

[Home](#)

[Welcome from the principal](#)

[Our strategy in action](#)

[The educational experience](#)

[Delivering focused research](#)

[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)

[Message from the Students' Union](#)

[St George's people](#)

[Alumni activities](#)

[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)

[Who's who at St George's](#)

[A year in numbers](#)

[Contact us](#)

Annual Review

2011



Welcome to the St George's, University of London Annual Review 2011. This review gives you a snapshot of highlights from the previous year that are helping us to realise our mission: to advance, promote and share knowledge of health through excellence in teaching, clinical practice and research into the prevention and treatment of illness.

You can use the navigation menu on the left hand side of every page to jump to the section you want to read. Alternatively, at the bottom of every page there are next and previous page buttons that will help you to read the report chronologically.

You have the option to save this review by using Google Bookmarks or to share with colleagues or friends using email and social media sites. Just use the share option in the top right hand corner of each page. You can also print individual pages by using the print page option.

You can let us know what you think of the annual review by using the feedback option in the top right corner to complete a short questionnaire about the review. Your feedback will help us to improve the information we use in next year's report.

Find out how we are putting our strategy into action

[The educational experience](#)



[Delivering focused research](#)



[Sharing knowledge, expertise & opportunities](#)



[Back to the top ↑](#)

[Next ►](#)

[Home](#)[Welcome from the principal](#)[Our strategy in action](#)[The educational experience](#)[Delivering focused research](#)[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)[Message from the Students' Union](#)[St George's people](#)[Alumni activities](#)[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)[Who's who at St George's](#)[A year in numbers](#)[Contact us](#)

Welcome from the principal



2011 heralded the biggest changes in funding for universities in living memory and potentially the most radical shake up of the NHS. The government has reduced funding to both sectors; the burden of university fees as been passed from the government to the student; and a new Health Bill has been proposed, which overhauls the current strategic supervision of the NHS.

At St George's we have begun to implement strategies that will allow us to capitalise on the opportunities these changes present.

At the beginning of the year we published our five-year strategy. The document highlights a series of actions that St George's must achieve for sustainability, focused around three strategic aims concerned with education, research and sharing knowledge, opportunities and expertise. We made great strides in each of these strategic areas last year.

Partnership work

Partnership work is integral to our success and we are strengthening these. I have been working closely with Professor Julius Weinberg, the new vice-chancellor at Kingston University, sharing the desire to capitalise further on the strengths of our shared Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences. The Faculty's outstanding success in being awarded additional commissions for adult nursing and physiotherapy following competitive tendering across London underlines the quality of their training.

We have been strengthening our already close working relationship with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, to find new efficiencies that can help us maintain and enhance the delivery of high-quality education, training, research and clinical care. In addition to current close links between our academic and clinical staff, we have been scoping out the possibility of sharing some support service resources. One outcome of this is the appointment of a shared director of human resources, Wendy Gay.

Research

In research, we have six research centres that represent our research strengths. Each centre attracted significant research grant awards during the year. We have modernised the research laboratories in Jenner Block G2 with the opening of entirely refurbished state-of-the-art laboratories, unrecognisable from what went before.

There was other good news for research at St George's. The Medical Research Council (MRC) published a table of success for institutions that had made more than 10 applications to the MRC for programme or project funding. St George's was the clear leader with a success rate of 40 per cent for all applications. This demonstrates the importance of focused and distinctive research within our research centres.

Professor Adrian Clark has been appointed as dean of research and enterprise. He is leading our preparations for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework – this has included the appointment of two new chairs and a readership with other senior appointments to follow.

Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities

Plans have also been set in motion for a University/Trust partnership with an Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) in London. These centres strive to promote world-class research and act as strategic centres for developing and delivering healthcare. The three existing AHSCs have developed a powerful brand and achieved successes in improving service delivery and attracting funding. By partnering this member organisation, we will bring strength and experience from our joint activities in south west London. This includes the practical benefits to patients living in south west London that have been achieved through the South West London Academic Health & Social Care System (AHSS), of which St George's is already a member.

We have made great strides with our international strategy and I am delighted with the progress of our partnership with the University of Nicosia, with which we offer a graduate-entry medical degree taught in Cyprus. This programme attracted initial favourable comment from the General Medical Council's quality assurance team and the first students enrolled in September.

The partnership with INTO University Partnerships is beginning to gather pace in anticipation of the launch of the international medical programme in October 2012, which is focused on enhancing opportunities for medical training in North America. As well as expanding education opportunities internationally, both initiatives aim to promote SGUL's name and reputation globally and attract an income stream independent of public funding.

Education

One of the most significant points in 2011 was the announcement that the majority of students who enter St George's – and many other UK universities – in October 2012 will be borrowing £9,000 each year from the Student Loans Company to pay for their tuition, with the loan and interest being repaid following employment. Whatever one's particular view about the circumstance, St George's has no alternative but to charge such fees to counter the shortfall in government funding and maintain excellence in our education provision.

St George's, University of London is very fortunate in attracting such talented students – they have once again been outstanding in their charitable, social and academic activities. We pride ourselves on a close working relationship with our undergraduate and postgraduate students, a relationship that is crucially important as student loans take on more and more significance. We are exploring with our students their role as 'co-producers' of their education, rather than simply 'consumers' of learning: our goal is to optimise the student experience at St George's. A priority for summer 2012 is the modernisation and refurbishment of the study areas in the library.

Our students are our future – the many challenges successfully addressed by St George's in 2011 places us in a strong position to dictate this future. This annual report provides evidence for this confidence.



Peter Kopelman

[Back to the top ↑](#)[◀ Previous](#)[Next ▶](#)

[Home](#)

[Welcome from the principal](#)

[Our strategy in action](#)

[The educational experience](#)

[Delivering focused research](#)

[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)

[Message from the Students' Union](#)

[St George's people](#)

[Alumni activities](#)

[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)

[Who's who at St George's](#)

[A year in numbers](#)

[Contact us](#)

Our strategy in action

Our mission, vision and values articulate our core purpose, aspirations and the values that are at the heart of what we strive to attain. They underpin all our activities.

Activities at St George's, University of London are focused around three strategic aims:

- **Strategic aim one:** To grow our excellent reputation for education and learning by providing our students with an exceptional experience within an interdisciplinary environment.
- **Strategic aim two:** To pursue and attain excellence in a focused scientific, clinical and educational research portfolio.
- **Strategic aim three:** To promote the sharing of knowledge, expertise and opportunities within our local, regional and international communities.

The St George's mission, vision and values are at the core of achieving these aims and underpin all activities. Read the [St George's, University of London Strategic Plan 2010-15](#).

Vision

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

1 2 3

Find out more about our strategy

The educational experience



Delivering focused research



Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities



[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- › New partnership expands opportunities for international students
- › State-of-the-art medical training facility opens at St George's
- › Courses come top in London and new training contracts awarded
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

The educational experience

St George's aims to grow its excellent reputation for education and learning by providing its students with an exceptional experience within an interdisciplinary environment

Ensuring that students leave St George's with the skills and knowledge to excel in delivering medical treatment and healthcare, as well as in scientific research, is paramount to the institution's success. To achieve this, students must be provided with a high-quality education experience that allows them all to reach their potential both while they are studying and when they enter the workplace.

In 2011, St George's undertook initiatives to offer enhanced learning experiences and increase the scope of education provision, at home and abroad.

Education innovations

New facilities and new courses for healthcare workers and undergraduates were launched, keeping St George's at the forefront of innovative teaching that helps meet the needs of the health service.

“ The St George's student experience was voted London's best for the second year in a row. ”

In January, the first cohort of students started the new foundation degree in Healthcare Practice. The two-year course was developed to meet the requirements of local NHS trusts for the academic development of healthcare assistants and related professionals, expanding the associate/assistant practitioner workforce.

In September, the first students began the new BSc Healthcare Science (Physiological Sciences) degree, the only undergraduate course of its kind in London. This three-year programme prepares students for the role of clinical physiologist, either in cardiac physiology or respiratory and sleep physiology. The course was created in partnership with the NHS, to meet an increasing demand for the role.

The new state-of-the-art [St George's Advanced Patient Simulator Centre](#) was unveiled. This is a joint project with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust that gives students the chance to test their practical skills in realistic surgical and medical emergency situations.

Expanding our international portfolio

St George's extended its international reach in 2011, with major projects that offer more students from around the world the chance to benefit from its highly regarded courses.

St George's launched its graduate-entry medical programme at the University of Nicosia in Cyprus, with the first cohort of 30 students beginning in September. They are studying a programme designed by St George's and based on its own successful graduate-entry degree. The course is based at the University of Nicosia's new custom-built medical school, where the students have access to the most up-to-date facilities and resources. They can also access the innovative e-learning medical education resources available to UK-based St George's students.

