.

QABME reviewers reported that the MBBS

courses met the Tomorrow's Doctors guidelines, and singled out four areas of innovation and good practice at St George's. These were: the teaching and assessment of communication skills; the embedding of ethics and law in the curriculum and an innovative approach to teaching in ethics; the Assistant House Officer placements in preparing students for practice; the development and implementation of a comprehensive assessment strategy.

Other strengths highlighted by the QABME included: handbooks for the Good Medical Practice clinical attachments; the teaching in disability and rehabilitation; the virtual learning environment Moodle; the well-resourced dissecting room, pathology museum, library, PC rooms and problem-based learning rooms; support arrangements for transfer students; the training available to Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCE) examiners; the preparation of simulated patients.

The QABME team's assessment was comprehensive, with six visits to St

George's. Reviewers met with staff members responsible for curriculum development, assessment, student support, admissions, widening participation, and quality management. They toured campus facilities, and met with students from all years and courses, as well as teachers, general practitioners, clinical consultants, Foundation Year 1 doctors and F1 educational supervisors. They made site visits to St George's, St Helier, Mayday, and Queen Mary's Hospitals, where students go on placements. And they observed final clinical skills exams and final examination boards.

The QABME process also highlighted a small number of potential improvements for the course, and the University has undertaken actions based upon these to ensure the best student experience. The outcome from QABME confirms that SGUL's MBBS five-year and four-year programmes will continue to flourish during 2010 and beyond.

The full report can be found on the General Medical Council's website.

Dr Patricia Hamilton awarded CBE



St George's paediatrician Dr Patricia Hamilton had a memorable year, receiving one of the country's most prestigious awards in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

In recognition of her outstanding services to medicine, the senior lecturer in neonatal paediatrics was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE). And this honour came just after her appointment as Director of Medical Education for England.

Dr Hamilton added the latest honour to a distinguished career that has led her to become vice president of the European Academy of Paediatrics and a member of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board. She has also been president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health – a position she relinquished to concentrate on her new role – vice president for training and assessment and child health and honorary secretary for the Royal College, and medical director at St George's Hospital. She is an active clinician in neonatology and her research interests have included the pathophysiology of birth asphyxia.

While the CBE is an impressive award to have on the mantelpiece, Dr Hamilton's emphasis is on the importance of the job at hand.

have been gained by modernisation, we have lost other aspects that were also good. One of the things that has been lost is flexibility in training, so we need to try and address that."

As the Director for Medical Education for England, Dr Hamilton is in charge of the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) Programme. Her remit covers the full range of medical training: from undergraduate, through pre-registration and Foundation Programme training and specialty and GP training, up to the award of the Certificate of Completion of Training and certain aspects of continuing professional development. Dr Hamilton's role means working with the professional regulators, royal colleges, deaneries, employers, trade unions, universities and others. She reports directly to the NHS Medical Director, who has operational responsibility for delivering quality and safety in the NHS. She also co-chairs the Modernising Medical Careers (England) Programme Board and is a member of NHS Medical Education England.

This might sound like a huge workload, but Dr Hamilton takes it in her stride. She concedes she is "intellectually stimulated" in the job, but is confident of her strengths.

"One of the strengths I'm bringing to it is my experience of developing new training programmes. I think I can relate well to trainees, too."

Dr Hamilton has retained her links to St George's, however, and remains a consultant and senior lecturer in neonatal paediatrics.

“It is nice to have the CBE, but the most exciting thing for me is the job.”

“It is nice to have the CBE, but the most exciting thing for me is the job. There are many challenges to face in medical education,” she explains. “As well as all the good things that

At the cutting edge of e-learning innovations

Advancements in e-learning at St George's, University of London continue to reshape the way in which health and medical education is taught.



The revolutionary St George's project that trains paramedics in the virtual world of Second Life won the Times Higher Education (THE) award for Outstanding ICT Initiative of the Year 2009. And the e-learning innovations continue as medical students at SGUL are the first in the country to benefit from electronic patients embedded into the core curriculum.

During the THE awards ceremony, the St George's, University of London project was described as the "clear winner" and commended for its innovative, strategic and potentially far-reaching use of ICT in support of the goals of the institution. Key criteria were innovation, institutional impact and implications for the higher education sector.

