



St George's
University of London

IMPACT
REPORT
2021-22

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



THANK YOU



The generosity of our alumni and supporters makes a huge difference to our community at St George's. As a supporter of the university, you help enhance the learning of our students so that they can go on to make an impact and improve patients' lives. Alumni support also allows us to invest in our researchers so that they can carry out vital research that enables better health for everyone.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the impact of alumni donations, which spans education, student support and research, and contributes to our mission to develop people who contribute to and improve society.

NIKE ALESBURY

Associate Director of Development and Alumni

IMPACT ON STUDENTS

As our students navigate uncertain times, it is more important than ever that well-being support is available for students to access whenever they need it. Your donations have helped us reach even more of the students who are most in need, and provide them with flexible, accessible support.

TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN 2022

Our annual Telephone Fundraising Campaigns are a wonderful opportunity for our current students to speak with alumni about how they can stay connected to St George's, as well as raising money for important student causes.

We were delighted with the incredible support we received from our alumni during this year's campaign; our three-week campaign closed with over £106,000 raised for priority projects which will enhance the student experience at St George's.



“I loved being part of a team fundraising for projects that help current and future students.”

SHAMBAVI SIVAKUMAR,
2022 STUDENT CALLER

OFFERING FLEXIBLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



Our Hardship Fund exists to offer relief to those facing financial difficulty, so that all of our students have the opportunity to make the most of their experience at St George's.

Alumni donations provided £20,000 last year towards

Hardship Bursaries

for the students most in need of support.

“When I applied for support through the Hardship Fund, I was at a point where I was about to drop out of University due to my financial circumstances. I found that I was struggling to keep up with the demands of my course, because I was spending so much time working to be able to support my family. I was about to give up and abandon my studies, when I found out about the opportunity to apply for emergency funding.

“Receiving the maximum allowance allowed me to leave my job and stay at university to complete my course. It has also really helped me to manage living costs. I was able to ensure that I had enough money for to cover the costs of food and transport to university to complete my exams and assignments.

“Having enough funding to manage my money over a few months really helped me to sustain myself and my family. I could not have completed my course without the help of this Fund. Thank you to everyone who supports it.”

RECIPIENT OF HARDSHIP FUND, 2021-22

PROVIDING ACCESS TO VITAL ACADEMIC AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

At St George’s, we do all we can to ensure that our students’ personal circumstances are not a barrier to success. As the cost of living rises and the UK navigates a period of prolonged instability, many of our students find themselves managing a range of financial and emotional challenges alongside a busy and demanding course.

Alumni donations help fund the role of Lon Teija, our Education and Welfare Support Officer. Lon helps ensure our students can receive flexible, accessible support – both online and face-to-face – to help fit sessions around their schedule.

During 2021-22, over 450 student support sessions – both remote and in-person – were delivered to over 150 students by Lon Teija, and the Students’ Union (SU) welfare team. The SU Welfare service includes unlimited and open-ended support meetings, ongoing email support to answer questions and concerns promptly, and guidance on relevant student procedures and processes.



↑ LON TEIJA, EDUCATION AND WELFARE SUPPORT OFFICER

“I first started meeting Lon during the second year of my Medicine course, and she has really helped me to navigate the last two years of my course. I feel extremely comfortable speaking to her about anything. In our meetings, I’ve spoken to her about a broad range of topics, from financial issues to family difficulties. Lon is very insightful and is always able to tackle any issues I bring up sensitively and patiently.”

RECIPIENT OF WELFARE SUPPORT SERVICE, 2021-22

“St George’s has done so well in setting up this role and finding Lon. I think it has been the single most useful service I have used in my many years of being here. Thank you to Lon, St George’s and the alumni who have funded this role – it is genuinely making a world of difference.”

EQUIPPING OUR STAFF TO RESPOND TO OUR STUDENTS' NEEDS

Whatever the challenges they face during their time at university, we want our students to know that they can approach our staff for the support they need, whenever they need it. In the last year, thanks to the generosity of our alumni, we are proud to have supported a range of initiatives that will help equip our staff with the skills and understanding to respond to a range of complex issues and provide the best possible support to our students.