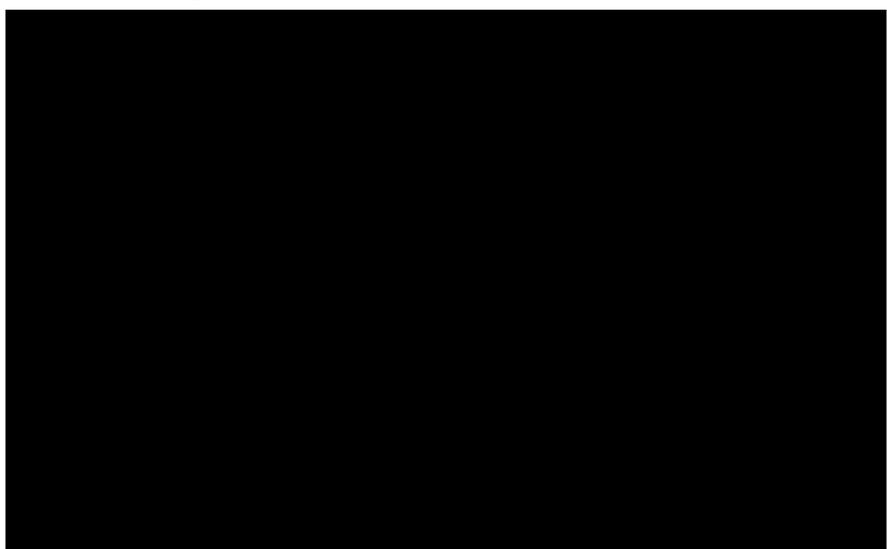
St George's also entered into a joint venture with INTO University Partnerships to form [INTO St George's, University of London](#), which offers international students the chance to study SGUL foundation and degree-level programmes.

The student experience

The St George's student experience was voted London's best for the second year in a row, coming 27th in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey. This was an improvement on the previous year's placing of 48. St George's received its highest scores for the high quality of its staff and lectures, the helpfulness and interest of its staff, its good community atmosphere, good extra-curricular activities and societies, good support and welfare, and its small group tuition. The University also rated well in the section that asked students if they would recommend their university to a friend.

Three courses at the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, run jointly with Kingston University, [were named as the capital's best by NHS London](#). The therapeutic radiography, children's nursing and learning disability nursing courses came top in NHS London's Contract Performance Management ratings, which measure how well NHS-commissioned nursing, midwifery and allied health professions course providers are meeting their obligations. The quality of training offered by the Faculty was further underlined when they were awarded new contracts for adult nursing and physiotherapy, which included additional student places, following a competitive tendering across London.

What our students say



1 2 3

[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Welcome from the principal](#)
- [Our strategy in action](#)
- [The educational experience](#)
- [› New partnership expands international education portfolio](#)
- [› State-of-the-art medical training facility opens at St George's](#)
- [› Courses come top in London and new training contracts awarded](#)
- [Delivering focused research](#)
- [Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)
- [Message from the Students' Union](#)
- [St George's people](#)
- [Alumni activities](#)
- [Enhancing the St George's environment](#)
- [Who's who at St George's](#)
- [A year in numbers](#)
- [Contact us](#)

New partnership expands international education portfolio



In May 2011 St George's, University of London announced a joint venture with international student market specialists INTO University Partnerships. The venture – INTO St George's, University of London (INTO SGUL) – offers four foundation and degree level programmes to international students along with preparatory English programmes.

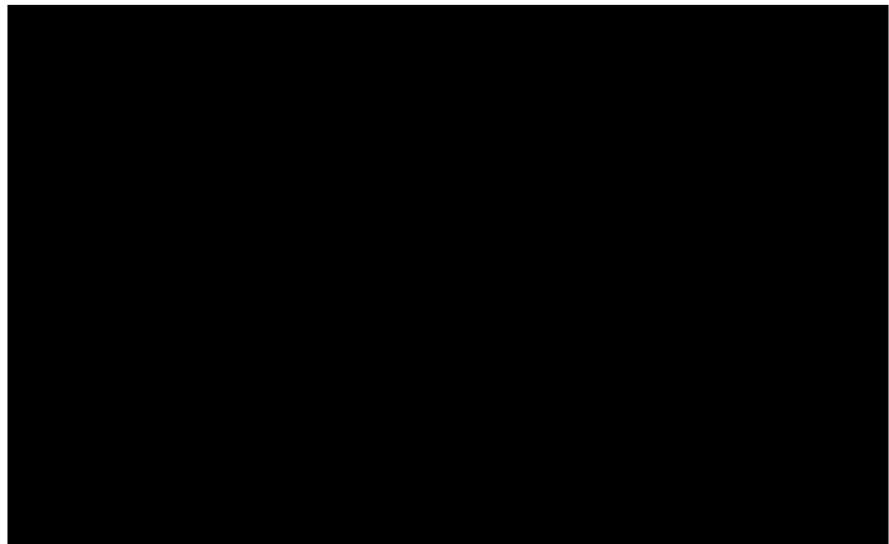
The partnership is part of the St George's strategy to expand its education portfolio internationally, which is set to enhance the opportunities St George's can offer students, whilst increasing its international impact and reputation.

Places on degree-level courses offered by INTO SGUL are additional to those offered by pre-existing programmes at St George's, where international student numbers are currently capped.

Just five months after the announcement, INTO SGUL welcomed its first cohort of international students onto its foundation-level programme. This prepares students for university medical, biomedical and health sciences degrees and is the first in the UK to be designed exclusively for international students. Students joined from Myanmar, Canada, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates. Other students have joined INTO SGUL during 2011/12 to study English, prior to joining new foundation students in September 2012.

“ This partnership is an example of a more diverse higher education market that is emerging in response to government changes to the higher education sector ”

Find out more about INTO SGUL students' first impressions of London



The two medical degree options – a six-year programme for undergraduate students and a four-year graduate-entry programme for students already holding a first degree – and a biomedical sciences (international) degree will also begin in September 2012.

Students on all courses will receive a qualification from St George's, University of London. They will be based at the St George's campus in Tooting. Where clinical training is part of the curriculum, this will be undertaken in the USA and other international locations.

In a unique development for the UK, students studying on these medical degrees will also work towards United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) qualifications – a route into medicine recognised by countries around the world, and which leads directly to post-programme residency in the USA.

Principal of St George's, University of London, Professor Peter Kopelman, said:

“This partnership is an example of a more diverse higher education market that is emerging in response to government changes to the higher education sector, including funding cuts and rising tuition fees. This innovative venture with INTO University Partnerships enables us to continue to maintain financial stability as well as to offer a high standard of education to a broad range of students. We look forward to welcoming an increased number of international students into our university community.”

[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- › New partnership expands opportunities for international students
 - › State-of-the-art medical training facility opens at St George's
 - › Courses come top in London and new training contracts awarded
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

State-of-the-art medical training facility opens at St George's



A new £350,000 state-of-the-art training facility was officially opened at the St George's campus on 15 December 2011 by Niall Dickson, chief executive and registrar of the General Medical Council.

The Advanced Patient Simulator Centre, a joint project between St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and St George's, University of London, provides specialist training for healthcare professionals and students. It allows them to test their skills in practical scenarios based on real-life situations including surgical and medical emergencies.

“ This is a glimpse of the future for medical education, and the fact that the unit attracts doctors from across Europe shows that it is at the cutting edge ”

They work with computer-controlled patient manikins that realistically mimic a wide range of health problems. Trainers can remotely control the manikins, which include both adult and child models, to instantly change the scenarios and introduce new problems for the trainees to tackle.

Opening the centre, Niall Dickson said: "This is a glimpse of the future for medical education, and the fact that the unit attracts doctors from across Europe shows that it is at the cutting edge. We need facilities that enable medical students, doctors and other health professionals to learn clinical skills, to work in teams and to develop their techniques in a safe environment, and that is what the team at St George's is delivering.

"The ability to simulate accurately what really happens in the clinical situation has progressed by leaps and bounds and we need to embrace that technology across the NHS. St George's is leading the way."

The new centre will train around 2,500 people each year, including doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers and students, from St George's as well as other London hospitals and universities. The project was funded by St George's Hospital Charity, which also donated £150,000 for a new patient simulation manikin, one of the most advanced types available.



1 2 3 4 5

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- › New partnership expands opportunities for international students
- › State-of-the-art medical training facility opens at St George's
- › Courses come top in London and new training contracts awarded
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

Courses come top in London and new training contracts awarded



In June 2011, the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences was given top marks by the NHS London Contract Performance Management system for three of its courses, and there were significant improvements made overall. The Faculty – run jointly by Kingston University and St George's, University of London – was named the best of the capital's education providers in therapeutic radiography, children's nursing, and learning disability nursing courses, and second best in physiotherapy.

NHS London named the Faculty as the most overall improved higher education provider, which is recognition of how it has made big changes to progression and attrition outcomes as well as other measures. This has resulted in receiving the new quality premiums, which are being used to improve the quality of public engagement in teaching, with a particular focus on dementia.

Faculty dean Professor Fiona Ross said: "Enhancing the quality of the student experience cannot be solved with one magic bullet. We start from the principle of valuing the individual, by recognising that our students come from diverse backgrounds. They have a range of different expectations and needs, and may experience various life events – such as health, financial or personal events – during their programmes of study.