The award was presented to Dr Terry Poulton, Associate Dean for Educational Technology, and fellow members of the St George's e-learning team which developed the initiative, by TV presenter Clive Anderson during a black tie dinner event at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane.

Panel judge Sarah Porter, Head of Innovation at the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) which sponsored the award, said: "In judging the award, we were looking for an initiative that really stood out for its spirit of creativity. The St George's project is using technology in a way that is very practical and highly relevant to supporting learners in new paradigms, which is close to JISC's own mission for finding innovative solutions to the issues facing UK colleges and universities."

The award-winning project, launched in October 2008 and developed with the help of David Burden from Daden Ltd, helps to train paramedic students using problem-based learning (PBL) in Second Life. It sees students enter the virtual environment as paramedics on the St George's Island, where they are immediately called to one of five different emergency scenarios. They work in

small groups to assess and treat patients in the same way they would in the real world, before safely transporting them to hospital.

The virtual paramedics are able to replicate real-life tasks such as speaking with the patients, checking vital signs, dressing wounds and administering drugs. The scenario unfolds in response to the students' actions. Once they have reached the hospital, they submit handover notes on the patients, which are emailed to their real-life tutor for feedback.

Emily Conradi, e-Projects Manager, explains why the project has proved so useful to paramedic students: "Paramedic students spend a lot of time on work placements, which can be based anywhere in the country, so it can be hard for the students to meet face-to-face with each other and with their tutors. The advantage of Second Life is that it feels more real. Students get a sense of being there together and can decide what to do from what they can see in front of them."

The e-learning team is now working to extend the Second Life training into the St George's medical degree programme, using the virtual scenarios in place of some of the current paper-based tasks.

The application is available free of charge through Google Code to other institutions that wish to develop their own training courses. The universities of Coventry and Greenwich have already trialled the scenarios in their own paramedic courses. The concept also has the potential to be used in other disciplines.

The Outstanding ICT Initiative of the Year category is one of 18 areas in which universities were recognised for their work and impact during the annual award ceremony. Other categories include Most Improved Student Experience, University of the Year and Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community.

The 2009 THE awards attracted 600 entries from 137 of the UK's higher education institutions.

The e-learning team continues to reshape the way in which health and medical education is taught with its Generation 4 project. Introduced into the medical degree core curriculum in 2009, this project sees rigid, paper-based problem-based learning scenarios replaced with electronic, interactive patient cases.

This is the first time in the UK that interactive patients have been included in the core curriculum. It provides students with the opportunity to make realistic decisions and explore the consequences of their actions. The intention is to create a more adaptive, personalised, competency-based style of learning that more closely matches to the role of the practitioner.

» The St George's project was described as the "clear winner" and commended for its innovative, strategic and potentially far-reaching use of ICT in support of the goals of the institution. »

STEPPING OUT

improving care for stroke survivors



It was another great year for the Stepping Out initiative, with national recognition for its exceptional work in helping stroke survivors manage their own treatment.

Physiotherapy lecturer Dr Fiona Jones – who set up Stepping Out in 2007 – won the Stroke Association's Excellence in Stroke Care Award. And the programme was also nominated for a prestigious Health Service Journal (HSJ) Award in the Patient Centred Care category.

Fiona, who is based within the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, jointly run by Kingston University and St George's, developed Stepping Out as a social enterprise to enable stroke survivors to take control of their own treatment and their own lives.

The programme trains health professionals, including nurses and therapists, to work with individuals to set their own goals and plans. Stroke survivors are encouraged to create bespoke rehabilitation paths, using small personal targets that build confidence

incrementally. Stepping Out also facilitates the sharing of ideas and solutions with other people in similar situations.

The programme involves one-to-one sessions for stroke survivors and the professionals caring for them, with workbooks specially designed by Fiona and her team to make setting goals and marking milestones as easy as possible. It also offers accredited workshops and support for stroke practitioners so they can learn effective stroke management skills as well as theory derived from the growing body of related research.

Stepping Out has gone from strength to strength since it was set up to fill the gaps in stroke care provision as outlined in the 2007 National Stroke Strategy. The Stroke Association award and HSJ nomination meant 2009 was its best year yet.

Fiona, who has 25 years' experience as a physiotherapist specialising in neuro-rehabilitation, was nominated for the Excellence in Stroke Care Award at the annual Life After Stroke awards by stroke survivor Eileen Collins as well as fellow lecturers. Eileen is one of Stepping Out's

first participants and now a member of its advisory group. She believes Fiona's award was well deserved.