Student support provided with 2021-22 alumni donations

£1,000 towards developing SUICIDE POSTVENTION SUPPORT

Staff have now used training to put in place a suicide postvention committee to help our staff to manage support for the community following the suicide of a colleague or classmate.

£6,000 towards ALLYSHIP AND ADVOCACY TRAINING

This will support the ongoing training of over 500 future students across the university from a range of courses. The training provides innovative ways to foster critical conversations and encourage understanding about inequality. It also provides tools that individuals can use to advocate for themselves, patients and colleagues.

£2,500 towards a RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

This innovative programme will rewrite the conduct policies in our Halls of Residence to include our going work on antiracism, bystander action and student welfare. This means that we can make sure that our policies better reflect our community standards. The funding has enabled the appointment of two students, supported by training, to develop the scheme and train others to participate.



“We can’t thank our alumni enough for what they have made possible this year. Alumni generosity has helped equip more of our staff to give the best possible support to our students, that is tailored to their unique needs and circumstances.”

GAVIN TAYLOR, HEAD OF STUDENT SERVICES

MAKING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

This year, your support enabled us to purchase an additional minibus for the Student Union (SU). Without the option of travelling by minibus, many of our students would have struggled to cover the travel costs of taking part in sporting events and other society activities, which are a valuable opportunity to meet other students and develop new skills.

“We are so grateful for the funding that has allowed us to purchase an additional minibus. One of the biggest advantages is that it makes travel much cheaper for clubs going to away games, which increases St George’s representation across London and beyond.”

OGOR BABUNDE, STUDENT ACTIVITIES & EVENTS COORDINATOR



ALASTAIR HUNTER PRIZE

Our Alastair Hunter Sports Prize, funded by members of our alumni community, helps our students to meet the financial demands of competing in a sport at representative, and even national, level alongside their studies.

This year’s Alastair Hunter Gold prize went to Eleanor Trezise, who plays rugby and was recently selected for London Irish’s Women’s Premier Academy. In the past she played for Saracens’ Second team and was awarded UCL Sports Personality of the Year in 2012.

“I’m incredibly grateful for the bursary, and to the generous alumni who contributed. There can be lots of hidden costs to competing in sport that add up to a significant amount over a season. This bursary will help me cover travel, club and gym membership costs.”