“ We encourage students to support each other and thereby grow in confidence themselves ”

"We address this diversity by providing personalised support such as strengthening our personal tutor systems, reviewing and providing essential feedback on academic and practice performance, and offering academic skills support, for example, maths drop-in sessions and study skills. We encourage students to support each other and thereby grow in confidence themselves."

NHS London commissions more than £1billion worth of education and training courses from higher education institutions each year to develop its healthcare workforce. It was the first strategic health authority in England to develop a comprehensive system for assuring contract performance of the education it commissions, and this is the third year that ratings have been published. Ratings indicate whether courses are fit for purpose and provide value for money, and provide assurance that students graduating from these courses have the right skills to deliver the best possible healthcare in London.

Full results can be found on [NHS London's website](#).

New nursing and physiotherapy training contracts award

As well as giving top marks to its courses, in 2011 NHS London awarded two major contracts to the Faculty to educate the capital's nurses and physiotherapists.

The Faculty is part of an elite group of education providers selected to offer nursing and physiotherapy training in London, following a rigorous nine-month tender process. Bidders vying for the NHS London contracts had to demonstrate they could produce healthcare workers able to provide first-class, compassionate care. They also came under close scrutiny for the quality of their degree programmes.

The announcement means the Faculty will see a six per cent increase in student numbers and receive a significant boost in funding. It also paves the way for the launch of a new Master's in Physiotherapy, aimed at graduates eager to play a key role in the profession.



Around 550 students graduate as healthcare professionals each year from courses facilitated by the partnership between Kingston and St George's universities.

[Back to the top ↕](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the Principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- › Child penicillin doses should be reviewed
- › Plant-derived HIV antibody gets the go ahead for human trials
- › Scientists discover new gene that increases the risk of stroke
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Our students
- Our staff
- Our alumni
- Our facilities

Delivering focused research

St George's aims to pursue and attain excellence in a focused scientific, clinical and educational research portfolio

Improving people's health is at the heart of all research conducted at St George's. Expertise is sharply focused to respond to current local, national and worldwide needs in the specialist areas of: infection and immunity; stroke and dementia; human genetics; biomedical sciences; population health; and cardiovascular sciences. Backed by grants from some of the world's most prominent research-funding organisations, St George's scientists continued to make great strides in their fields of expertise during 2011.

Research income

Income totalling £17million was received from external sources last year. This represents a diverse range of national and international funding from major charities and foundations, UK research councils and other government agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, and US federal institutes.

St George's scientists achieved one of the highest success rates of any UK institution for funding from the Medical Research Council (MRC). Of those organisations that submitted more than 10 applications to the MRC in 2010-11, St George's had the best success rate, both in terms of the percentage of applications funded and the percentage of requested funds awarded. Among other organisations that granted research awards to St George's projects were the Natural Environment Research Council, the European Commission, the Department of Health, the British Heart Foundation, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, and the National Institute for Health Research.

“ St George's scientists achieved one of the highest success rates of any UK institution for funding from the Medical Research Council ”

Research projects

Fresh funding was used to support up to 100 projects across the full spectrum of research at St George's. These included:

- A £2.6million MRC award to conduct a trial of two new drug treatments for HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis. The team, led by [Professor Tom Harrison](#), will carry out a four-and-a-half-year trial at three sites in Malawi and Zambia, where cryptococcal meningitis is a major problem and often fatal.
- The European Commission granted funding to research led by [Professor Julian Ma](#) that will see the continuation of his work to [develop a plant-derived antibody designed to stop the transmission of HIV](#). A landmark decision from UK regulators saw this project become the first in Europe to get the go ahead for human clinical trials of an antibody produced from genetically modified plants.
- The Department of Health backed research by [Irene Tuffrey-Wijne](#) that aims to identify the factors that affect the implementation of strategies to promote a safer environment for patients with learning disabilities. Ultimately, it is hoped that this will improve the care of patients with disabilities.
- Supported by three MRC awards, including two clinical fellowships, [Professor Andrew Crosby](#) and his team are investigating the gene defects that cause inherited conditions within families and wider populations such as the Amish communities. Their research aims to improve health and wellbeing by aiding clinical diagnosis as well as genetic testing and counselling in these communities.

Collaborative work

The strength of science at St George's is enhanced by collaborations with scientists all over the world. This allows researchers to draw on a bigger pool of expertise in their mutual search for solutions to healthcare problems.

Collaborations with both universities, including University College London, Newcastle University and Imperial College London, and industrial partners including GlaxoSmithKline, Roche, Merck Sharpe & Dohme, Gilead Sciences, Medtronic UK and Pfizer – the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical company.

St George's is the lead partner or coordinator on a number of large research consortia and networks internationally. For example, [Professor Peter Whincup](#) from St George's is leading a MRC-funded project investigating novel biomarkers in the development of cardiovascular conditions, such as heart attack and stroke. This collaboration involves researchers from all around the UK, who hope to identify biological pathways in the early development of these conditions using new, non-invasive methods that could be used to assess patients considered to be at high risk.



Partnership work

The integrated research environment between St George's, University of London and St George's Healthcare NHS Trust continued to grow in strength over 2011, with both organisations signing a formal memorandum of understanding affirming their commitment to work together. The partnership allows work across the two organisations to benefit from research and academic expertise, as well as up-to-the-minute knowledge from practice about today's real healthcare problems.

Research conducted through the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, a joint partnership with Kingston University, continued to influence practice and policy in 2011. The focus of work is on inter-professional working, service-facing delivery and translating research into practice. Concluding projects in 2011 included:

- A National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)-funded investigation into the impact of interprofessional teamwork on patient and carer experiences of stroke recovery care, led by [Professor Ruth Harris](#) working with colleagues from St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and King's College Hospital NHS Trust.
- [Professor Mary Chambers](#) led investigations into best practice in service-user involvement in the design and delivery of education for health professionals. This was commissioned by the health professions regulatory body the Health Professions Council.
- [Professor Ray Jones](#) highlighted key issues for consideration when delivering health and social care services through multi-professional and inter-agency teams, an increasing focus on service delivery. Funded by the [South West London Academic, Health and Social Care System](#), the project focused on core professional competencies, characteristics and contributions of professionals within multi-disciplinary teams and how their time was deployed between tasks.

During 2011 Faculty staff, either as leaders or members of research teams, were awarded 15 new grants to the value of £1,570,791. [Michael Hurley](#), professor of rehabilitation sciences, was one of these. He was awarded £350,000 by Arthritis Research UK. Collaborating with colleagues from the University of Cardiff, he will investigate effective and affordable models for managing chronic knee pain and osteoarthritis.

[Dr Fiona Jones](#) was also part of a team to receive fresh funding, receiving a £248,675 NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Award to investigate a self-management stroke programme. [Dr Nan Greenwood](#), with colleagues from Southampton University amongst others, was awarded £272,877 by the NIHR to investigate ethnic differences in satisfaction with social care amongst older survivors of stroke.

Also underlining the success of research conducted within the Faculty, [Professor Vari Drennan](#) and colleagues from University College London were awarded a prize at the Royal College of General Practitioners Research Paper of the Year Award ceremony in the category of dementia and neurodegenerative diseases. Their winning paper was entitled [A taboo within a stigma? a qualitative study of managing incontinence with people with dementia living at home](#).

[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Welcome from the principal](#)
- [Our strategy in action](#)
- [The educational experience](#)
- [Delivering focused research](#)
- [› Child penicillin doses should be reviewed](#)
- [› Plant-derived HIV antibody gets the go ahead for human trials](#)
- [› Scientists discover new gene that increases the risk of stroke](#)
- [Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)
- [Message from the Students' Union](#)
- [St George's people](#)
- [Alumni activities](#)
- [Enhancing the St George's environment](#)
- [Who's who at St George's](#)
- [A year in numbers](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Penicillin doses for children should be reviewed, say experts



A team of scientists and clinicians, led by researchers at King's College London and St George's, University of London, called for a review of penicillin dosing guidelines for children, which have remained unchanged for nearly 50 years.

The call came as a study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) indicated some children may not be receiving effective doses, which could potentially lead to failed treatment and contribute to antibiotic resistance.

Oral penicillins (such as amoxicillin) account for nearly 4.5million of the total six million annual prescriptions for antibiotics given to treat childhood bacterial infections each year in the UK. Current dosing guidelines for penicillin are provided by the British National Formulary for Children (BNFC) and are mainly based on age bands. The doses given have not changed in almost 50 years. But the dose of penicillin needed is determined by a child's weight, and the guidelines have not taken into account the increase in the average weight of children over time. The experts say reviewing these guidelines is essential, to ensure all children who require penicillin are receiving effective doses.

“ Although there is now a very formal process of determining the right dose for new drugs being licensed for use in children, we also need to check more carefully that the guidelines are still correct for older drugs that have been used for a long time. ”

The review was led by [Professor Mike Sharland](#) at St George's, University of London and Dr Paul Long from the Institute of Pharmaceutical Science at King's College London on behalf of the Improving Children's Antibiotic Prescribing Research Network (ICAP).