"Fiona is sincere and nurturing, and has always treated me as a person rather than a patient. She made me feel valued when I was down and made me feel I still have a role in life," says Eileen.

"Fiona made me realise that you can get better if you persist and that you can do the things you did before – you might just need to do them a bit differently or a little slower."

So how will Stepping Out top 2009? Next year, Fiona is planning to expand the programme's reach, with more workshops planned to connect with more stroke networks and more stroke survivors across London and the UK. And further major developments might also be afoot that will cement Stepping Out as a major force in stroke care.

Joint Faculty lecturer becomes UK's first learning disabilities consultant nurse

In a landmark move, the joint Faculty's Jim Blair has become the UK's first dedicated learning disabilities consultant nurse in an acute care setting. Jim, a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences run by Kingston University and St George's, University of London, was appointed to the position at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust to improve the hospital experience of people with learning disabilities.

Jim's close relationships with learning disability professionals in other fields – such as teachers and therapists – mean patient information can be shared quickly. This, in turn, ensures that clinical staff at the Trust can understand a patient's particular needs, contributing to better and safer care.

"People with learning disabilities have a higher than average attendance at hospital but their experience of care and their outcomes are often poor", says Jim.

"Even more seriously, people with learning disabilities have died unnecessarily in hospital because of failures to understand or address their particular needs, as well as a lack of accountability and leadership." In his new post, Jim seeks to address these concerns.

As well as his work at the Trust, Jim spends much of his time at the joint Faculty, passing on his expertise to future nurses. In July 2009, Jim led a Faculty and Trust team to the Special Olympics in Leicester, where they carried out health checks on hundreds of athletes with learning disabilities. The team set up a stall at the games, and conducted blood pressure, body mass index and diabetes checks. The aim was to give people with learning disabilities more confidence in dealing with healthcare professionals, and they screened 405 athletes and around 150 family members.

Focus on research



St George's carried out a wide-ranging review of research activities and strategy in 2009, to best position the University for 2010 and beyond. A major decision was to concentrate activities into six focused research centres. These are designed to capitalise on strategic partnerships with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and the wider South West London Academic Health and Social Care Network, and to emphasise existing research strengths.

The centres are: cardiovascular sciences; cell signaling; clinical neurosciences; epidemiology; genetics; and infection and immunity. With new autonomy and responsibility, these centres will enable St George's to maximise its research potential.

Research grants and contracts income for St George's increased from £18m to £20m as the University continues to attract funding from major research bodies around

the world including the Medical Research Council, the European Commission and the Department of Health. This year, Professor Clive Robinson secured the highest value grant for St George's with a £4,320,135 award from The Wellcome Trust (details on page 27). Large grants were also awarded to Dr Michael Ussher, to investigate if physical activity can help pregnant women give up smoking, and Dr Harry Thangaraj, who is investigating how efficient management of intellectual property can be used to maximise delivery of essential medicines to people who need it most, particularly those who live in developing countries.

To improve the dissemination and impact of research at St George's, the University is investing in a new research data information system - the Current Research Information System (CRIS). This system will hold details of all SGUL's research projects and publications, and enable their impact to be easily tracked and showcased to a worldwide audience. The system is designed to meet the needs of research quality exercises, such as the Research Excellence Framework, which require information on the impact of research outputs.

Another enhancement to research at St George's is the Joint Research Office. This formed towards the end of 2008 to support and facilitate research projects

taking place at and between St George's, University of London and St George's Healthcare NHS Trust. The new office helps St George's maximise the benefits from its research expertise by providing effective and efficient financial management of research funding, and by ensuring that all research is conducted to the highest standards of governance and good clinical practice.

Amongst the Joint Research Office's activities are: identifying new research funding opportunities; costing and pre-award support for grant applications; financial management and administration of research grants and contracts; providing guidance on the ethics process; sponsorship of clinical research studies; monitoring and reporting on research activity.

Over recent years, clinical research activity at St George's has increased significantly. To support continued expansion and high quality practice, SGUL, in collaboration with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, is delivering a new Clinical Research Facility in early 2010. The facility will provide dedicated clinical space, equipment and staff to support a wide range of clinical studies, including student projects.

