

# Annual review 2014–2015

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# 2

## An overview from the Principal



St George's global presence has grown in distinction /

**This is my last annual report after nearly eight years as Principal – I shall step down at the end of October 2015. It has been an enormous privilege to lead St George's, University of London during a period of constant challenge and change. I shall be forever grateful to staff and students at St George's for their continued support and loyalty.**

St George's has achieved an enormous amount during the past year which is reflected by our growing confidence and reputation. I am a strong believer in our university's values – distinctiveness, dedication and diversity – and the importance that they bring to our everyday practice.

### Distinctiveness

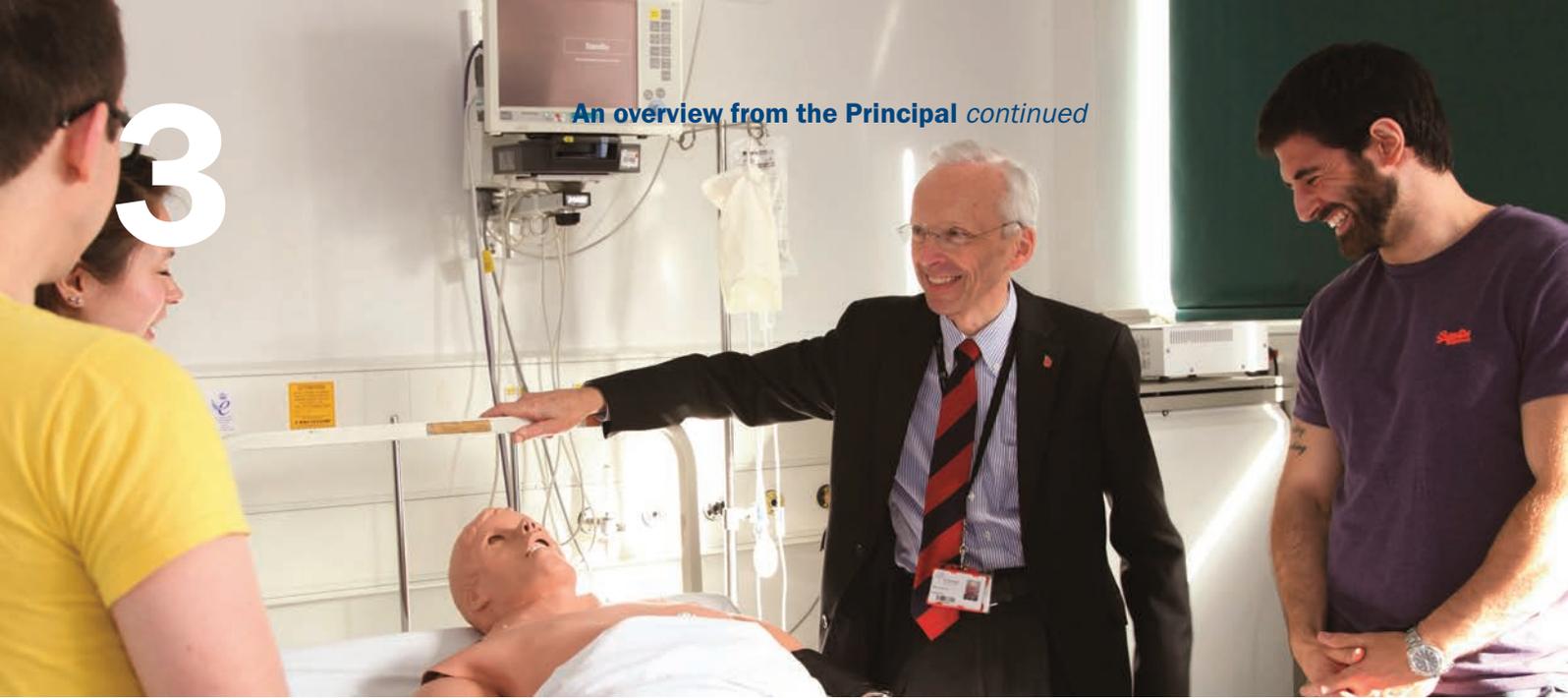
The Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, which St George's shares with Kingston University, celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2016. The Faculty is a success story, being both distinctive and demonstrating distinction. It has facilitated the two universities developing new innovative health professional roles, for example, physician associates and paramedic science. Most importantly it has underlined to students at a very early stage in their training the importance of teamwork and interprofessionalism, key components of high quality and safe clinical practice.

St George's global presence has grown in distinction. Our position in the top 200 Times Higher World University table reflects this. It results from a combination of much greater recognition of St George's around the world and high citation rate for research publications proportionate to our size. It is a tribute to be listed alongside Imperial College London, UCL, Queen Mary University of London, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and King's College London by the Evening Standard as one of the reasons why London is regarded highly as a global university centre.

As part of our expanding international activities, I was delighted to sign an agreement with the Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University (TJU), Philadelphia and, separately, with the Joan C Edwards Medical School, Marshall University, West Virginia. Both agreements represent a step change in opportunities for education and research through a transatlantic collaboration.

TJU is undertaking a major revision to their medical programme, looking at integrating basic medical and clinical sciences. Although the UK is well advanced in this area, there is much that St George's can learn from TJU's planning. Working together will ensure the development of medical curricula and have true global relevance for students on both sides of the Atlantic.

