



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 4
September 2007



A healthy future for Commonwealth Scholarships

EVALUATING INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS • COUNTRY PROFILE – FALKLAND ISLANDS • NEWS ROUND-UP
SCHOLARS' NEWS • ALUMNI IN ACTION • NEW CSC WEBSITE • LAUNCH OF PCF5

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Commonwealth Scholarships News
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Professor Sharon Huttly

The phrase 'public health' conjures up a variety of images in people's minds. Definitions range from relatively narrow conceptions of public health in traditional areas such as infectious diseases and sanitation, to much broader notions which include social, cultural and economic factors and a wider spectrum of health outcomes. This edition of Commonwealth Scholarships News illustrates the diverse areas of public health in which current scholars and alumni are involved – embodying its broader definition.

On pages 4-5, some current scholars report on their work on MRI scanning equipment developments, efforts to bring together key players in the fight against malaria, advances in genotyping which help address common diseases, and the association between crime and violence and mental health. News from alumni on pages 8-9 shows similar diversity in activity, whether it's oral health in India or diabetes control in St Lucia. Several of our alumni featured have studied in the UK under the Commission's Professional Fellowships scheme – these are aimed at mid-career professionals from developing countries to spend periods (typically three months) with a relevant UK host organisation in their field. All of the Commission's award schemes support scholars in public health, both for UK-based study and by distance learning. An exciting development this year has been extra funding from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to support distance learning scholars in health and education from African Commonwealth countries. The scheme is targeted at groups of professionals who can interact with each other before, during and after their studies, in order to strengthen communities of professional practice – helping to ameliorate the isolation that some distance learning scholars can face.

Keeping people in touch is important not only for distance learning scholars. Recognising this, the Commission provides a number of mechanisms for helping scholars and alumni to communicate. These include this newsletter, our Professional Networks – one of the largest of which is on Public Health – and our website. Read about the new CSCUK website on page 7, including details of how to sign up for any of the Professional Networks.

The examples of public health work included in this issue illustrate the types of activity which our scholars and alumni are involved in. It is, naturally, only a small selection but it gives an idea of the impact that their work can have. On page 6, you can read about how the Commission plans to undertake a substantial programme of evaluation which will demonstrate the impact of scholarships and fellowships across all the fields of study supported.

Health affects us all and is a key element of the Millennium Development Goals, and it is therefore not surprising that it is a major theme of the Commission's work. We hope you enjoy reading about the range of activities supported by the Commission in this area.

Professor Sharon Huttly

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner

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NEWS ROUND-UP

PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP SELECTIONS FOR 2007

The Professional Fellowships Sub-Committee recently selected 66 candidates for Professional Fellowships in 2007/2008. The successful candidates, representing 16 different Commonwealth countries, will each undertake short (1-3 month) placements within UK organisations including NGOs, local councils and private sector companies. Around 45 fellows will come to the UK in late 2007, with a further 20 taking up their fellowships at the beginning of 2008.

The deadline for applications for 2008/2009 Professional Fellowships is 30 April 2008. Application forms and guidance notes will be available on the Commission's website (www.cscuk.org.uk) in early 2008. Please note that the Commission cannot accept applications from individual candidates; the application must come from a nominating UK organisation.

For further information, please email professional.fellowships@cscuk.org.uk

NEW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NETWORK

Plans are currently underway for the launch event of the Science and Technology network, which will be held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK on 14-16 December 2007. Further details will be available shortly. We would also welcome suggestions on useful topics/areas for the new network to cover. As this is a broad area, we would like the network to tackle areas of relevance to all members, e.g. communicating with the media, putting research into practice, technology transfer. Please email science@cscuk.org.uk with your views.

IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS DEBATED

'Commonwealth Scholarships: common benefit or private gain?' was the topic of discussion at an evening debate held by the Royal Commonwealth Society in partnership with the CSC on 3 July 2007. A panel consisting of Professor Trudy Harpham (Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission), Leslie Kelly (current Commonwealth Scholar) and Professor Lord Desai (Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics) discussed the benefits that scholarships have on an individual, and how this can translate into a wider impact on society. A lively question and answer session followed, chaired by Sir Brian Donnelly (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner), where attendees asked the panellists for their views on, among other subjects, brain drain, the relevance of international scholarships, and the prospects offered by distance learning.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION DISTANCE LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2006 the Commission was awarded GBP 1.8 million of extra funding by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to support up to a further 200 distance learning courses tenable in sub-Saharan Africa, specifically for courses in health and education. The present funding covers 11 courses at eight institutions with up to 30 awards on offer per course.