Research highlights of the past year



- Professor Peter Mortimer was awarded £950,000 by Cancer Research UK to lead a five-year study that examines the factors that protect, or fail to protect against, the development of lymphoedema of the arm – a chronic swelling suffered by one in four patients following breast cancer treatment.
- Professor Juan-Carlos Kaski and his team have made a potentially major step to preventing cardiovascular disease in patients with autoimmune disease, such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. Working with colleagues at Hammersmith Hospital, the researchers discovered a direct link between chronic inflammation and coronary artery microvascular dysfunction (a defect of the small blood vessels around the heart). This link can explain the presence of angina pectoris (chest pain that results from an insufficient flow of oxygenated blood in the coronary vessels of the heart) in patients with autoimmune diseases, even in the absence of coronary artery disease or cardiovascular risk factors such as smoking or high blood pressure.
- Researchers at St George's and University College London reported the continuing practice of a significant minority of mental health professionals who want to 'cure' gay and lesbian people. Led by Dr Annie Bartlett of St George's, this research provoked widespread national and international debate. Leading organisations in mental health responded to the research and voiced concern that this practice is ongoing long after legislative and social changes suggested it might be a thing of the past in the UK.
- Professor Andrew Crosby and his research group have identified the genes for seven novel diseases and phenotypes (the actual characteristics that genes produce), including spastic ataxia (a rare disorder that causes spasticity of the legs, uncoordinated leg movements and eye anomalies) and the lethal cystic kidney disease. The identification of these genes opens up fresh opportunities for developing new treatments.
- Dr Tihana Bicanic was awarded a Wellcome Trust Intermediate Fellowship to continue work with Professor Tom Harrison on HIV-related cryptococcal meningitis – a deadly form of meningitis, which kills an estimated half a million patients a year in Africa alone. Valued at £447,000, this is the fourth Wellcome Trust Fellowship awarded to the group, which leads the international effort to reduce the mortality associated with this form of meningitis.
- The rectal delivery of the drug artesunate could halve the rate of malaria death and permanent disability in remote areas of Africa and Asia, found new research from Professor Sanjeev Krishna and his international colleagues. Findings from the study, which was led by the World Health Organisation, were published in *The Lancet* and the paper has been nominated for the British Medical Journal's Research Paper of the Year.
- Alcohol, not drugs, poses the biggest 'date rape' risk, according to research by Jennifer Button, Susannah Davies and Professor David Holt at St George's. The researchers investigated 95 alleged drug-facilitated sexual assaults between March 2007 and January 2009 and found that alcohol was detected in 54 per cent of alleged cases, whereas a drug was detected in 40 per cent. Illicit drugs were the most frequently detected, the most common being cocaine, followed by cannabis. In line with other published studies, the incidence of confirmed drink spiking was low, at only three per cent. Rohypnol and GHB, widely portrayed as 'date rape' drugs in the media, were not detected in any cases.
- Scientists investigating how drug combinations affect cancer-causing genes developed a new directory to help doctors identify effective treatment sooner and help save lives. The directory, compiled by Dr Wai Liu at St George's, lists some of the thousands of genes that could be responsible for causing cancer, and shows the effects that combinations of three cancer-fighting drugs – thalidomide, lenalidomide and pomalidomide – have on them.
- Dr Paul Heath and Dr Michael Sharland from the Paediatric Infectious Diseases Unit (PIDU) were awarded a four-year clinical trial of an antibiotic to treat serious infection and meningitis in babies. SGUL's role will be to set up a new Pan-European neonatal infection registry, centralising and analysing the microbiology results from this trial of 600 babies. The PIDU will also be running the part of the trial focusing on the treatment of meningitis from St George's.
- Professor Steve Goodbourn was awarded a five-year Wellcome Trust programme grant, and a Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council project grant, to study the ways in which viruses interact with, and evade, the body's interferon system – the immune system that generates proteins to neutralise viruses. This research may lead to new antiviral drugs and novel immunisation strategies, to protect against a variety of virus infections.
- In several high-profile publications, Professor Dot Bennett and Dr Elena Sviderskaya identified some of the processes that control the formation and function of melanocytes - the cells that make pigment in the skin. The cancer melanoma and several other skin diseases have their origins in these cells, so this new understanding should improve both detection and treatment of these potentially lethal conditions.