The team carried out a literature review of evidence, including all the historic archives of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the British Medical Association, to understand the origins of the current dosing guidelines.

They found that prescribing based on age bands had first been suggested in the early 1950s, based on the results of oral dosing studies. Following these findings, a general recommendation to use age banding for all antibiotics in children was published in the BMJ in 1963, and these same recommendations remain in use today. The researchers found that the age-band guidelines set in 1963 were accompanied by average weights, and doses are based on fractions of the widely used adult doses.

The BNFC structured dosing bands are: birth to one year (10kg); two years (13kg); five years (18kg); and 10 years (30kg). However, according to the Health Survey for England 2009, the average weight today of a five year old is 21kg and a 10 year old is 37kg, indicating that average weights today are up to 20 per cent higher than in 1963. Under dosing is potentially a problem for children, as this could lead to sub-therapeutic concentrations.

The researchers also noted that adult penicillin recommendations have been re-evaluated taking modern weights into consideration, and penicillin doses have consequently increased. But UK recommendations for children have not been reassessed in the same way.

Professor Sharland said:

“Although there is now a very formal process of determining the right dose for new drugs being licensed for use in children, we also need to check more carefully that the guidelines are still correct for older drugs that have been used for a long time.”

“We are not saying the current doses are wrong or unsafe. This study does not provide any clinical evidence that children are receiving sub-optimal penicillin doses that lead to harm, and we want to reassure parents of that. Parents should always give the medicine at the doses prescribed by their GP. What we are saying is that we need to develop a clearer system to check the doses used for older medicines.”

The full research paper can be found on the [BMJ's website](#).

In 2012, the same researchers will begin further investigations into the drug levels that standard doses of oral penicillin actually achieve inside a child's body and how this impacts on clinical outcome. The researchers, working as part of a consortium of academics from all around Europe, hope that this will provide insight into what is the optimal penicillin dose for children today. This study received a £300,000 grant from the European Union under the health theme of the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), which brings together researchers investigating similar areas of work to maximise impact on public health.

[Back to the top ↴](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- › [Child penicillin doses should be reviewed](#)
- › [Plant-derived HIV antibody gets the go ahead for human trials](#)
- › [Scientists discover new gene that increases the risk of stroke](#)
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

Plant-derived HIV antibody gets the go ahead for human trials



In 2011 UK regulators approved Europe's first clinical trial of an antibody produced from genetically modified (GM) plants. This landmark decision set the stage for the testing in humans of an anti-HIV product made from modified tobacco plants. It will open the door for trials of additional plant-derived medicines treating a range of diseases.

The trial, which was approved in July 2011, is testing the safety of a plant-derived antibody designed to stop the transmission of HIV between sexual partners when applied directly to the vaginal cavity. If proven safe in the 11 participants, the researchers can then go on to test the effectiveness of the product.

The clinical trial marked the culmination of the European Union (EU) Framework 6 Pharma-Planta project, which was launched by a consortium of 30 academic and industrial partners in 2004 with £12million in funding from the EU. The primary goal was to develop an approved manufacturing process for an antibody made in plants, and take one such product through all the development stages including the pivotal clinical trial.

Most biopharmaceutical products such as this antibody are currently made at great expense in fermentation vats containing bacteria or mammal cells. However, the mass production of medicines in modified plants could reduce costs and therefore make an important contribution to global health, by improving access for the poor in developing countries, where diseases such as HIV are a huge problem. In addition, the simple manufacturing process could be transferred to developing countries allowing production in the region for the region.

The approval granted by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is a significant step forward because it means a plant-based production system can comply with current Good Manufacturing Practice, the strict standards used in the industry to ensure medicine quality and consistency.

[Professor Julian Ma](#), scientific coordinator for Pharma-Planta and professor of molecular immunology at St George's, University of London, said:

"This is a red letter day for the field. The approval from the MHRA for us to proceed with human trials is an acknowledgement that monoclonal antibodies can be made in plants to the same quality as those made using existing conventional production systems. That is something many people did not believe could be achieved."

The clinical trial – which is being carried out at the University of Surrey Clinical Research Centre – will test a topically applied anti-HIV microbicide. The active ingredient in the microbicide is a monoclonal antibody called P2G12. Monoclonal antibodies are complex proteins, originally derived from the body's immune system but in this case made in the plants, to combat diseases such as infections and cancer. If successful, the investigators envisage that P2G12 will be used in combination with other HIV-neutralising antibodies, also produced in plants, to create a broadly protective vaginal microbicide product.

The team at the Surrey Clinical Research Centre – which is phase 1-accredited and has broad experience in complex and intensive physiological monitoring studies – worked alongside Professor Ma and Professor David Lewis at St George's to design, coordinate and conduct the trial of P2G12.

The GM tobacco plants producing P2G12 were grown in state-of-the-art containment greenhouses at the Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology (IME) in Aachen, Germany, and the antibody was isolated and purified in a custom-designed processing plant on the same site, the first of its kind to be granted a license to manufacture recombinant pharmaceutical products from plants in Europe.

Professor Rainer Fischer, Pharma-Planta coordinator and Fraunhofer IME Director, said:

"We now have a facility in Europe for producing modern medicines in transgenic plants that is unique in the world, although this has taken many years and much investment to establish. This approval is a springboard for European plant biotechnology and will enable many important medical products to be realised."

[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- › Child penicillin doses should be reviewed
- › Plant-derived HIV antibody gets the go ahead for human trials
- › Scientists discover new gene that increases the risk of stroke
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

Scientists discover new gene that increases the risk of stroke



A genetic variant that increases the risk of a common type of stroke was identified by scientists. This is one of the few genetic variants to date to be associated with risk of stroke and the discovery opens up new possibilities for treatment.

Stroke is the second leading cause of death worldwide (more than one in 10 of all deaths, and over six million deaths annually), and also in developed countries is a major cause of chronic disability. As the world's populations age the impact of stroke on wellbeing is likely to increase further.

Several different mechanisms underlie strokes. One of the most common types is when blood flow is impaired because of a blockage to one or more of the large arteries supplying blood to the brain – large artery ischemic stroke. This accounts for more than a third of all strokes.

Researchers from St George's, University of London and Oxford University, working with scientists from Europe, America and Australia, in one of the largest genetic studies of stroke to date, compared the genetic make-up of 10,000 people who had suffered from a stroke with 40,000 healthy individuals. The study was funded by the Wellcome Trust.

The researchers discovered an alteration in a gene called HDAC9 which affects a person's risk of large artery ischemic stroke. This variant occurs on about 10 per cent of human chromosomes. Those people who carry two copies of the variant (one inherited from each parent) have nearly twice the risk for this type of stroke compared to those with no copies of the variant.

The protein produced by HDAC9 is already known to play a role in the formation of muscle tissue and heart development. However, the exact mechanism by which the genetic variant increases the risk of stroke is not yet known. A better understanding of the mechanism could lead to new drugs to treat or prevent stroke; however, the researchers stress that this is still some way off.

Professor Hugh Markus, from St George's, University of London, who co-led the study said:

“This discovery identifies a completely new mechanism for causing stroke. The next step is to determine in more detail the relationship between HDAC9 and stroke and see whether we can develop new treatments that reduce the risk of stroke. Interestingly, there are already drugs available which inhibit the HDAC9 protein. However, it is important that we understand the mechanism involved before trialling the effects of these drugs on stroke.”

The researchers went on to show that the new variant does not have the same effect on the risk of other types of stroke, which include bleeding in the brain (haemorrhagic stroke).

Professor Peter Donnelly, director of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in the University of Oxford, who co-led the study, said:

“Our study shows that the different subtypes of stroke could involve quite different genetic mechanisms. This is really fascinating, and if it holds up more generally, will move us closer to personalised medicine, where treatments and preventions can be tailored more precisely to individual patients.”

Dr Peter Coleman, deputy director of research at The Stroke Association, who funded the collection of some of the samples used in this study, said:

“More than a third of strokes are caused by a blockage in one of the large blood vessels supplying blood to the brain (large artery stroke). Findings from this ground-breaking study appear to show a genetic link which may affect a person's risk of large vessel stroke. Further study is needed, but this research could potentially lead to new methods of screening and prevention for large vessel stroke, and ultimately, new methods of treatment.”

The study concluded in 2011 and was published in Nature Genetics in February 2012. Subscribers to the journal can view the full article [here](#) using the DOI 10.1038/ng.1081.

[Back to the top ↴](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- › St George's opens its doors to the local community
- › Working together to improve patient care in south west London
- › School pupils try their hands at healthcare
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities

St George's aims to promote the sharing of knowledge, expertise and opportunities within our local, regional and international communities

As well as benefits to society that are intrinsic within day-to-day research and education activities, St George's aims to positively impact on local communities – those in south west London, as well as on a national and international scale – through four dedicated channels.

Widening participation

St George's undertakes an annual programme of activities that aim to open up higher education to all sectors of society by raising aspirations and informing young people about their career options. Through initiatives including workshops, road shows, and [spring and summer schools](#), St George's reached approximately 4,000 school pupils in 2011.