Our collaboration with the University of Nicosia (UNic) goes from strength to strength. The graduation ceremony of the first cohort of graduates from the St George's Medicine programme delivered by UNic was held in the presence of the President of Cyprus in May. St George's and UNic have signed a 20 year extension to the collaborative agreement for the four year programme and a separate agreement for a joint Master's programme in Family Practice delivered in Cyprus.



We were fourth in the overall universities' table that measured the impact of research /

### Dedication

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) outcome for St George's was good in the context of university league table positions. We climbed to joint 42nd in the UK REF tables which is a rise of 24 places from the Research Assessment Exercise carried out in 2008. Moreover, we were fourth in the overall universities table that measured the impact of research. Nevertheless, detailed analysis of our results indicates the need for continuing work to improve aspects of our research environment and the importance of capitalising on the recent establishment of three research institutes.

I wish to acknowledge the superb contribution made by Professor Adrian Clark, who retired as Dean of Research in February 2015.

The news of the authorisation of St George's Healthcare NHS Trust as a Foundation Trust provided an opportunity for celebration prior to an extraordinarily busy winter for the Trust and the subsequent significant financial challenges that enshroud the whole of the NHS. St George's has established a joint implementation board with the Trust, co-chaired by the Trust and Council chairs, to augment shared strategic developments, the first of which is a clinical academic cardiology group.

### Diversity

St George's attracts the most talented students; I am constantly amazed by how our students use these talents in their academic studies and to the benefit of the many clubs, charitable societies and sports teams of the university. I am particularly proud of our schemes for widening access to university that are repeatedly referenced as examples of good and effective practice.

I am delighted that St George's has risen to 47th place out of 397 organisations in Stonewall's top 100 Employers Index. We have additionally gained an Athena SWAN Bronze Award for our work to address opportunities and progression for women working in science and medicine.

I conclude by reaffirming my pride in St George's and an immense gratitude to all of my colleagues within the university and NHS communities. I started with the word privilege and I finish with the word honour – it has been a great honour to serve St George's, its staff and its students.

**Peter Kopelman**, Principal

# 4

## Realising our vision with a robust strategy

**This year we reflected on the genuine distinctiveness of St George's, our key capabilities and the opportunities and challenges presented by the changing landscape in both higher education and health.**

We aspire for our education and research activities to have a wide sphere of influence, from the local to international. The priorities and principal themes included in our Strategic Plan 2015–2020 set out how we intend to realise this vision.

### Strategic priorities 2015–20:

- For education, growth is now as important as innovation in delivery.
- The design, organisation and management of the curriculum will focus on efficiency of delivery and the primacy of the student experience.
- We will ensure that all of our focused research portfolio is affordable.
- We will grow our commercial enterprise activity to diversify and strengthen our income streams.

**These priorities have three principal themes**

### The breadth of our translational work for patient benefit

This theme emphasises the vocational nature of our teaching and learning, our aim to nurture reflective practitioners and foster evidence-based practice, and the translational research which is carried out alongside pure or basic research in our institutes.

### The international dimension of our work

This is characterised by the education and training of international students in the UK and overseas, curricula which are designed to meet transnational healthcare education needs, and research into global health issues.

### Working in collaboration

This includes our work with other UK higher education institutions, with NHS organisations, and with other healthcare providers including those in community settings. Our joint venture with Kingston University, the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, provides a breadth of education and training across the healthcare professions, and conducts translational research, which places it at the heart of our vision and identity.

We are committed to working with St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to mutual benefit and to support each organisations' goals to achieve international excellence in healthcare research and education, and to deliver excellence in healthcare services for the regional population of south west London. We are determined to pursue a joint mission and vision in those areas of mutual interdependence.

# 5

## Educating the next generation of healthcare professionals



**At the heart of all we do is the desire to inspire and educate the next generation of scientists, medical and healthcare professionals.**

This year, student satisfaction rose, our graduates continued to flourish in the workplace and our new educational institute maintained a sharp focus on the evolving needs of our students and the professions they join.

### **Student experience**

Student satisfaction rose to 85 per cent in the 2014 National Student Satisfaction survey, seven per cent higher than the previous year and surpassing the benchmark set by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). Two courses in particular, Therapeutic Radiography and Paramedic Science, stood out with exceptional scores of 100 per cent satisfaction. Medicine also improved markedly and saw a rise in student satisfaction from 69 per cent the previous year to 83 per cent this year.

The improvements reflect our ongoing effort to listen to students and work closely with them so we can continually improve and address any areas of concern.

### **An evolving curriculum to reflect the changing profession**

The 2014–15 academic year saw the continued embedding of the Institute of Medical and Biomedical Education (IMBE), which was established in early 2014. The Institute brings together educational experts at St George's to focus on developing existing and new courses that meet the evolving needs of the health professions, and on working with students to enhance their university experience.

Read more about [IMBE on our website](#)

The improvements reflect our ongoing effort to listen to students and work closely with them so we can continually improve and address any areas of concern /



In the 2014 Times Higher Awards, St George's was highly commended in the International Collaboration of the Year category for the eLearning Unit leading an international consortium on virtual patients.

Bronze, silver and gold St George's Awards were introduced to recognise the skills our students gain from extracurricular activities across a wide spectrum including peer tutoring, charity, community and student ambassador work, thereby enhancing their learning and professional development.