St George's researchers develop a new HIV microbicide and a way to mass produce it

St George's is leading the world in HIV and AIDS research, and one group had a breakthrough moment in 2009 that could lead to an improved way to prevent the disease spreading.



A team led by Professor Julian Ma and Professor David Lewis is cultivating genetically modified plants as a means to mass-produce anti-virus products called microbicides — substances that can stop the transmission of the HIV virus when applied before sex, usually as a gel or cream.

Professors Ma and Lewis aim to create transgenic tobacco plants that contain a protein deadly to HIV, which can then

be used to make microbicides. Because tobacco plants can be grown cheaply and swiftly, this could provide an effective way of mass-producing microbicides to distribute throughout the world's AIDS blackspots.

Last year, they managed to combine two existing protein microbicides into a single 'fusion' molecule, and showed that this molecule is more active against HIV than either of its individual components. This breakthrough could be the key to producing an effective microbicide.

The team designs synthetic DNA, which they use to create the fusion molecule. Then they introduce the fusion molecule into plant cells. When the transgenic plant has grown,

the microbicide is prepared from a plant extract made by grinding the leaves.

"We desperately need to control the spread of HIV, particularly in developing countries," says Prof Ma. "A vaccine is still some way off, but microbicides could provide a more immediate solution, provided we can overcome major hurdles of high efficacy, low cost, and wide availability."

Taking forward a new approach to preventing allergies



A St George's allergy research team received a £4.3 million boost in 2009 for its pioneering project that takes a unique approach to combating asthma and other allergic diseases.

The researchers, led by Professor Clive Robinson, are developing a new class of drugs that target the root cause of asthma and allergies, as opposed to current medicines which mainly relieve symptoms.

Prof Robinson and his team have identified novel, drug-like chemical compounds – Allergy Delivery Inhibitors (ADI) – that combat the root cause of asthma and allergic diseases of the nose, eyes and skin.

Asthma and allergic conditions such as rhinitis, conjunctivitis and dermatitis are

healthcare burden for the NHS.

The ADIs target allergens excreted by dust mites – tiny creatures that live in the carpets and soft furnishings of homes, offices, trains, planes and cars. The development of ADIs is intended to provide relief to people with an established allergy caused by dust mites and, potentially, to prevent the development of allergic disease in others.

St George's is the hub of the programme and will develop a drug for clinical trials in the next few years. The team, which includes colleagues from the University of Manchester, is working with pharmaceutical research and development contractors worldwide to carry out this groundbreaking work.

The money has been awarded through Seeding Drug Discovery, a scheme from the science and medicine research charity The Wellcome Trust. The charity spends more than £600 million a year on a range of funding programmes. Since 2005, this brings the total Wellcome Trust investment in the St George's ADI programme to £5.5m.

St George's is the hub of the programme and will develop a drug for clinical trials in the next few years.

an escalating problem expected to affect more than 100 million people globally by 2011. In the UK, 5.2 million adults and 1.1 million children currently receive treatment for asthma, creating a significant social and

The professor who's still saving lives at 90



For most 90-year-olds work is a distant memory, a preamble to a long and happy retirement. But Professor Denny Mitchison at St George's has made breaking the mould a lifetime habit. After 65 years of truly pioneering tuberculosis clinical trial research, Prof Mitchison entered his tenth decade in 2009 – and is still at the forefront of his field.

Prof Mitchison is thought to be the oldest full-time professor in the country, still coming into his office each day and, although less frequently, still lecturing undergraduates about TB.

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

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

Following the success of this first trial, Prof Mitchison continued his work with other emerging drugs elsewhere, first in collaboration with Dr Philip D'Arcy Hart of the Medical Research Council's (MRC) Tuberculosis Research Unit, then as Director of the new MRC Unit for Laboratory Studies of Tuberculosis. Later, he worked with Professor Wallace Fox, Director of the MRC Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases Research Unit, for 35 years.

Through clinical drug trials in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, India, Hong Kong, Singapore and Czechoslovakia, Prof Mitchison and his colleagues devised a regimen of up to four prescribed anti-TB drugs that provided an effective solution affordable enough to be used in developing countries. Following this, they managed

to reduce the treatment period from 12 months to six months. The regimen they created is still the main treatment model today, and has helped save millions of lives.