ELEANOR TREZISE, ALASTAIR HUNTER GOLD PRIZE WINNER



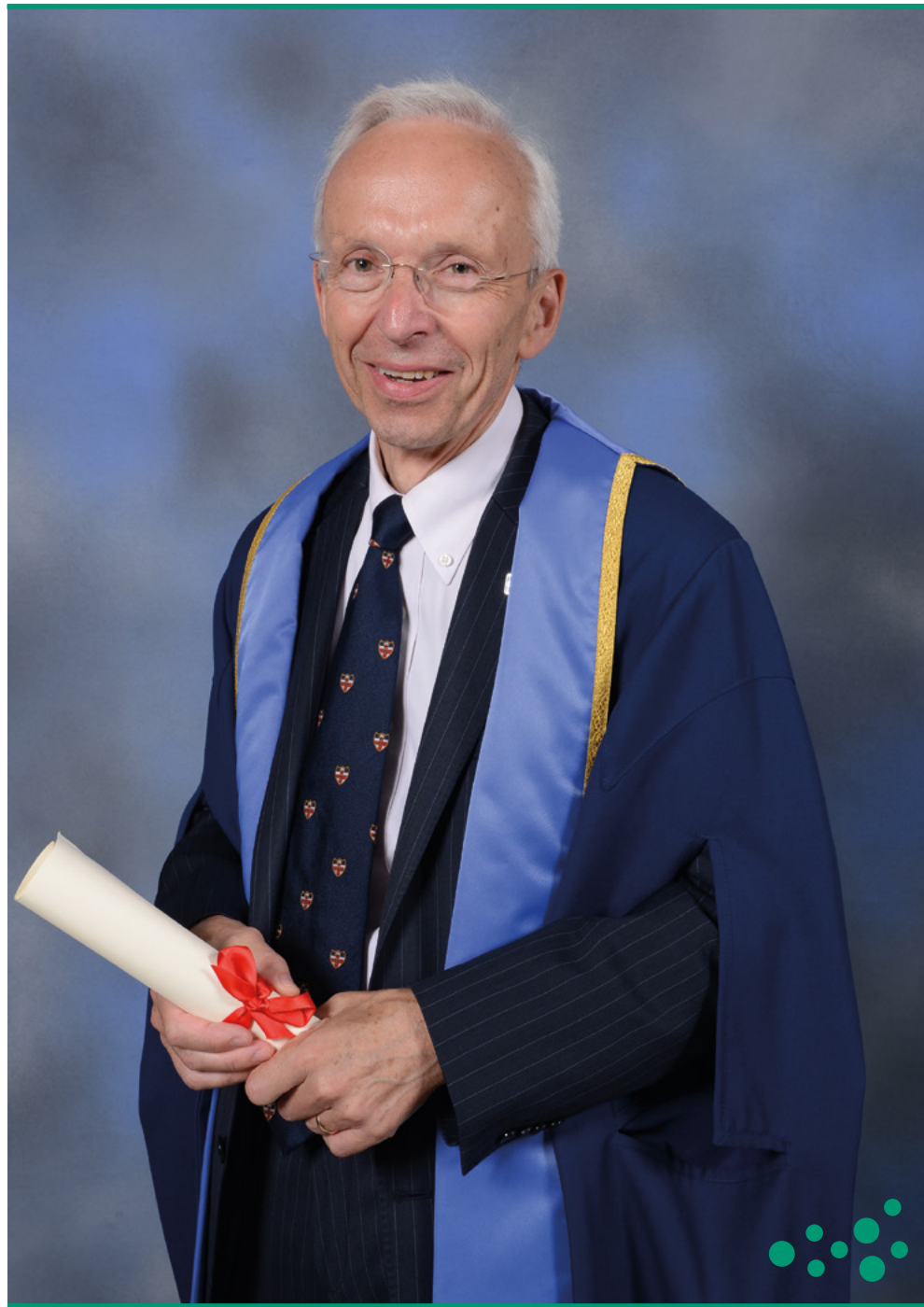
OUR FORMER PRINCIPAL'S LEGACY

Leaving a gift in your Will enables us to plan for the provision of long-term support that will have a lasting impact on our future generation of healthcare professionals, as well as contributing to our mission to improve healthcare for everyone.

Many of our alumni will remember our former Principal, the late Professor Peter Kopelman. Professor Kopelman was a St George's alumnus and avid supporter of the university throughout his life, receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2017.

We were so grateful that Professor Kopelman chose to continue his legacy by leaving a gift in his Will, which will help enrich our students' experience at St George's for many years to come. His Will supports both the Annual Fund and the Alastair Hunter Fund, and will help us to provide flexible support where the need is greatest, as well as helping even more of our students to pursue their passions beyond the classroom.

Thanks to Professor Kopelman's generous gift, we will be able to support more of the students who want to pursue their passion for sport, so that the cost of competing does not stand in the way of their ambitions.



↑ PROFESSOR PETER KOPELMAN, FORMER PRINCIPAL

IMPACT ON EDUCATION

At St George's, we are committed to creating an inclusive environment for our students, and helping them develop the skills they need to be the best possible healthcare professionals. This year, your generous gifts have enabled our students to gain valuable experience for their future careers, and gain insight which will help them succeed as alumni.

“Training in Clinical Communication has changed a lot since our time as students, when we could only rely on observation of the consultant talking to patients on a ward round.

Conversations with patients who may well be anxious are not easy. The choice of words, the order in which to deliver a sentence, the eye contact and body stance are all crucial. At the root of it all is empathy, which can give reassurance to a patient that whatever the diagnosis, you are on their side.”

DONOR, Clinical Communications Prize

DEVELOPING SKILLS IN CLINICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Our Clinical Communications Prizes are funded by two of our alumni, who met at St George’s. They are generous supporters of the university and one of their real passions is Clinical Communications. These prizes recognise students who have demonstrated excellence in clinical communications and a particular passion for this area of Medicine.

“It is truly an honour to receive such an award and I feel immensely privileged. I found the pre-clinical years of medicine incredibly challenging and always hoped that my communication skills would help me in later years, but I never expected something like that to be worthy of a prize.

“I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the alumni donors who have created that opportunity.”