A transnational programme

In 2011, the first cohort of students enrolled on the St George's medical programme at the [University of Nicosia in Cyprus](#), which is the first medical training to be offered in Cyprus. The University of Nicosia is offering a four-year graduate entry medicine degree, designed by St George's and based on its own successful course. Students who complete the MBBS4 programme in Nicosia will earn a degree from St George's. The programme was also celebrated with an official launch, attended by the Cypriot education minister and representatives from the British High Commission.

St George's has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the [University of South Florida](#). This aims to encourage collaboration between the two partners to enhance clinical training and curriculum development, and to inform the identification of research synergies and investigation of joint funding opportunities.



St George's worked with approximately 4,000 school-aged children around the UK to raise their career aspirations and inform them about careers in healthcare.

1 2 3

Centre for Enterprise and Innovation

The number of St George's academics consulting with private businesses to help them find solutions to their healthcare problems has increased rapidly over the last three years, which has seen revenue in this area grow from £100,000 in 2008/09 to £766,000 in 2010/11. The types of consultancy projects are wide and varied, from sitting on drug development boards in big pharmaceutical companies, to delivering masterclasses and training medical teachers overseas, to advising the NHS on how to optimise patient data informatics to improve patient care.

The Centre for Enterprise and Innovation helped more St George's staff and students set up their own business or social enterprise. These included the publication of a medical text book written by St George's student [Somayyeh Shahsavari](#); the commercialisation of a [virtual patient training app](#) for Apple platforms; and the launch of the [Books Beyond Words](#) series (which uses picture books to tackle emotional life events for people with learning disabilities) as a social enterprise, which sees all profits ploughed back into the business.

Enterprise activities continue to flourish into 2012. [Dr Jodi Lindsay](#) has developed a diagnostic tool for a particular strain of MRSA – often referred to as a superbug – for which the Centre of Enterprise and Innovation is finalising an agreement to license to a leading French pharmaceutical company.

The St George's [BuG@S](#) research team has agreed a research and consultancy collaboration with a top five pharmaceutical company. The team has developed a molecular tool for detecting multiple serotypes – or strains – of pneumococcus bacteria, a common cause of pneumonia, septicaemia and meningitis. The BuG@S team is working with the company to develop typing of other pathogens and establish routine use of this method in vaccine trials conducted worldwide.

South West London Academic, Health and Social Care System

This network of health, social care and higher education providers – of which St George's is a member – continued to work with third sector and industry to improve healthcare provision to people in the local south west London community. Whether this was through enabling the sharing of knowledge and best practice, developing or refining courses to meet healthcare provider needs, or by funding small research projects, the system made great strides during 2011. [Find out more.](#)

[Back to the top ↴](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

[Home](#)

[Welcome from the principal](#)

[Our strategy in action](#)

[The educational experience](#)

[Delivering focused research](#)

[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)

[St George's opens its doors to the local community](#)

[Working together to improve patient care in south west London](#)

[School pupils try their hands at healthcare](#)

[Message from the Students' Union](#)

[St George's people](#)

[Alumni activities](#)

[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)

[Who's who at St George's](#)

[A year in numbers](#)

[Contact us](#)

St George's opens its doors to the local community



On Saturday 18 June 2011 around 2,000 members of the local Tooting community forewent their usual Saturday routine in favour of a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the workings of a busy hospital and university. This was offered as part of the inaugural St George's Community Open Day.

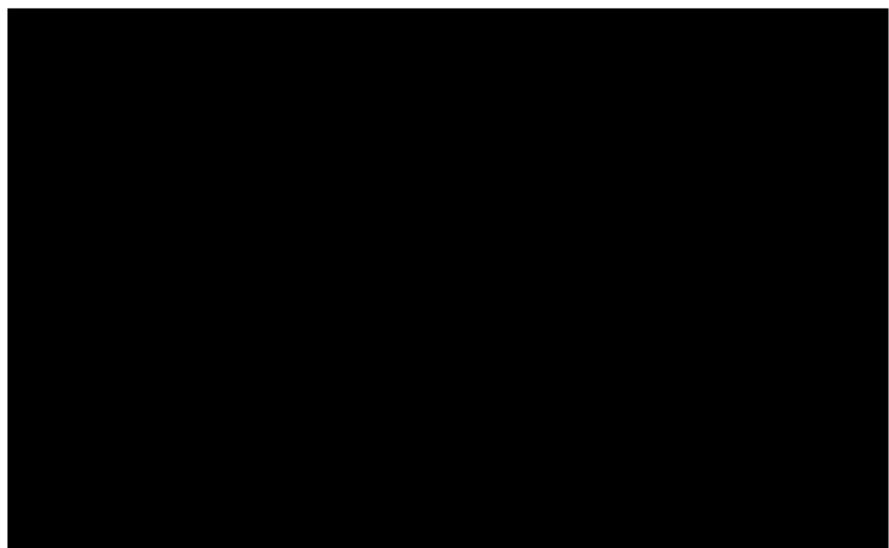
Throughout the day, staff from across St George's Hospital and University were available on more than 50 stands to showcase key services, provide advice on healthy living, and offer information about healthcare career opportunities and St George's courses.

University researchers provided visitors with an insight into the working science of the human body and demonstrated aspects of their cutting-edge medical and health sciences work. Students got involved to provide interactive demonstrations of healthcare skills, including how to wrap the perfect bandage, and even helped visitors – young and old – make their very own finger plaster cast.

Students' Union (SU) representatives talked about some of the SU charity activities that contribute to the local community, such as the STAR project that helps young refugees integrate into the local community. Visitors were also able to go on tours of the hospital to get the inside view of a surgical theatre, CT body scanning and state-of-the-art robotic surgery.

As well as all the science and healthcare activities, family entertainment included juggling lessons, face painting, and street theatre performances.

“It was a privilege to be able to show people what we do here, as well as give them the chance to experience practical aspects of medicine and healthcare themselves”



Professor Peter Kopelman, principal of St George's, University of London, said:

“It was a memorable occasion that showcased the past achievements of the hospital and university, the current close partnership and future ambitions of the greater St George's.”

“There was great interest from visitors in the stands and exhibitions on show. It was a privilege to be able to show people what we do here, as well as give them the chance to experience practical aspects of medicine and healthcare themselves.”

The event was officially opened by the Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Jane Cooper, while the Rt Hon Sadiq Khan, MP for Tooting, was also on hand to lend his support.

[Back to the top ↴](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- › St George's opens its doors to the local community
 - › Working together to improve patient care in south west London
 - › School pupils try their hands at healthcare
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

Working together to improve patient care in south west London



The South West London Academic, Health and Social Care System helps St George's continue to share its knowledge and expertise in order to support the development of the best possible health and social care for people living in south west London.

Formerly known as the South West London Academic, Health and Social Care Network, the collaboration brings together social services departments from the six south west London boroughs, NHS organisations providing and commissioning health services in this quarter of the capital and researchers working at Kingston and Roehampton universities as well as St George's.

In 2011, the name change from Network to System marked progress that had been made since these alliances were first created in 2009 at the behest of St George's and NHS Wandsworth.

"Networks bring people together: we are now creating a system whereby organisations combine their abilities and resources to craft solutions to problems and jointly develop the best ways of working, share innovative service developments and launch joint ventures," said SW London System director Laurence Benson, who leads a small team of staff based at St George's tasked with making the System's mission happen.

One such venture is the new Healthcare Practice Foundation Degree in the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences (run jointly by Kingston and St George's universities) launched with the support of the System in January 2012 in response to shared recruitment difficulties identified by the four acute NHS trust members (St George's Healthcare, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals, Kingston Hospital and Croydon Health Services). Representatives of the trusts came together to commission bespoke training for a new associate/assistant practitioner role (AP) at band 4 level (healthcare assistant posts are bands 2 and 3; a registered nurse post is band 5). Each of the trusts has appointed their own cohort of APs: they will offer practical support to patients and qualified staff in maternity care, peri-operative care and general nursing.

Equally important is the System's backing of small projects suggested by researchers or health and social care professionals. The 2011 batch of small grant-funded projects included one that brought together researchers from the three member universities to explore the potential use of an accelerometer, a component used in mobile phones and Wii games, to help aid assessment and diagnosis in older people who are prone to falling.

St George's and other System members also join forces with health and social care colleagues in south east London through the South London Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC), one of 17 similar networks in England funded by the government until 2012.

The South London HIEC is led jointly by the SW London System and King's Health Partners (the academic health sciences centre involving King's College London and NHS trusts on the east side of London) and focuses on four specialist areas – diabetes, mental health, stroke and infection control.

Working under the auspices of the HIEC, St George's microbiologists and IT specialists, for example, have designed a new web-based system for accurately and swiftly recording information about infections diagnosed in hospital – including E. coli and MRSA. Doctors at both St George's and St Thomas' hospitals are now using the system, inputting and updating information on mobile devices at a patient's bedside.

To find out more about the work of the System in 2011, visit www.swlondonahsn.org.