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

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

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

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

Exceptional impact on women and baby care earns Professor Arulkumaran the highest accolade



Professor Sabaratnam Arulkumaran of St George's, renowned for his work advancing women's health and maternity care, was honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2009.

Professor Sir Arulkumaran, Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at St George's, University of London and clinician at St George's Hospital, was appointed a Knights Bachelor for services to medicine.

This accolade recognised the impact of his work during his career in obstetrics and gynaecology - which comprises the care of the pregnant woman, her unborn child and the management of diseases specific to women. Sir Arulkumaran's career stretches over almost four decades, more than 25 years of which have included academic research and teaching.

His key achievements include the development of a 'clinical dashboard' to provide clinicians with the relevant and timely information they need to inform decisions that improve the quality of patient care.

“I continue to be passionate about this great service and making a difference to patient care and women's health.”

Sir Arulkumaran, who has been head of obstetrics and gynaecology at SGUL and a clinician at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust since 2001, said he was "delighted" with

his knighthood. But he maintains that his key motivation is that the area of medicine he works in brings huge rewards of its own. He said: "I began working in obstetrics and gynaecology because I was fascinated by the magic of birth and the happy ending in the vast majority of cases for the couple, their family and the staff. After so many years in the same field, I continue to be passionate about this great service and making a difference to patient care and women's health."

Sir Arulkumaran has also been President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) since 2007. The RCOG aims to improve women's health by encouraging the study and advancement of the science and practice of obstetrics and gynaecology. The RCOG International Office works with other international organisations to help lower maternal morbidity and mortality in under-resourced countries.

In October 2009 he was elected by 123 national bodies to be the President Elect of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO). FIGO performs several tasks including defining ethical guidelines for the profession, classification of gynaecological cancers, and several international projects to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity.

A student perspective

The 2009/2010 Students' Union President for St George's, David Rawaf, provides a student viewpoint on life at St George's

It has been both a fantastic and a busy year for the St George's Students' Union. One of the most radical changes due to happen - the proposed merger with Royal Holloway, University of London - was, to our surprise, called off at the final hour.

But the run-up to the proposed merger passed its benefits on to the Students' Union (SU) here at St George's. A chance to share best practice allowed us to have introspective exercises to better the daily life of our students.

Merger aside, we have had some more cosmetic changes. The library front and foyer have been refitted, the fourth and fifth floors revamped, and a Hunter Wing 'garden' has been created in place of the car park that was once at the entrance of the University.

Up in the SU, the multi-purpose rooms have had revamps, with a moveable partition allowing more students to run different activities. With donations from alumni, the music room has been redesigned with new equipment and a fully-functioning recording studio. Once again the halls of residence, Horton Halls, continues to be a success with the third cohort settled into some of the most sophisticated university accommodation in the UK. Finally, the Student Centre keeps up its high standards of service as a one-stop shop for every student.

This year we have continued to build on our successful sporting history. The men's rugby first team won the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) division 3A and was promoted to 2A. The men's football first team won the United Hospitals cup, and the men's hockey first team won the University of London Union (ULU) cup. Also, SGUL student Hannah Fields was given the honour of captaining the ULU team. Finally, Justin Chang was presented with the St George's SU Sportsman of the Year award.

The commitment to charitable and volunteer work at St George's is stronger than ever, even before the famous RAG campaign. The Islamic Society started off the year with a charity week raising money for orphans around the world. Students for Kids International Projects (SKIP) and Student Action for Refugees (STAR) have both been working hard improving the lives of young people locally and abroad.

As always, our intake of first years has shown enthusiasm for the Freshers' Fortnight. But our events didn't end there. We have had excellent shows including our regular Fashion Show and fast-paced topical comedy sketch show Revue. As well as the debuts of the Music Society's Orchestra Recital, STAR's Music Revue, and SKIP's speed dating event that was based on the style of the Objective Structured Clinical Exams (OSCE) process – the dating happens at the speed of an OSCE medical exam, so people swap their date every minute.

So what's next for the students here at St George's? The next few months bring a huge challenge to the Students' Union – registering as a charity with the Charity Commission. This will provide a more

comprehensive and finely tuned set of objectives for the SU that will put the local community and the needs of the students at the forefront of our work. It will also allow us to have more transparency when it comes to our constitution and our budgeting.