AVESTA ALA’ALDEEN,
FINAL YEAR MEDICINE STUDENT

Final Year student, Avesta Ala’Aldeen, won a Clinical Communications Prize last year and hopes to pursue a Patient-facing role in General Practice as well as a career involving medical education of peers and students.



ENRICHING STUDENT EXPERIENCES



The Conference Fund gave **JENNY COLLOM AND LEO HUDSON** (pictured with Reader in Clinical Communication, **ANGELA KUBACKI**) the opportunity to present work from a Staff-Student Partnership to establish a new Peer Tutor training scheme for early years Clinical Communication skills teaching.

Our Conference Fund enables our students to develop their knowledge and gain valuable experience. Funding helps cover travel and accommodation costs to support students in attending and presenting at conferences. This not only helps to contribute towards their professional development, but also raises the profile of St George's within our academic networks.

In 2021-22, alumni funding provided almost **£5,000** towards our Conference Fund. This has allowed **25** students to attend conferences that could help set them on a path towards their future careers.

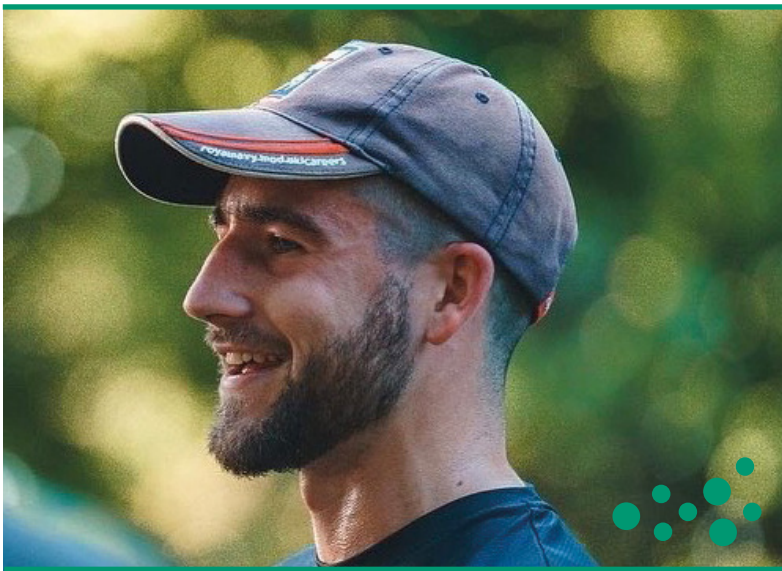
“I was incredibly grateful to receive support through this Fund. It allowed me to travel to Belfast to present my work at the British Society For Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (BSCCP) Conference. This was such a fantastic opportunity. It allowed me to network with like-minded clinicians and researchers, and I even made contact with a team at King’s College London, with whom we are now hoping to collaborate! Thank you for what felt like a vote of confidence when I was feeling quite nervous.”

CONFERENCE FUND RECIPIENT 2021-22

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers provide a range of support that helps our current students gain valuable careers insight – from providing a career profile and signing up to be a champion for their course, to sharing their career journey and achievements in an Alumni Perspectives event.

Our alumni have gone into such a broad range of careers; the experience you are able to share is a huge help to our students as they consider their next steps after university, and what being an alumnus might look like for them.



“It’s great to speak with students interested in learning more about the possible paths for their future.”

CARL WAKEFORD,
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ALUMNUS

Over the last year, 60 of our alumni have given their time to **support our students and help them plan for future career success.**

Over the last year, 25 alumni have shared a **career story or profile.**

Biomedical Science alumnus, Carl Wakeford, moved into accountancy following his degree and has now set up his own business as a running and resilience coach. He has joined several of our Biomedical Science careers events over the last few years and says:

“I always enjoy volunteering at these events. It’s great to speak with students interested in learning more about the possible paths for their future, and to be able to inspire them to think outside the box.”

“Following my degree, I went straight into finance, military training and now fitness, and I love seeing the look on students’ faces when they realise how much they can do with such a fantastic degree.”

IMPACT ON RESEARCH

“Our research at St George’s spans three institutes, covering a broad range of specialisms with a wide-reaching impact. We are so grateful to those who have helped us develop our research and continue to expand our knowledge and understanding of some of the world’s most important healthcare challenges.