St George's was the first to introduce handheld technology to record workplace assessments for medical students in the clinical setting, which will be rolled out to all our placement activities in coming years.

In May 2015 the first St George's MBBS degrees were awarded at our partners the University of Nicosia, the first ever medical graduates in Cyprus.

## Graduate prospects

Our courses prepare students to hit the ground running as a professional in their chosen field. In May 2015, The Complete University Guide 2016 named St George's as the second best UK university for job prospects. Using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the guide found that 89.4 per cent of graduates are either in employment or in postgraduate study six months after completing their undergraduate study at St George's.

## Leading the way in the new profession of Physician Associate

St George's has been offering training for the Physician Associate (PA) course for seven years. In the last year interest in the course – and its graduates – has increased phenomenally, with acknowledgement of the positive impact the profession is having on the health services.

PA course director, Karen Roberts, joined a national debate about the profession when an article in The Times provoked a wide ranging discussion in the media.

The article described PAs as “less-qualified medics” and suggested that all students needed to study to be a PA was “two years of training”, which is not accurate. Students are required to hold an undergraduate life sciences degree to enter the course.

Karen spent the day appearing on TV and radio defending her profession: ‘I am proud to be a PA and to lead the excellent PA programme here at St George's.’ ‘Our graduates are proving every day that PAs provide safe and competent care for their patients. PAs in general practice deal with a variety of cases and complexities. They also perform procedures such as minor surgery and work in both primary and secondary care.’

In the first UK study into their impact, health experts at St George's, University of London, and Kingston University have shown primary care PAs are acceptable to patients, whilst being effective, efficient and safe. The study team found that PAs complemented the work of GPs, but in order to maximise their impact, they need to be authorised to prescribe medicines. This will require statutory regulation for the profession.

Vari Drennan, Professor of Health Care and Policy Research at the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, said: “We found that the relatively new role of Physician Associate can make a valuable and flexible contribution to primary care in the NHS, supporting GPs and helping respond to growing patient use of primary care services.”

“I am proud to be a  
Physician Associate” /



# 7

## Going global



**The first half of the decade has seen an unprecedented level of internationally focused education activity at St George's, complementing our global research collaborations. Our INTO St George's initiative is bringing students from all around the world to Tooting to study. In 2015, our first students at the University of Nicosia graduated and we are looking forward to broadening our partnership in Cyprus with new programmes to complement the success of the four year graduate entry medicine programme.**

### Global ranking

We have retained our position as one of the top 200 universities in the world (the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015–2016), and our position as 196th globally. These authoritative rankings recognise truly international institutions with both influence in leading research and outstanding teaching.

### Cyprus partnership goes from strength to strength

In 2010, we joined forces with the University of Nicosia, Cyprus's biggest private university, to launch the first medical training programme in Cyprus.

The University of Nicosia now offers a four year graduate entry medicine degree awarded by St George's and based on our own successful course. Clinical placements are taken in Cyprus, Israel and the USA, and students have travelled from as far afield as China, Nigeria, Australia and the United States to join this programme of study. This academic year, nearly 100 new students joined the programme, meaning that almost 300 students are now benefitting from the chance to study our graduate entry medicine course in Cyprus.

This year, we extended our collaboration with the University of Nicosia for a further 25 years.

You can [watch a video](#) about the partnership.

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## Huntington, West Virginia: New clinical placements for St George's students at Marshall University

West Virginia may be best known for its hunting and outdoor pursuits, but St George's students are now practising activities of a more medical nature there, following an agreement with the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University in the state's second largest city, Huntington.

Students on our International Medicine programmes, developed with INTO University Partnerships, are undertaking their clinical practice years at the school, which boasts the largest, most modern outpatient clinic for both services and education in the region.

Students will have the opportunity to experience medical practice in varied settings: the bustling Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, successful rural clinics, highly specialised tertiary care services in community hospitals, offices of private physicians and more. The rural nature of the area will provide a clear contrast to students' previous clinical experience in London, and help to prepare them for practice in a wide range of settings around the world. St George's students also have the opportunity to spend a shorter period at Marshall University during their final year electives.

The two universities are set to collaborate on a range of initiatives /

## Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: St George's signs historic agreement with US medical school



Students and staff will benefit from a new partnership with Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University (TJU). The two universities are set to collaborate on a range of initiatives, designed to allow students to prepare for 21st century global health challenges via exposure to both US and UK health systems during their programme.

Initially, from 2016, students taking our International Medicine programmes will access SKMC and affiliated hospitals for their clinical rotations in the final two years of the programmes, following their studies in Tooting. We are also developing an innovative, integrated MBBS/Master's in Science – Population Health programme, with students taking an additional, research-focused year in Philadelphia to gain a MS-Population Health degree from TJU. A range of research-orientated opportunities are also being identified, focusing on major societal and global challenges and building on our complementary research strengths.

The rural nature of the area will provide a clear contrast to students' previous clinical experience in London /

# 9

## Improving global health with focused research



Our scientific expertise is sharply focused to respond to current local, national and worldwide needs /

**Our research strives to advance the prevention and treatment of some of today's greatest challenges to global health in the areas of population health and epidemiology, infection and immunity, cardiology, stroke and neuroscience.**

Our scientific expertise is sharply focused to respond to current local, national and worldwide needs. Supported by grants from some of the world's most prominent research funding organisations, scientists at St George's made great strides during 2013–14.