“ We are now creating a system whereby organisations combine their abilities and resources to craft solutions to problems and jointly develop the best ways of working, share innovative service developments and launch joint ventures. ”

[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- [St George's opens its doors to the local community](#)
- [Working together to improve patient care in south west London](#)
- [School pupils try their hands at healthcare](#)
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

School pupils try their hands at healthcare



During the spring and summer of 2011 more than 200 school pupils from all around the UK traded in a few days of their school holidays in favour of trialling life as a trainee medic or healthcare professional at St George's, University of London.

The annual spring and summer schools aim to spark an interest in medicine and healthcare, as well as raise young people's aspirations. Participants get to learn about the range of healthcare careers available, and can try their hands at practical activities including clinical skills, making plaster cast body parts, and becoming pathologists and sleuthing their way to find the cause of death of case-study patients.

St George's student ambassadors act as mentors, offering guidance and support. Teenagers on the residential spring and summer schools even get to live at halls of residence, so they get a feel for life at university.

Throughout 2011, St George's hosted two three-day residential summer schools, and another non-residential event with pupils from in and around London.

Participants were selected based on having strong academic potential as well as being from schools where there is less expectation of students going on to higher education. The scheme forms part of the St George's commitment to attracting a more diverse cross section of students into higher education known as widening participation.

Summer schools are one of a number of St George's initiatives that promote fair access to education by raising young people's aspirations and informing them about medical and healthcare career opportunities. Other schemes include school visits, UK-wide mobile Experiments Roadshows, on-campus clinical skills taster days, and a multi-award winning website, tasteofmedicine.com



82% of Spring/Summer School participants 'definitely' think they will go into higher education, and 78% thought the Spring/Summer School had helped them reach this decision

- [Home](#)
- [Welcome from the principal](#)
- [Our strategy in action](#)
- [The educational experience](#)
- [Delivering focused research](#)
- [Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)
- [Message from the Students' Union](#)
- [St George's people](#)
- [Alumni activities](#)
- [Enhancing the St George's environment](#)
- [Who's who at St George's](#)
- [A year in numbers](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Message from the Students' Union



It would be a major underestimation to say that the last year has been a busy one for the Students' Union (SU). From cheerleading trophies to the TV show University Challenge, the SU has continued to work as hard as possible to support our students and their activities.

In the first half of 2011 we had a very successful RAG fortnight, generating more than £20,000. This involved the traditional Man-o-Man contest and RAG auction as well as a few new events such as Take Me Out, based on the popular TV dating show.

Commercially, the SU began finalising plans with the newly appointed commercial manager to create our new and improved School Shop. This has recently opened and is looking fantastic. On top of this the SU was officially awarded charity status, in line with other UK students' unions.

Finally, the 2010-11 academic year finished with an amazing summer ball where the students kicked back and congratulated themselves on another year of hard work.

From August 2011 the new sabbatical officers were let loose, setting a precedent with the appointment of two co-presidents. We kicked off the year by organising our three freshers' weeks: a week for postgraduate freshers and a further two weeks for new undergraduates, helping the fresh-faced new boys and girls to settle in in true George's style. The autumn term saw the return of some of our favourite shows – a screening of our comedy group the St George's Revue, a Diwali Show and a Fashion Show. All of these events were great fun and demonstrated the wealth of talent among our students. Our Bhangra dance group won first place at Bhangra Wars 2011, a national dance competition – not bad for a squad that only launched in 2010!

The SU equality and diversity officers organised Interfaith Week. This was a great opportunity to celebrate the diversity of faith groups represented among our student body. Interfaith Week also saw the unveiling of the new multi-faith and quiet contemplation room. The equality and diversity officers have also been working hard to pass our No Platform policy aimed at preventing external speakers from giving messages of violence or hatred against groups of people. This will now be taken to our Annual General Meeting at the end of the academic year. Additionally, we have been working on the Use Your SU campaign to increase awareness of the Students' Union among our students. This is an ongoing campaign that will continue throughout the year.

At the beginning of the academic year we introduced a number of new clubs and societies to our ever-growing spectrum of activities. This included Dance Society, Horse Riding Club and Hiking Society to name but a few. We have continued to encourage our students' academic interests by welcoming academic societies to the SU, including the Clinical Neuroscience Society and the Paediatrics Society. We have also selected a team for the TV show University Challenge and are waiting patiently to hear if it will make it onto the small screen.

Finally, sports-wise our George's teams have been training hard which has resulted in a number of successes. The rugby club reached the United Hospitals (UH) cup final, the cheerleading squad won three trophies and the cricket team also received an award in the UH tournament.

Sarah Fitch
Students' Union co-president 2011-12



[Back to the top ↑](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

[Home](#)
[Welcome from the principal](#)
[Our strategy in action](#)
[The educational experience](#)
[Delivering focused research](#)
[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)
[Message from the Students' Union](#)
[St George's people](#)
[Alumni activities](#)
[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)
[Who's who at St George's](#)
[A year in numbers](#)
[Contact us](#)

St George's people

At St George's we recognise that the talent of our people is the single most important factor of our past and future success.



Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran

Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran was made an honorary fellow of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

Sir Arul, head of obstetrics and gynaecology at St George's, was instrumental in developing the faculty during his time as president of the RCOG.

In presenting him with the honorary fellowship, Dr Christine Robinson, immediate past president of the faculty, said: "In summary, then, Arul is a gentleman, whose intellect, political and strategic skills and support has enabled the faculty to evolve into the highly competent organisation that it now is. Certainly, without him the specialty of community sexual and reproductive health would not exist. The faculty owes a large debt of gratitude to him and it is a privilege to put him forward for honorary fellowship of the faculty."

Sir Arul is also honorary secretary of the Academy of Royal Medical Colleges UK, and president elect of the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He was president of the RCOG from 2007-2010.



Neomi Bennet

Alumna Neomi Bennett was nominated for a prestigious nursing award for inventing a life-saving aid for patients with mobility problems. Neomi developed her device for helping people at risk of deep vein thrombosis while studying at the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences, jointly run by St George's and Kingston universities.

Neomi, who completed a three-year diploma in nursing, was runner-up for the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Fellows Student Nurse of the Year Award 2011 run by Nursing Standard magazine.

Neomi, who was starting a new job at Trinity Hospice in south London at the time of the awards, secured her nomination after writing about her invention, which consists of a slippery inner sock that helps users put on anti-embolism stockings. The stockings are very tight to help prevent blood clots known as emboli forming in the legs and travelling through the bloodstream to the lungs or brain, causing damage or even death. The stockings are frequently prescribed to bed-bound patients, post-operative patients and those with reduced mobility.

"I came up with the idea while I was on a placement in the community and saw a patient and relative struggling to put on anti-embolism stockings", Neomi explained. "Patients are often left to their own devices – one woman was so afraid to ask a nurse how to get the stockings on that she ended up using them as curtain ties. That seemed terrible because the stockings can be a life-saver."



Jim Blair

Special Olympics Great Britain (SOGB) has appointed senior lecturer in learning disabilities Jim Blair as vice chair. Jim - who is based at the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences - will work to help the growing organisation engage more people in sports.

Set up in 1978, SOGB is the country's largest provider of year-round sports programmes for children and adults with learning disabilities. Through a network of 135 clubs in England, Scotland and Wales, the charity offers training and competitions in 26 sports to more than 8,000 people with learning disabilities.

In his new position, Jim, who is also a consultant nurse in learning disabilities at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, is keen to ensure that the benefits of being involved in Special Olympics are more widely acknowledged as an essential component of a fulfilling, inclusive and active healthy life. Jim is also dedicated to assisting in growing the organisation to ensure that more people with a learning disability, their families and volunteers can be engaged in sports activities.



Professor Adrian Clark

A distinguished professor of medicine and endocrinology was appointed as dean of research and enterprise at St George's, University of London.

Professor Adrian Clark joins St George's from his post as professor of medicine and deputy director of the William Harvey Research Institute at Queen Mary, University of London.

Professor Clark graduated in medicine in 1976 and, after training in general internal medicine, worked as registrar in endocrinology at Hammersmith Hospital and as research registrar at the Unit for Metabolic Medicine at Guy's Hospital (now Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital). He then trained for five years in molecular biology and receptor biology at the National Institutes of Health in the USA.

He has held posts at Queen Mary since 1991, where he established the Molecular Endocrinology Laboratory – a specialist centre aimed at understanding the molecular basis of endocrine disease. Professor Clark became professor of molecular endocrinology in 1996 and professor of medicine in 2001. Professor Clark is also editor-in-chief of the Journal of Endocrinology and is a member of the Research Excellence Framework sub-panel 5 (biological sciences).

In his post as dean of research and enterprise at St George's, Professor Clark will lead the implementation of the University's research and enterprise strategy, working in close collaboration with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and partners in south London, to develop distinctive strengths in applied research. He takes up his role in April 2012.



Wendy Gay

Wendy Gay was appointed the first joint director of human resources at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust and St George's, University of London.

The innovative appointment is part of a partnership programme that is focusing on closer working between the two organisations which have the shared goal of providing the highest quality education, training, research and clinical care.