“We are excited to see what our researchers can achieve over the next year, thanks to your support.”

PROFESSOR JON FRIEDLAND, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise)

EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN ACADEMIA



↑ (LEFT-RIGHT)
**DR DAVIDE RADAELLI,
EMELIA ZULLO,
JAVERIA NISHTAR,
PROFESSOR MARY SHEPPARD,
DR JOSEPH WESTABY**

← (LEFT-RIGHT)
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE
UNDERGRADUATE,
GRESILDA ASLLANI
AND PHD STUDENT,
ZACK CROXFORD

Alumni support has funded Equal Representation in Academia (ERA), a new initiative helping underrepresented students to gain valuable insight into careers in academia.

Spearheaded by St George’s alumna and Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Neuroscience, Dr Mohani-Preet Dhillon, ERA was launched last year to encourage more students from ethnic minorities to pursue academic research careers, and raise awareness of the career paths available in this area. Dr Dhillon recently won the Outstanding Contribution to Postgraduate Student Diversity award at the 2022 Postgrad Awards for her work on the initiative, and the ERA team are in discussions with other universities and organisations about rolling out placements more widely.

The generous donations from our alumni have helped provide £8,000 towards the ERA initiative, enabling us to fund two work shadowing placements and two studentships for students over the last year.

“I would like to thank the alumni who gave me this amazing opportunity to be involved in the day-to-day workings of a lab that does such meaningful work! ERA has opened new avenues for me, not only in terms of learning, but also making connections.

I had the opportunity to work with people from all over the world at different stages of their career and it gave me a wider perspective.

These kinds of initiatives are so important, especially in marginalised communities. I would like to express my genuine appreciation for all the alumni who helped fund it! I will always look at my ERA experience as a very positive one, which even led to being offered some work in the lab where I completed my placement.”

JAVERIA NISHTAR, 2021-22 ERA PARTICIPANT

Javeria graduated in Biomedical Science this year. She completed the ERA programme in her final year and hopes to apply for a PhD in the future.



RECOGNISING THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF SIR JOSEPH HOTUNG



“Sir Joseph has left an indelible mark on research and education at the university that will have a global impact for years to come, through the students he has supported and the patients who will benefit from his research investments.”

PROFESSOR JENNY HIGHAM,
VICE-CHANCELLOR

The late Sir Joseph Hotung was a major benefactor of St George’s, University of London, contributing greatly towards research at St George’s, both for the hospital and the university. The research he supported has led to key advances in the treatment of a variety of conditions and diseases, while the Sir Joseph Hotung Centre provides a facility for musculoskeletal treatment, research, and education on the hospital site. He has also funded research groups which have led to over 30 students being awarded PhDs for their work.

Sir Joseph’s funding supported Professor Julian Ma’s Hotung Molecular Immunology Laboratory to develop plant-based manufacturing for antibodies, to prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV. This helped cement the group’s position as an international leader in the field of Plant Biotechnology for Human Health.

In September 2021, Sir Joseph was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (Medicine) by St George’s, University of London, in recognition of the impact that his funding has had on research at the university. The Honorary Degree also celebrated Sir Joseph’s time serving on the University board, during which he contributed his global experience and insight as a Council Member. The degree was awarded in a small ceremony at his home.

Sir Joseph sadly passed away on 16 December 2021, at the age of 91. He will be dearly missed by his friends and colleagues at the University.

KEEP IN TOUCH

However you have chosen to support us, thank you again for your contribution, and the difference it has made to our community.

We really value your ongoing support and are keen to continue conversations with you about our work.

If you'd like to find out more about our fundraising, set up regular donations, make a one-off gift or get involved in volunteering, find out more at sgul.ac.uk/for-alumni/support-us or get in touch via the email address or telephone number on this page.

We hope we are able to welcome you back to St George's again soon. In the meantime, if you would like to speak to a member of the team about holding your own event or reunion, you can get in touch by email or connect with us on our alumni Facebook page.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI OFFICE

External Relations,
Communications and Marketing
St George's, University of London
Cranmer Terrace
London
SW14 0RE

Telephone: 0208 266 6195

Email: giving@sgul.ac.uk



@StGeorgesAlumni