### **Research Grant Highlights included:**

- A £1.5m award from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to Dr Tariq Sadiq to develop and test hand held cartridges for point-of-care identification of sexually transmitted infection and antibiotic resistance.
- An award of up to £3m to Professor Julian Ma from Sir Joseph Hotung for work on prevention of mother to child Transmission of HIV.
- Awards from the Technology Strategy Board (£350k) and Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Healthcare (£900k) to Drs Tim Bull and Kai Hilpert for the development of improved tests for human and bovine tuberculosis and mycobacterial infections.
- Professor Mike Sharland received £2.5m Health Technology Assessment funding from the National Institute for Health Research to conduct a national trial in collaboration with the Medical Research Council's Clinical Trials Unit, comparing alternative dosing strategies of antibiotics in childhood pneumonia.
- A £1m award from the NIHR to support the work of the editorial base of the **Cochrane Airways group** at St George's, which supports the dissemination of systematic reviews on asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bronchiectasis and other lung diseases.
- A \$440,000, or approximately £280k, award from the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation to Dr Atticus Hainsworth for an investigation into repurposing drugs for types of dementia caused by an impaired supply of blood to the brain.



We have not had such urgency to deliver a viable vaccine or treatment since the coming together of medical experts in the early 1980s tackling HIV /

## Experts join the fight against Ebola epidemic

Scientists based at St George's joined an international consortium to conduct a clinical trial to test an Ebola vaccine in Africa.

They have tested the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the vaccine rVSV-ZEBOV-GP, with the first volunteer vaccinated in November 2014.

The rVSV-ZEBOV-GP vaccine, which is named after its components, carries only one protein (GP) from the Zaire strain of the Ebola virus (ZEBOV) on the surface of a virus (VSV) that infects cows, horses, pigs and insects. The Ebola virus protein by itself is not able to cause any disease, and VSV only causes minimal illness in humans.

Currently, it is the only vaccine against Ebola in clinical trials that is made from a replicating virus. The advantage of this type of vaccine is that the immune system may develop an effective protective response to Ebola virus, and it may need a lower dose of vaccine. Furthermore, only one shot of vaccine may be required, minimising the number of visits needed to produce protection.

Professor Sanjeev Krishna, of the university's Institute for Infection and Immunity, said: "We have not had such urgency to deliver a viable vaccine or treatment since the coming together of medical experts in the early 1980s tackling HIV. The progress of these clinical trials is very promising. We are in a strong position: this vaccine adds significantly to the options available for testing against Ebola."



St George's will work with King's College London and local NHS trusts to provide university expertise for the ambitious plan /

## Genomes project to fight cancer and rare diseases

Patients in the UK will be the first in the world to participate in an ambitious programme to sequence 100,000 genomes as part of a “paradigm shift” in healthcare focusing on the genetic causes of disease.

In December 2014, the South London-based Genomics Network Alliance was announced as a successful bidder in the race to become a pioneering Genomic Medicine Centre, as part of the ground-breaking 100,000 Genomes Project.

As part of this, St George's will work with King's College London and local NHS trusts to provide university expertise for the ambitious plan. The universities will also play a key part in genomic research and education.

The NHS has set up 11 Genomic Medicine Centres across England as part of the first wave that will recruit tens of thousands of patients with cancer and rare genetic disorders during the next three years.

The three-year programme, which began in February 2015, has the potential to transform the future of healthcare. It could improve the prediction and prevention of disease, enable new and more precise diagnostic tests, and allow personalisation of drugs and other treatments to specific genetic variants.

It is hoped that the programme will help in the development of new drugs and diagnostic tests, heralding a new era of personalised medicine.

Find out more about [genomics and the 100k Genomes Project](#).

## Eating breakfast daily may help to prevent early development of diabetes risk in children

Children who eat breakfast daily have a lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes than those who skip it or only eat it occasionally, says new research.

They also found that among children eating breakfast, those who eat a high-fibre breakfast cereal also have lower type 2 diabetes risk profiles, indicated by blood samples revealing insulin resistance, compared to children who eat a breakfast with lower fibre content.

The researchers at St George's, University of London and the Universities of Oxford and Glasgow, supported by Diabetes UK, say their findings could aid the development of strategies to combat rising diabetes levels in young people in the UK.

More than 4,000 primary school children, aged nine and 10 years and from London, Birmingham and Leicester, were asked about their breakfast habits in the study.

The children also provided fasting blood samples, physical measurements and detailed dietary data in order for the team to investigate the differences in risk indicators according to breakfast habits.

Dr Angela Donin, of the Population Health Research Institute at St George's, who led the research, said: "These findings provide further evidence of the importance of a daily breakfast for long term health."

"It is concerning to note that more than 1 in 4 children in our study reported not eating breakfast every day. For children, eating a sensible breakfast every day, one which is high in fibre, may well help to reduce future risk of developing type 2 diabetes."