This is a massive undertaking that involves a review of our constitution and all our activities, including our clubs and societies. As a charity we will have to make sure we are compliant both with our charitable objectives and charity law. Our first challenge will be to set up a trustee board that will consolidate the work of the SU and allow it to grow in the future.

I look forward to taking this project forward and working with the staff and students at St George's to bring about positive changes to our university community.



David Rawaf
SU President 2009-2010



Alumni & Development

Volunteering, pledging philanthropic support, speaking at events and offering views on important issues are just some of the ways St George's alumni continue to support the University today.

Alumni Relations

Alumna Dr Isabel Williams revisited St George's to share her expertise on a subject very close to both her and St George's' heart. She delivered an insightful talk on the life of fellow St George's alumnus Edward Wilson – the ill-fated polar explorer who was part of Captain Scott's pioneering race to the South Pole in the early 20th century. Dr Williams published a biography of Wilson after learning about him as a student.

The views of a large number of alumni provided valuable input during consultations about the proposed merger with Royal Holloway, University of London, particularly when the universities were considering the name of the proposed merged institution.

And now members of St George's alumni are playing an integral role in helping to select some of the next generation of doctors. Almost 100 alumni, all active clinicians, pledged their time to help interview prospective medical students for the 2010/11 academic year.

As St George's moves forward, alumni will continue to play a valued role in building a strong, sustainable future.

Development

The success of the 1970s reunion, held in 2008, helped establish a fund in honour of Alastair Hunter, Dean of the medical school until the mid-70s. Alumni who attended the reunion gave generously, which was a fitting tribute to the commitment and passion of the much loved Dean.

Plans are now in place to use this fund to establish new bursaries and schemes for students at St George's. There are plans to help establish a new sports bursary. This will be given to first year students who have shown exceptional sporting abilities and will help to support their degree studies.

Thanks to the continued support of alumni, principally through the Annual Fund, the Development Office was once again able to offer financial support to students with its Student Hardship Fund. In addition, the Development Office's Student Experience Awards offered funding for 15 new projects, including a bursary for students on elective and the refurbishment of the student music room.

As St George's moves forward, alumni will continue to play a valued role in building a strong, sustainable future.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) introduced a new matched funding scheme during 2008/2009. This sees the government offering to match donations to universities with the aim of encouraging greater levels of philanthropic giving. The Development Office is ensuring that St George's makes the most of this opportunity.



Donations have been supporting...

St George's students have strong links with the community and some of the most active student clubs and societies are those with a charitable bent. One of the foremost among them is Student Action for Refugees (STAR). Since it was set up in 2002, students have been running and managing projects supporting local refugee young people, in order to help them develop socially and integrate more fully in society. The projects have grown considerably, such that it became necessary for a handful of SGUL alumni to found a charity, the Kleviis Kola Foundation (KKF), to continue the work.

In conjunction with KKF, STAR runs a weekly after-school club and youth club as well as a mentoring programme where students are matched with children who need extra educational support and help with any problems they may face. Alongside the regular activities there is a yearly two-week

summer programme which, for the past three years, has been generously supported by donations from alumni via the Annual Fund. The programme typically includes days out at theme parks or museums, sports and indoor activities such as cooking, arts and crafts or dance.

"The summer programme is a really important part of what we do. Refugee children and young people are a marginalised group in the community and often do not have access to the same leisure activities as their peers due to language issues, lack of funds and transportation," explains Sobida Arulanantham, vice chair of STAR.

"Obviously the main aim of the project, as with all our work, is to help our beneficiaries feel a part of their community and, in a caring and supportive environment, learn the skills needed to participate more fully. However, it is just as important that our volunteers benefit from the experience too," he continues.

Being a volunteer for STAR does indeed have benefits. It can help students to increase their confidence in working with children of different age groups and backgrounds, as well as their families. They also develop team work and leadership skills as all activities are planned and implemented by the volunteers themselves.

Although these skills are useful in almost all careers, they are particularly pertinent for medical and healthcare professionals training to work in a city as diverse as London. The ability to build rapport with minority groups will help to stand students in good stead for the future.

"Continued support from the St George's Annual Fund means a lot to us as it shows that alumni and the University believe in what we're trying to do. I think STAR showcases the talent, enthusiasm and goodwill that exists among our student population and it's great to have the recognition of those that have gone before us," Sobida concludes.