The joint post will support the alignment of workforce planning, education and training across both organisations. It demonstrates a joint commitment to attracting, supporting and developing the most talented workforce in an efficient way.

Wendy joined St George's from her post as director of workforce and education at Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust, a position she has held since 2005. Previous posts include director of human resources and organisational development at Bromley PCT (2003-2005), and head of employee relations at King's College Hospital NHS Trust (1999-2003). Wendy also has a background in human resources within the mental health and charity sectors.



Professor Hamid Ghodse

Professor Hamid Ghodse received two accolades during 2011. He was reelected to the global drug law body the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and presented with the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Professor Ghodse, who is currently president of the body, was reelected for another five-year term as member of the INCB and will sit on the board from 2012 to 2017. This will be his fifth consecutive term at the organisation, and is a record among members.

The INCB is an independent United Nations (UN) organisation that monitors and supports governments' compliance with international drug control treaties. Its work involves identifying flaws in drug control measures, and assisting governments to correct them. It consists of 13 members, who are elected by the UN's Economic and Social Council, and who serve in their personal capacity rather than as government representatives.

Professor Ghodse, who is a professor of psychiatry and international drug policy at St George's and also heads its International Centre for Drug Policy (ICDP), has been a member of the INCB since 1992. Since 1993, he has been elected president 11 times, including his current term.

In his INCB role, Professor Ghodse is involved in leading the INCB's engagement with governments around the world, in efforts to stem the illicit drugs trade. The INCB also works to ensure adequate supply of and access to controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

Also in 2011, Professor Ghodse received his award at the Royal College's annual awards, which reward excellent practice in the field of mental health. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most prestigious honour, and recognises a lifetime commitment to developing and providing mental health care.

Professor Sue Bailey, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said: "I am delighted that Hamid has been honoured by the college in this way. He has worked in the field of addictions, mental health policy and medical education for more than 35 years, and is without doubt one of the world's leading experts in drug control."

She added: "Over the years the college has benefited greatly from the talents of this exceptionally gifted man, and he is a very worthy winner of our 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award."

Professor George Griffin

Professor George Griffin, expert in infectious diseases, has taken up two new prestigious posts in infection and medical organisations.

Professor Griffin has been appointed to the Infection Advisory Board of the new Laboratory of Excellence in the Institut Pasteur, Paris. This new extensive



grouping of laboratories will provide a national surveillance system for infectious diseases in France, and will be at the forefront of new rapid methods of pathogen and infectious disease diagnosis. It also has a strong public health and translational element.

Professor Griffin has also been invited to become the honorary organising secretary of the Medical Pilgrims, a group of UK senior medical professionals, vice chancellors and heads of medical schools. The Medical Pilgrims were formed in 1928 to review research and teaching, and the group has an important social role in interacting with the universities and cities it visits. Overseas visits encourage international relationships.

St George's last hosted a Medical Pilgrims visit in 2002, when Professor Robert Boyd was dean.



Professor Ruth Harris

Ruth Harris was appointed as the first professor of nursing practice and innovation at Kingston University and St George's, University of London's School of Nursing.

She set out to spearhead new research projects aimed at improving nursing practice and patient outcomes, and aims to work closely with local NHS trusts in developing new services.

Having always harboured a strong interest in research, at the time of her appointment Professor Harris said she was looking forward to the challenge of contributing to the new nursing education programmes.

Professor Harris has a clinical background in medical nursing and care of older people, and has worked as a primary nurse on a King's Fund-funded Nursing Development Unit (NDU) and as the ward manager on a nursing-led intermediate care unit. She has worked in a variety of NHS trusts, contributing to improvements in nursing practice, and building research capacity.

Professor Harris was previously a reader in nursing at Kingston and St George's universities, where she joined in 2006 from her post as deputy director in the National Nursing Research Unit, King's College London.



Professor Sheila Baroness Hollins

Professor Sheila the Baroness Hollins, professor of psychiatry of learning disability at St George's, was appointed president-elect of the British Medical Association (BMA) at the BMA Annual Representatives Meeting in Cardiff. Her term will run from July 2012 until June 2013.

The BMA is the professional association and registered trade union for doctors in the United Kingdom. Within her post as president, Baroness Hollins will have an opportunity to raise professional issues and to share her own interests and expertise with the membership.

This appointment recognises Baroness Hollins' contribution to people with learning disabilities and mental health. It follows her 2010 appointment to the House of Lords – the UK parliament's upper chamber.

Throughout her career, which began as an academic at St George's in 1981, Baroness Hollins has worked with people with learning disabilities and mental health issues. Her research, academic work and high profile posts have influenced policy and practice in these areas.

Professor Hollins will succeed Dr David Haslam, and will be the second psychiatrist to hold this post in the history of the BMA.



Professor Paul Jones

Professor Paul Jones has been appointed chair of the London South Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN), which works with the NHS locally to support clinical research.

Professor Jones, professor of respiratory medicine and head of the Division of Clinical Sciences at St George's, was voted chair by the board of the CLRN, part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

Professor Jones was previously medical director at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, and joint research and development director across the University and Trust. His research is principally in health status measurement and symptom quantification, and he is an active clinical trialist.

The CLRN is one of 25 local organisations that comprise the NIHR's Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (CCRN). They provide an infrastructure for coordinating clinical research, offering support to the local research community.



Professor James Ryan

James Ryan, emeritus professor of conflict recovery, has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for services to war and disaster medicine teaching.

Professor Ryan is an experienced warzone surgeon, and has been honoured for his work in education over many years. Professor Ryan came to St George's as emeritus professor in 2007, to advise on the establishment and evolution of the new Centre for Trauma, Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine. He was instrumental in setting up the Leadership in Disaster Medicine module on the intercalated BSc in Basic Medical Sciences at St George's, which has proven very popular with students.

Prior to his SGUL appointment, Professor Ryan was professor in conflict recovery at UCL from 1995 to 2007, and professor in trauma care at UCL Hospitals. In 2002, he was appointed international professor of surgery at the United Services University for the Health Sciences in Maryland, USA.

Before his professorship at UCL, Professor Ryan was joint professor of military surgery at the Royal Army Medical College and the Royal College of Surgeons.

As a war and disaster surgeon, he specialises in ballistic and terrorist injury, and military and conflict medicine. His service as part of military and humanitarian operations includes spells in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Falkland Islands, Nepal, the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Middle East, and Central Asia.



Mudit Matanhelia

Mudit Matanhelia, a third-year graduate-entry medical student at St George's, was the runner-up in a nationwide surgical skills competition run by The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd).

Mudit competed with another 19 medical students at the Grand Final of the Lister Surgical Skills Competition in Edinburgh. He was narrowly beaten to the top prize of a trip to competition sponsor Johnson & Johnson's European Surgical Training Institute in Hamburg. As runner-up he was awarded with free student membership of The Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) until he qualifies as a doctor.

The Lister Surgical Skills Competition was organised by the RCSEd in association with Johnson & Johnson Medical Companies to commemorate the life and contribution of Lord Joseph Lister, 100 years after his death. A former fellow of RCSEd, Lister was world-renowned for his groundbreaking work in the prevention of wound infection, which contributed greatly to the advancement of surgical standards.

The skills competition brought medical students from across the UK together to demonstrate their surgical skills in a series of heats over two months, as they attempted to reach the Grand Final of the competition. The Grand Final took place in Edinburgh on 11 February as part of the Lister Centenary Celebrations.



Somayyeh Shahsavari

A medical student and a lecturer from St George's wrote an anatomy textbook, which was published in October 2011 as part of a five-book series with a leading healthcare publisher.

Student Somayyeh Shahsavari and senior anatomy lecturer Philip Addis' book – 'The Musculoskeletal System' – was published by Informa Healthcare and, if successful, will lead to more in a series.

Somayyeh, in the P year of the MBBS4, came up with the idea for the book when she realised that her classmates found her well-organised, tabulated and illustrated anatomy notes very useful. She approached Philip and, with his support and input – along with the guidance of the St George's Centre for Enterprise and Innovation – pitched an idea for five anatomy books to Informa. Informa liked the idea and commissioned the first in the series, with the others to follow on different anatomical systems if the first sells well.

The book was written in seven months with the assistance of Somayyeh's fellow medical students Harriette Spencer and Shalina Mitchell. All the photos were taken by the students, and the book was illustrated by Jonathan Warren, using the Royal College of Surgeons' specimens and cadavers.

Somayyeh, who has a previous degree in biomedical science and a masters in molecular biology, said she has "a huge passion to become a surgeon" and was inspired to write the book by SGUL alumnus Henry Gray, her own love of anatomy and surgery, and the "inspirational" author Ruth Richardson, who she saw giving a lecture about her book on Gray's life: 'The making of Mr Gray's Anatomy'.

A synopsis of the book along with a more detailed layout of chapters can be found on [Informa's website](#).