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## Research at St George's ranked fourth in the UK for global impact

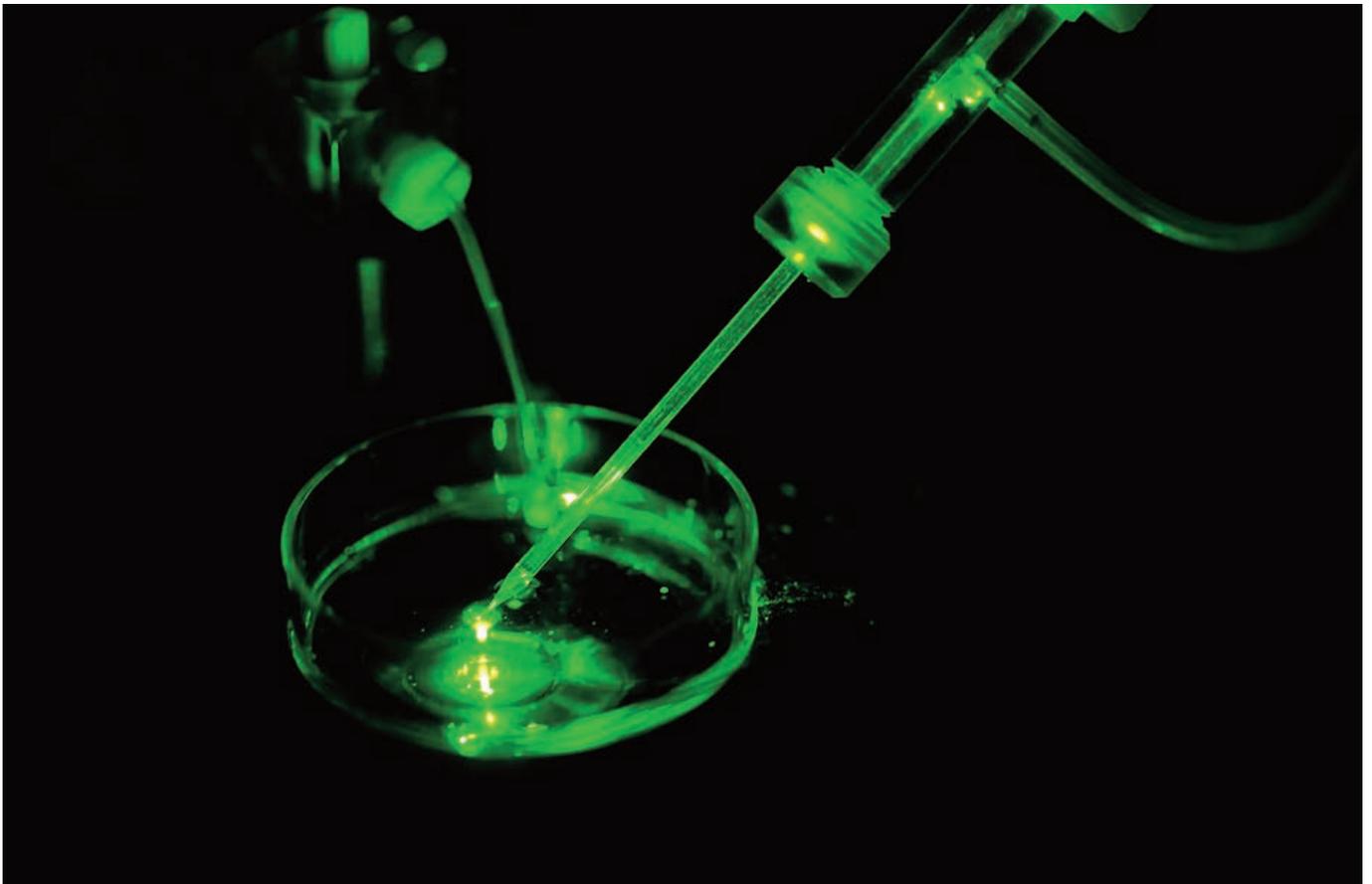
The Research Excellence Framework (REF), a new national assessment of research at UK universities ranked St George's, University of London, as fourth for impact of its research on the global community.

The expert panels who carried out the assessment also ranked St George's joint 42nd in the country overall which is a rise of 24 places from a similar exercise carried out six years ago.

St George's was assessed in the two general areas of *Clinical Medicine and Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care*. Submissions from all universities were rated the best at 4\*, meaning world-leading, through to 1\*, national standard, or unclassified.

For St George's, the assessment sees a significant positive improvement in several areas – notably in the percentage of research submissions rated as internationally excellent or world leading, ie scoring 3\* and 4\*, which has risen to 70 per cent from 44 per cent under the previous assessment.

Furthermore now almost 30 percent is at the top, internationally leading level of 4\*, compared to 5.4% six years ago.



# Experts playing an active role in the community

**Our specialist focus on healthcare, medicine and science has helped us build up exceptional links with healthcare providers. These links allow us to contribute towards healthcare provision through research and healthcare collaborations.**

These include the [South West London Academic, Health and Social Care System](#), which strives to rapidly translate academic findings into patient benefit, and the South London-based Genomics Network Alliance, which sees us participate in an ambitious programme focusing on the genetic causes of disease.

Our dedicated staff also work hard to disseminate knowledge and opportunities within our local communities through specialist events and our widening participation activities.

