



HEALTH WORLDWIDE – OUR FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Like most academic institutions the School is now having to turn to philanthropic donors, both corporate and individuals for funding, as well as to more traditional sources such as charitable trusts and foundations, if it is to retain and expand its position at the forefront of research and postgraduate education in public health and tropical medicine. It is anticipated that the current strategy for Health Worldwide will run for a couple of years but the need for fundraising will almost certainly continue.

Health Worldwide is seeking to raise approximately £16M over the next two years. £7.7M has already been successfully raised. However, there is still a substantial shortfall and in February 2004 the School held a press conference to announce the official launch of Health Worldwide.

Special Representative

Graeme Le Saux, the Southampton and former England International footballer is now on board as Health Worldwide's special representative and he co-hosted the launch press conference with the Dean, Professor Andy Haines. Journalists from several national papers, radio and television came to learn more about the campaign and Graeme's involvement.



At the conference Graeme commented: "I am delighted to be involved with this important fundraising initiative. I believe the School's work has huge potential to make a real difference to the health of disadvantaged people around the world through advances in our understanding of factors which are essential for good health such as nutrition, physical activity and the prevention and treatment of diseases such as diabetes, TB, HIV and malaria, as well as more effective ways of dealing with the impacts of violence on health."

It's hard to see the natural link between a footballer and this initiative. But the subject is dear to me. I hope to learn as much as I can, either by working here to fund raise or actually going out to visit an overseas project."

Scholarships fund

Through Health Worldwide the School hopes to create a substantial scholarship fund that will assist future students to meet the major financial commitment of studying at the School. The School currently has some limited scholarship funding available but we hope this new initiative will make a real difference and enable us to guarantee more support each year. We are seeking an ambitious initial £2M for the fund. The plan is to use the interest from this capital sum to guarantee support for several students each year, both those studying in London as well as the increasing number studying via distance learning.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Mali

There are currently six alumni in Mali, five of whom attended a dinner organized by Dr Mamadou Traore in July 2004 in his domicile in Bamako. **Dr Daouda Malle** (*Public Health in Developing Countries 1992-93*) was unable to attend as he is currently based in Tunisia, as Health Advisor at the African Development Bank.



From left to right in the photograph are **Mamadou S. Traore**, (*Community Health in Developing Countries 1985-86; Research Student, Epidemiology & Population Health 1990-1994*) recently promoted to the post of National Director of Health in Mali; Mamadou Kane (a guest, General Secretary of the Ministry of Health (Deputy Minister)); **Abdoulaye Diarra**, (*Research Student, Infectious & Tropical Diseases 1997-2001*) currently a staff member of WHO Regional Office for Africa, based in Togo, he is working within the Inter-Country team to provide technical support to countries of the West African sub-region to control human African trypanosomiasis, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths; **Samba Sow**, (*Communicable Disease Epidemiology, 1998-99*), co-ordinator of the Vaccine Development Project in Mali; **Nouhoum Koita**, (*Community Health in Developing Countries, 1988-89*) health advisor in the Child

Survival Project of CARE, Mali; and **Moussa Sacko**, (*Medical Parasitology, 1987-88*) Head of the Parasitology Unit, National Institute of Public Health, who is currently undertaking a PhD programme at the Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory.

USA

A reunion was held at the American Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene Meeting in Miami Beach, Florida on Monday 8 November, attended by a large number of Alumni together with current staff and students. The gathering was hosted by **Professor Geoffrey Targett** (*Research Student Department of Medical Protozoology 1957-1961, Staff, Department of Infectious & Tropical Medicine*). The following evening a reception was held in Washington DC for alumni and friends attending the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. This event was hosted by **Brian Furner** (*Librarian & Director of Information Services*), **Paul Shanley** (*Deputy Registrar*) and **Alison Cowie** (*Student Recruitment Officer*).



(From left): Brian Furner, Alison Cowie and Paul Shanley at the APHA meeting in Washington DC

NEWS OF ALUMNI

Mary Burry (*DTM&H 2001*) writes: 'Following 2 months working in northern Iraq in May and June, I spent a week attending a hands-on course in tropical ultrasound in the wonderful medieval city of Pavia, in northern Italy. As a radiologist in the United States, it is very difficult to obtain this type of exposure to the imaging of tropical disease, and yet ultrasound is often the only imaging modality available in many of the warm countries of the world. The course director, Dr Enrico Brunetti, a known expert on *Echinococcus*, had assembled a talented faculty and both the education and the social activities were wonderful. It was an added pleasure to share the course with **Katharina Bauer** (*DTM&H 2001*) and relive those Thursdays in John William's parasitology lab! The course also drew physicians from several other countries, which added to the international experience. My husband, **Tom Hoggard**, another 2001 DTM&H alumnus and I will be working in Papua New Guinea with **Steve Lutz** (*DTM&H 2001*), where the information learned about ultrasound in tropical disease should be put to good use.'

Congratulations to **Dan Carucci** (*Clinical Tropical Medicine 1990-1991; Research Student, Clinical Sciences 1991-95*) who has joined the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health as Director of the Grand Challenges In Global Health Initiative. This innovative grant-making program, which focuses on increasing research on diseases of the developing world, is managed and administered by the Foundation for NIH and funded by a US\$200M grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Grand Challenges In Global Health Initiative supports research on critical scientific and technological problems that, if solved, could lead to important advances against diseases of the developing world. The initiative currently focuses on 14 of these challenges, including the need for vaccines that do not require refrigeration and for new strategies to prevent insects from transmitting disease. The first round of grants to support research in these areas should be announced in early 2005.