[Back to the top](#) ↕

◀ Previous

Next ▶

- [Home](#)
- [Welcome from the principal](#)
- [Our strategy in action](#)
- [The educational experience](#)
- [Delivering focused research](#)
- [Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)
- [Message from the Students' Union](#)
- [St George's people](#)
- [Alumni activities](#)
- [Enhancing the St George's environment](#)
- [Who's who at St George's](#)
- [A year in numbers](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Enhancing the St George's environment



To support existing endeavours and enable the exploration of new rewarding opportunities, St George's is continuing to develop and maintain its physical environment.

Teaching, learning and research facilities

Staff and students are now benefiting from 3,300 metres of gleaming new offices and laboratories that support teaching and research, thanks to the completion of an £8.9million project, which was ready for use in January 2012.

Plans to redevelop a further 2,700 square metres of the campus to create more up-to-date teaching and study facilities were also drawn up. The £5million refurbishment project will create modern spaces – including general teaching rooms, computer-based learning rooms, and group learning areas – across two floors. The first part of the project will be completed in August 2012, and students will begin to benefit from the new rooms in September 2012. The space is for students to learn together on the established SGUL programmes and the new INTO St George's, University of London (INTO SGUL) internationally focused programmes.

A further development to enhance the student environment that got underway in 2011 is the construction of a new block of student halls of residence, which is set to complete in August 2012. These halls will provide 154 extra student rooms to support an increase in demand for university accommodation that is expected as a result of the new courses offered through the [INTO SGUL project](#). As well as offering more spacious rooms and a 300-square-metre common room, these halls are built with the environment in mind and include energy-efficient heating and electrical systems.

Support facilities

Plans to provide 200 new quiet study spaces over 700 metres of library space were recently agreed. The library currently houses 120 quiet study spaces as well as 42,000 books, 10,000 journal subscriptions, and a 24-hour computer room. The blueprints, which will be executed in the summer of 2012, are a direct response to student feedback.

A new multi-faith prayer and contemplation room was also recently developed. This provides staff and students with a larger space to practise their beliefs, and assures disabled access to the facilities.

The on-site convenience store, the School Shop, was expanded and modernised. A fresh, spacious feel was created with the help of a floor-to-ceiling glass front to the shop and wider aisles. The shop has seen turnover rise by 50 per cent since its refurbishment, which was completed in the summer of 2011. All profits made by the School Shop go directly to the Students' Union to help fund student-led initiatives.

Creating a greener environment

St George's made the decision to invest £70,000 in new energy and utility metres throughout university buildings. This move, which will be rolled out over 2012-13, will allow the University to measure output and consumption to focus on ways of reducing energy usage.

Improved efficiencies

St George's, University of London as a choice location for TV and film productions continued to grow in popularity – averaging about one production each month throughout 2011. Production enquiries indicate that this figure will grow further during 2012. Productions included TV drama Law & Order UK, a Channel Four documentary series called Gods and Monsters (hosted by Tony Robinson), and a photo backdrop for one of the well-known Compare the Market adverts, featuring one of its meerkat stars.



In 2011 St George's began to advertise its halls of residence as available for private rent over the summer periods, when the rooms usually sit empty. Almost 280 of the 332 available rooms were snapped up by contractors who will be in London to support the Olympics.

[Back to the top ↕](#)

[◀ Previous](#)

[Next ▶](#)

[Home](#)[Welcome from the principal](#)[Our strategy in action](#)[The educational experience](#)[Delivering focused research](#)[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)[Message from the Students' Union](#)[St George's people](#)[Alumni activities](#)[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)[Who's who at St George's](#)[A year in numbers](#)[Contact us](#)

Who's who at St George's

2011

Principal

Professor Peter Kopelman

Heads of Divisions

Professor Nigel Brown
Division of Biomedical Sciences

Professor Paul Jones
Division of Clinical Sciences

Professor Sean Hilton
Division of Population Health Sciences and Education

Deans

Professor Pat Hughes
Dean of Staff and Student Affairs

Professor Adrian Clark
Dean of Research and Enterprise

Dr Andy Kent
Dean of Education

Dr Tony Michael
Deputy Dean of Education and Head of Graduate School

Professor Fiona Ross
Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Dr Val Collington
Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences

Associate Deans

Professor Peter McCrorie
Associate Dean for International Affairs (Education)
Division of Population Health Sciences and Education

Dr Fran Gibson
Associate Dean (Research Programmes) and
Joint Deputy Head of Graduate School
Division of Biomedical Sciences

Dr Elizabeth Miles
Associate Dean (Taught Postgraduate Courses) and
Joint Deputy Head of Graduate School

Dr Jade Chow
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Dr Tim Bull
Associate Dean for BRF

Professor Terry Poulton
Associate Dean for E-Learning

Dr John Hammond
Associate Dean (Widening Participation)

Dr David Lovell
Associate Dean for Career Development of Research Staff

Dr Phillip Hay
Director of Clinical Research

Administration

Mr Mark Bery
Director of Finance and Deputy Director of Administration

Mrs Sophie Bowen
Secretary and Academic Registrar

Council membership

Independent members

Ms Judith Evans (Chair of Council)
Mr Anthony Bicknell
Mr Michael Draper
Mr Chris North
Mr Christopher Smallwood
Professor Richard Smith
Mr Michael Stevens
Ms Catherine Swarbrick
Mrs Susan Thomas
Mr Graham Turner
Professor Julius Weinberg
Ms Cathy Wilson
Professor Sir Nicholas Wright

Internal Members

Professor Peter Kopelman
Principal

Professor Adrian Clark
Dean of Research and Enterprise

Professor Pat Hughes
Dean of Staff and Students

Dr Andrew Kent
Dean of Education

Professor Alan Johnstone
Elected member of academic staff

Mr Kenton Lewis
Elected member of support staff

Mr Luke Turner
President of Students' Union 2010-11

Mr Nana Adu and Ms Sarah Fitch
Joint Students' Union Presidents 2011-12

In attendance

Mr Mark Bery
Director of Finance and Deputy Director of Administration

Mrs Sophie Bowen
Secretary and Academic Registrar

Ms Susan Trubshaw
Head of Secretariat

Who's who is accurate at the time of publication, which is the 2011-12 academic year.

[Back to the top ↴](#)[◀ Previous](#)[Next ▶](#)

- Home
- Welcome from the principal
- Our strategy in action
- The educational experience
- Delivering focused research
- Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities
- Message from the Students' Union
- St George's people
- Alumni activities
- Enhancing the St George's environment
- Who's who at St George's
- A year in numbers
- Contact us

A year in numbers



- 829 **829** people were employed by St George's, University of London in 2010/11.
- £17m **£17m** of external research income was received by scientists at St George's during 2010/11.
- 1st Working with our partner the University of Nicosia, St George's launched the **1st** medical degree to be taught in Cyprus.
- 4,000 St George's worked with **4,000** school-aged children around the UK to raise their career aspirations and inform them about careers in healthcare.
- £26.5k **£26,551.96** is the average starting salary for a graduate from one of the St George's undergraduate degrees.
- 1,000 Over **1,000** students graduated from courses taught by St George's.
- £22k The St George's Students' Union raised **£22,250** for charity in 2010/11.
- 98% **98 per cent** graduate employment on the graduate-entry medical degree and **96 per cent** on the five-year medical degree.

Financial summary 2010/11

	£,000's
Income	85,384
Expenditure	85,078
Surplus for the year, transferred to general reserves	306
General reserves at 31 July 2011	20,308

[Home](#)

[Welcome from the principal](#)

[Our strategy in action](#)

[The educational experience](#)

[Delivering focused research](#)

[Sharing knowledge, expertise and opportunities](#)

[Message from the Students' Union](#)

[St George's people](#)

[Alumni activities](#)

[Enhancing the St George's environment](#)

[Who's who at St George's](#)

[A year in numbers](#)

[Contact us](#)

Contact us



General contact information

St George's, University of London
Cranmer Terrace
Tooting
London
SW17 0RE
Tel: +44 (0)208 672 9944
Fax: +44 (0)208 672 6940
Web: www.sgul.ac.uk

Work for us

If you would like to find out more about career opportunities at St George's, University of London visit the Jobs at St George's website <http://jobs.sgul.ac.uk>.

Study with us

If you are interested in finding out more about studying with us visit our website www.sgul.ac.uk or get in touch with our course enquiries team by calling +44 (0)208 725 2333 or emailing enquiries@sgul.ac.uk.

Keep in touch

If you are a former student or member of staff and would like to receive regular updates from us or get in touch with old friends, please visit the alumni pages of our website www.sgul.ac.uk/alumni or email your details to alumni@sgul.ac.uk.

Support St George's, University of London

If you would like to make a charitable donation to St George's, University of London please call Chris Connelly, development manager, on +44 (0)208 725 2286.

Let us know what you think

Please let us know what you think about this annual report so you can help us improve the information included in next year's report. You can complete the online survey by selecting the feedback option in the right hand corner of this page or get in touch with the communications team +44 (0)208 725 1139 or communications@sgul.ac.uk.

Change your details

If you have received the printed summary of the Annual Review 2011 and would like to update your details or be removed from the recipient list please email the communications team communications@sgul.ac.uk.

[Back to the top ↕](#)

[◀ Previous](#)