We believe that access to careers in medicine and healthcare should be based on a person's potential to shine as a healthcare professional /



## Widening access to careers in health

We believe that access to careers in medicine and healthcare should be based on a person's potential to shine as a healthcare professional. Our widening participation activities seek to break down barriers to healthcare careers by encouraging and supporting people from groups currently underrepresented in higher education. At St George's, these principles are embedded in all aspects of recruitment, student support and admissions through to alumni. Activities completed in 2013–14 include:

- Approximately 1,800 nine to 18-year-old students participated in 100 Experiments Roadshows, a set of fun, interactive sessions designed to raise young people's aspirations and interest in educational and career opportunities in medicine and healthcare.
- 116 pupils aged nine to 11 from local primary schools attended our Primary Practice after school club. This aspiration raising activity offered pupils the opportunity to learn more about medicine and healthcare by taking part in practical activities to enhance scientific knowledge and confidence, as well as to develop new skills such as basic first aid and sign language.

At St George's, the principles of widening access are embedded in all aspects of recruitment, student support and admissions through to alumni /



This event explored how modern lifestyles and our growing quest for hygiene contribute to allergies /

- 386 people aged 13 to 17 attended clinical skills taster days at the university. These full day activity programmes for London state schools give young people insight into studying subjects at St George's.
- 302 pupils from more than 150 schools participated in spring/summer schools and 17 Spring/Summer School alumni entered St George's, University of London undergraduate courses. These fun, interactive programmes of events that teach young people more about careers in the health sector.
- Workshops and presentations were delivered to approximately 1,650 young people aged 14 to 18, providing them with practical tips and advice about healthcare careers and applying to study related courses at university.

## Sharing knowledge with our community

As well as tackling health issues affecting populations all over the world, scientists at St George's are dedicated to sharing knowledge and opportunities with our local community. During 2014 we launched a series of public events aimed at illuminating research that affects our everyday lives.

Our Spotlight on Science lectures included:

**Living with Type 1 diabetes.** Our researchers were joined by people who have dealt with type 1 Diabetes all of their lives and understand the struggle patients experience. Guests were given tips and tricks on how to stay active and healthy as well as the opportunity to get an insight into new treatment developments for type 1 Diabetes.

**Is hygiene really healthy?** Allergic diseases like asthma and hay fever are on the rise. Scientists at St George's are among those at the forefront of understanding why this might be. This event explored how modern lifestyles and our growing quest for hygiene contribute to allergies.

St George's experts were joined by scientists from other institutions to explain about allergens, substances that can trigger allergic reactions, and discuss the latest developments in treatments for asthma and food allergies.

**Preventing Sudden Death in Sport** The danger posed to athletes by underlying heart conditions was highlighted to a shocked nation in 2012, when one of these silent conditions caused footballer Fabrice Muamba to collapse before his heart stopped for 78 minutes during an FA Cup tie match.

This St George's public event, led by cardiac specialist Professor Sanjay Sharma, explained the work cardiologists are doing to prevent sudden death in sport. He spoke on the issues facing athletes and practitioners and showed striking footage of how treatment can be used to save lives.

Former England rugby player Lee Mears, who retired in 2013 after being diagnosed with a heart condition, spoke about his own experiences of dealing with his diagnosis and working with Sanjay to aid his recovery. He had an outstanding career in professional rugby, with 201 caps for club Bath, 42 for England and four for the British and Irish Lions.

The Athena SWAN Awards recognise success in developing employment practices to further and support the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine /

**We value a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our staff and students to work and study in. This year, we received two important awards to recognise the inclusiveness of our environment.**

### **St George's achieves Athena SWAN Bronze Award for gender equality**

St George's achieved a coveted Bronze award for fostering equality and good employment practices between genders among staff.

The Athena SWAN Awards recognise success in developing employment practices to further and support the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) departments in academia.

The awards scheme is overseen by the Equality Challenge Unit, which is funded by various education organisations.

The initiative at St George's was led by Dr Aileen O'Brien, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry.

She said: "I think the successful award reflects the achievements we have made at St George's in raising the profile of the issue of gender inequality in science and medicine and the real changes we have made.

"We now have the challenge ahead of applying for a Silver Award and I'm sure we will see the same level of enthusiasm and commitment from staff in the next stage."



“The Index remains a powerful tool for giving employers a strong competitive edge and attracting the best staff – regardless of their sexual orientation”/

## St George’s improves ranking in Stonewall’s Top 100 Employer Index 2014

St George’s climbed 26 places in a league table of organisations demonstrating a commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff (LGBT) equality in the workplace.

Stonewall’s Workplace Equality Index is Britain’s leading tool to measure employers’ progress in tackling discrimination and creating inclusive workplaces for LGBT employees.

In 2013 the St George’s ranking rose by 92 places to 239 in the league table and in 2014 this upward trend continued and the university increased its position by another 26 places. St George’s is now ranked 47th in the table.

Employers are assessed across eight areas of good practice: employee policy; employee engagement; staff training and development, monitoring; supplier policy; LGB community engagement; the ‘pink plateau’; additional evidence and staff feedback.

Simon Feeke, head of workplace at Stonewall, said: “Congratulations to St George’s, University of London for their performance in the 2014 Workplace Equality Index. In a tough economic environment, where employers need all of their staff to perform to their full potential, the Index remains a powerful tool for giving employers a strong competitive edge and attracting the best staff – regardless of their sexual orientation.”