Vital statistics

4,013 undergraduate students

1,417 are on continuing professional development courses

322 postgraduate taught students

229 postgraduate research students

St George's polled **number one** in London for student satisfaction in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey. And, in the National Student Survey, **100 per cent** of St George's radiography students reported being satisfied with their course – making them the joint happiest radiography students in the country.

St George's ranked **11th** in England for graduate employability. **Ninety-eight** per cent of students graduating from St George's are in employment or further study within six months of completing their degree, compared to the country's average of 91 per cent.

100% graduate employment on Therapeutic Radiography, MBBS and Biomedical Science courses

883 staff are employed at St George's, University of London

£20.2M was the St George's research grants and contracts income for 2008/09

£36K for charity raised by the St George's Students' Union in 2008/09

Financial Summary

Income: £92.2M

Expenditure: £90.3M

Surplus: £1.9M

Reserves: £19.9M



Who's who at St George's

The Principal, Vice-Principals, Deans, Associate Deans and Heads of Division

Professor Peter Kopelman

Principal

Professor Sean Hilton

Deputy Principal and Vice-Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Division of Community Health Sciences

Professor Pat Hughes

Vice-Principal (Staff and Students) and Head of Division

Division of Mental Health

Professor George Griffin

Vice-Principal (Research) and Head of Division

Division of Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Professor Fiona Ross

Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences
Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Professor Nigel Brown

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and Head of Division
Division of Basic Medical Sciences

Professor Paul Andrews

Dean for Postgraduate Studies
Division of Basic Medical Sciences

Professor John Camm

Head of Division
Division of Cardiac & Vascular Sciences

Professor Dafydd Walters

Acting Head of Division
Division of Clinical Developmental Sciences

Professor David Strachan

Head of Division
Division of Community Health Sciences

Professor Peter McCrorie

Associate Dean for International Affairs and Head of Centre
Centre for Medical and Healthcare Education

Professor Mike Patton

Dean for Enterprise and Innovation
Centre for Enterprise and Innovation

Dr Jade Chow

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education (Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences)
Division of Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Dr Gary Coulton

Associate Dean for Enterprise and Innovation
Division of Basic Medical Sciences

Dr Gill Cockerill

Associate Dean for Biological Research Facilities
Division of Basic Medical Sciences

Professor Paul Jones

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Associate Dean for Research and Development
Division of Cardiac & Vascular Sciences

Dr Terry Poulton

Associate Dean for Educational Technology
Centre for Medical and Healthcare Education

Dr Deborah Bowman

Associate Dean for Widening Participation
Centre for Medical and Healthcare Education

Administration

Mr Mark Bery

Director of Finance and Deputy Director of Administration

Ms Jeannette Strachan

Academic Registrar and Deputy Director of Administration

Council Membership

Independent Members

Baroness Elaine Murphy

Chair of Council

Mr Anthony Bicknell

Mr James Cochrane

Mrs Naaz Coker

Mr Michael Draper

Ms Judith Evans

Mr David Greggains

Mrs Isabel Nisbet

Director of Regulation and Standards, Qualification and Curriculum Authority

Professor Peter Rigby

Chief Executive, Institute of Cancer Research

Professor Sir Peter Scott

Vice-Chancellor, Kingston University

Professor Richard Smith

Mr Graham Turner

Mr Michael Stevens

Internal Members

Professor Peter Kopelman

Principal

Professor Alan Johnstone

Elected member of Academic Staff

Mrs Jill Edwards

Elected member of Support Staff

Professor George Griffin

Vice-Principal (Research)

Professor Sean Hilton

Vice-Principal (Teaching and Learning)

Professor Pat Hughes

Vice-Principal (Staff and Students)

Mr David Rawaf

President of Students' Union 2009-10

Mr Jack Sugrue

President of Students' Union 2008-9

Attending

Mr Mark Bery

Director of Finance and Deputy Director of Administration

Ms Susan Trubshaw

Head of Planning and Secretariat and Clerk to Council

Ms Jeannette Strachan

Academic Registrar and Deputy Director of Administration



St George's
University of London
Cranmer Terrace
London
SW17 0RE

Telephone 0208 672 9944
Fax 0208 672 6940
Web www.sgul.ac.uk

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