Read more about the Workplace Equality Index on the [Stonewall website](#)



**Our work is supported by passionate individuals who share our values, energy and ambition, and who are committed to advancing healthcare knowledge and delivery. Here is just a small selection of our talented staff.**



**Professor Geoffrey Raisman**

Visiting Professor, Cardiovascular and Cells Sciences

Renowned neurologist Professor Geoffrey Raisman has joined St George's as a Visiting Professor and will work with the university and St George's NHS Healthcare Trust to investigate new spinal cord treatments.

Last year the work of Professor Raisman and his colleagues hit the headlines when their pioneering surgery enabled a man who was completely paralysed from the waist down to move his legs. This was the subject of a BBC Panorama programme.

The process involved regrowing the cells of a patient's severed spinal cord by obtaining olfactory ensheathing cells – specialist cells that form part of the sense of smell – and implanting them in the damaged spinal cord. The olfactory ensheathing cells promote neuronal regeneration and recovery of function. His research has previously used rat models of spinal cord injury.



**Fiona Ross**

Former Dean and Professor of Primary Care Nursing at the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education

Professor Fiona Ross was one of two former members of St George's to be made a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for her work in health and social care and higher education.

Professor Ross was appointed to the first Chair in Primary Care Nursing at St George's (through its partnership with Kingston University) in 1996 and went on to become Director of the National Nursing Research Unit at King's College London. She returned to Kingston and St George's as Dean of the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education – a post she held for eight years between 2006 and 2014. Under her leadership the Faculty expanded, flourished and advanced interprofessional approaches to applied research.



**Judith Evans**

Chair of Council (from 2010 to 2013), St George's, University of London

Judith Evans was also awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to education.

She has held the post as Corporate Personnel Director at Sainsbury's, the first woman appointed at that level, and HR and IT Director on the board of Homebase. There she led the HR and IT strands of the company's corporate transformation and subsequent sale to a venture capitalist. Before that, Judith was Head of Development at British Airways, where she was instrumental in transforming the company to become more focused on their customers.

She was a member of the Dearing Inquiry into Higher Education, the Quality Assurance Agency, the Higher Education Funding Council Business and Education Committee, the CBI Training and Policy Committee and the Learning from Experience Trust.



**Professor Sanjay Shama**

Professor of Cardiology, Institute of Cardiovascular and Cell Sciences

Cardiologist Professor Sanjay Sharma won an award for his work at the inaugural Asian Professional Awards, launched to highlight unsung heroes and professionals at the height of their careers.

Professor Shama won the Medical Award at the event which showcased a new generation of role models for Britons of Asian heritage.

He joined St George's in 2010 as Professor of Cardiology and currently leads the Inherited Cardiomyopathies and Sports Cardiology Unit.

He is also Consultant Cardiologist for the heart charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), Medical Director for the Virgin London Marathon, cardiologist for the English Institute of Sport, British Rugby League and the British Lawn Tennis Association.



**Sir Robert Francis, QC**

Barrister, specialising in medical law

Sir Robert Francis, who wrote a compelling report about the abuse suffered by patients in the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, was awarded an honorary degree by St George's, University of London.

His report of February 2013 told the story of the appalling suffering of many patients within a culture of secrecy and defensiveness. The Francis public inquiry focused on one organisation, Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, but it highlighted a whole system failure and made 290 recommendations.

He received his honorary degree at the St George's graduation ceremony last week, where he delivered an inspiring speech to our most recent graduates.



**Dr Jo Brown**

Reader in Medical Education, Institute of Medical and Biomedical Sciences

Dr Jo Brown has been named as a Principal Fellow by the Higher Education Academy (HEA), the national body which champions teaching quality.

Principal Fellowships are typically awarded to experienced staff who are able to demonstrate impact and influence through leading and managing within a learning and teaching context.

They also demonstrate a sustained and effective record of impact at a strategic level in relation to learning and teaching.

The HEA award focuses on the contribution of teaching as part of the wider student learning experience. It is a very prestigious role for Dr Brown and she is the first Principal Fellow to be appointed while at St George's.



**Professor Andy Kent**

Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education

Professor Kent was appointed to lead the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education (FHSCE), which is responsible for training healthcare professionals from paramedics to nurses.

Professor Kent, who has a specialist interest in perinatal mental health, moved from his post as Dean of Education at St George's. He started working at St George's as a research fellow more than 20 years ago and went on to hold various roles including Course Director for Medicine.



We have also enjoyed some great sporting successes this year /

**It has been a fantastic year for the Students' Union. August saw the beginning of our tenure and it was a packed month of organising and preparing for the new intake of students in September.**

Freshers' Week was a great success and we saw the return of many of our famous events including Sushi and Sake, Toga and Tequila, the multicultural dinner and the one and only Wandsworth 8. The series of events culminated with the Freshers' Ball at the picturesque Surrey National Golf Club.

The Students' Union has been working very hard this year, and there has been lots going on. Our performance societies have been on top form. The year started with the Diwali Show's production of *The Jungle Book*, followed by a production of *Pygmalion*, by our new Theatre and Dramatic Society. The term finished with the Fashion Show and Revue, which both went down a storm. The New Year saw the return of the Tooting Show and the season finished with the Musical Society's production of *The Addams Family*.

We have also enjoyed some great sporting successes this year. Our Football, Rugby and Netball teams both came top in their BUCS leagues and this is a testament to the dedication and talent of all of our sports teams here at St George's.

Other SU highlights this year have included our RAG week. Our charity officers put on a series of events throughout the week to raise money for five different charities. Notable events included the RAG auction which made over £1,500 and the Battle of the Bands, where student bands went head to head to be crowned the best St George's band. We are also completely renovating our website to be able to showcase all the things we do here more effectively, so keep an eye out for our latest news on our news online!

All in all, the past year has been a great success and there is much to look forward to in the coming year ahead.

**Dheemal Patel**

President

St George's Students' Union

## Our alumni enhancing our university community



**Our alumni continue to recognise that well rounded students are a great strength of the university. Gifts to the Annual Fund, the means by which alumni can support current and future students, continued to grow this year. A three week phone campaign inviting former students to give back generated more than £35,000 from more than 200 donors.**

In June 2015, alumni had the opportunity to meet students who have benefited from Annual Fund money in the first of our Alumni Thank You celebrations, which was held at Senate House, University of London.

As well as philanthropic support, alumni have contributed to so many areas of university life by assisting in student recruitment and selection activity, careers support and event planning. We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

Our events programme continues to grow. Alumni were invited to our first St George's alumni celebration event which was held on St George's Day and also helped us to run a speed networking event for students, helping them glean valuable experience from alumni.

The awards will support our student's education over years to come /

### New awards to support our students

New awards were launched this year to commemorate the lives of Dr Chrissie Fenske, a well-loved member of St George's staff, and alumnus Professor Noel Gowing. The awards will support our students' education over years to come.

### Chrissie Fenske Prize and Internship

The Chrissie Fenske poster prize and internship will support students. Each year, £1,000 will be awarded for the most innovative research poster and an internship prize of £1,500 will be awarded to second year students as a subsistence of £250 a week for a six week internship.

These new prizes have been funded by a generous donation in memory of the late Dr Chrissie Fenske, by Chrissie's husband and brother. Chrissie worked at St George's for more than two decades and was passionate about the scope and potential for gene research.

### Professor Noel Gowing endowment

Alumna Dr Judy Kane (MBBS) donated a generous sum to fund a number of prizes and workshops in memory of her father Professor Noel Gowing, who also qualified at St George's and spent his early career here. Professor Gowing was a founding fellow and former Registrar and Examiner of the Royal College of Pathologists. His diagnostic skills, much valued in his early years at St George's, earned him an international reputation as a tumour pathologist.

The Professor Noel Gowing Pathology Exhibition Prize will be a student award of £500 each year for the most innovative pathology exhibition. An annual award of £1,200 will be donated to fund Professor Noel Gowing Pathology Outreach Workshops, which will be delivered to prospective students from underrepresented groups in education.

Four further prizes of £200 per annum will be awarded to students for Excellence in Clinical Communication and Outstanding Progress in Clinical Communication.

A postgraduate scholarship of £4,000 per annum will also be awarded.



As well as philanthropic support, alumni have contributed to so many areas of university life /

**Principal's office**

Principal

**Professor Peter Kopelman**Deputy Principal (and Dean of  
Research and Enterprise)**Professor Adrian Clark****Institute of Medical and Biomedical  
Education**

Director

**Professor Nigel Brown****Cardiovascular and Cell Sciences  
Research Institute**

Director

**Professor Juan-Carlos Kaski****Infection and Immunity Research Institute**

Director

**Professor Julian Ma****Population Health Research Institute**

Director

**Professor David Strachan**Medical Director of St George's  
Healthcare NHS Trust and St George's,  
University of London**Dr Simon Mackenzie****Deans and Associate Deans**Acting Dean of the Faculty of  
Health Social Care and Education**Dr Val Collington**

Dean of Students

**Professor Deborah Bowman**Dean of Research and Enterprise  
(and Deputy Principal)**Professor Adrian Clark**

Dean of Education

**Professor Andy Kent****Associate Deans**Associate Dean (Taught Postgraduate  
Courses) and Joint Deputy Head of  
Graduate School**Dr Elizabeth Miles**

Head of Graduate School

**Dr Rachel Allen**Joint Deputy Head of Graduate School  
(Research Programmes)**Dr Judith Cartwright**Associate Dean for International  
Education**Dr Iain MacPhee**

Associate Dean for BRF

**Professor Gill Cockerill**

Associate Dean (Widening Participation)

**Dr John Hammond**Associate Dean for Career Development  
of Research Staff**Dr David Lovell****Executive Team**Director of Finance and Corporate  
Services**Mr John Unsworth**University Secretary and Director of  
Academic Administration & Quality**Mrs Sophie Bowen**Director of Academic Administration –  
Undergraduate**Mrs Soosan Atkins**Joint Director of Human Resources  
(St George's, University of London and  
St George's Healthcare Trust)**Mrs Wendy Brewer**Joint Director of Estates and Facilities  
(St George's, University of London and  
St George's Healthcare Trust)**Mr Eric Munro**

Director of Strategic Planning

**Mr Tim White**

Director of Information Services

**Mr Rob Churm**Director of Joint Research & Enterprise  
Office (St George's, University of London  
and St George's Healthcare Trust)**Ms Steff Hazlehurst**Director of External Relations and  
Communications**Ms Kate Shurety**Head of Governance Legal and Assurance  
Services**Ms Susan Trubshaw**Head of Business Operations (Faculty of  
Health, Social Care and Education)**Mr Manjit Benning**The Leadership team reflects the start of  
the academic year 2014–15