The courses funded are:

- Leeds Metropolitan University: MSc Public Health
- University of Manchester: MSc Bioinformatics
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: MSc Epidemiology, MSc Infectious Diseases, MSc Public Health
- University College London: MSc International Primary Health Care
- University of Dundee: Master of Nursing and Master of Palliative Care
- Institute of Education: MA Education and International Development
- University of Bolton: Master of Education (Technical and Vocational Education)
- London South Bank University: MSc Education for Sustainability

The CSC has currently only been awarded funding to support one cohort of students, who will commence study in September 2007. No decision has as yet been made regarding future cohorts.

VACANCIES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Commission will shortly begin the process of recruiting up to six new members, to take up their posts on various dates between December 2007 and June 2008, in order to replace retiring Commissioners and maintain a total membership of fifteen. It is anticipated that one of the new appointments will assume the role of Chair in December 2008, on the retirement of the current Chair.

Applications are welcome from all subject areas, and the majority of appointees will have demonstrable interest in, and experience of, international development issues and/or academic issues. Other desirable attributes would include experience of Commonwealth affairs or working in Commonwealth countries, financial expertise and knowledge of international relations. Candidates should be UK citizens.

Further details will be posted on the Commission's website at www.cscuk.org.uk within the next few months.

PLANS FOR THE CSC/CSFP 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2009

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC) will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2009. The CSFP was set up in 1959 at the first Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (CCEM), establishing the key principles under which CSFP still operates today, and the first award holders arrived the following year. The Commission is currently making plans for the Anniversary celebrations and further details will be available shortly on our website and in the next edition of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*.



(l-r) **Leslie Kelly, Professor Lord Desai, Professor Trudy Harpham and Sir Brian Donnelly** at the RCS/CSC meeting

SCHOLARS' NEWS

Public and Medical Health matters feature prominently in the work funded by the Commission. As the following articles demonstrate, the research interests of Commonwealth Scholars in this field vary widely, all helping to create a deeper understanding of the important role of health in both developed and developing countries.

MRI SCANNING BREAKTHROUGH

Australian Scholar Kerrin Pine arrived at the University of Aberdeen in September 2006 to commence his MSc in Medical Physics, which focuses on the application of physics to medicine, covering medical imaging and radiotherapy among other areas of healthcare. It was at Aberdeen itself that, 25 years ago, the first patient in the world was successfully imaged with MRI, using a technique invented at the university.



Kerrin Pine, Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, models the new Fast Field-Cycling MRI scanner

During his Scholarship, Kerrin has had the opportunity to work on an MRI scanning breakthrough that could save lives. As he explains, 'I am working with researchers on a different approach where the magnetic field is quickly varied during the imaging process. This new technique will grant doctors access to a new sort of contrast – and the opportunity to detect cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases earlier than before'.

Kerrin's own efforts concern the localisation of volumes in this 'Fast Field-Cycling MRI'. He hopes to continue with a PhD in the same field, and shape its commercialisation when it is ready. Although a big change from his life in Australia, he views his time in the UK as 'an opportunity to gain knowledge which I could not have found back home'.

SCHOLAR PARTICIPATES IN ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Sabelo Dlamini, a Commonwealth Scholar from Swaziland, is currently working towards a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). One of the requirements of the DrPH is that candidates undertake a Professional Attachment, which offers the opportunity to analyse the operation of a public health organisation. For his Professional Attachment, Sabelo has been working with the All-Party Parliamentary Malaria Group (APPMG).

The APPMG is a forum where UK parliamentarians, many interested organisations (members of scientific, academic, media, charitable and support communities) and representatives of the public and private sector come together to promote a new and united voice to help fight the world's number one killer disease – malaria. The need to take action on this is greater than ever, explains Sabelo. 'Malaria kills more than one million people every year, 90% of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa. The greatest death toll occurs in children under five. Despite the availability of preventive and treatment methods, the burden of malaria remains high. The present status casts a gloomy picture for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goal of halting the spread of malaria by 2015.'

'One objective of my Professional Attachment was to determine the adaptability of the APPMG model to Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Abuja Declaration resulted in African governments resolving to allocate 15% of their national budgets to health. To this day, only two countries have achieved this undertaking. Bad governance, lack of accountability and competency, legitimacy and representation are common among governments of LDCs. There is a need to quicken the establishment of new forms of governance globally to ensure freedom and participation of all in government agenda setting.'



Sabelo Dlamini, Commonwealth Scholar from Swaziland

SCHOLARS INVOLVED IN GENETIC STUDY

For the past six months, Australian Commonwealth Scholars, Joanne Gale and Damjan Vukcevic, who are both working towards DPhils in Statistics at the University of Oxford, have been involved in a genetic study of seven common human diseases. The study recently published its results in the journal *Nature* ('Genome-wide association study of 14,000 cases of seven common diseases and 3,000 shared controls'), and received worldwide press coverage.

The study involved collecting data from 17,000 individuals in an attempt to isolate genetic variants associated with the seven diseases. The results will lead to new insights about the mechanisms underlying these diseases, and hopefully to more effective treatment and prevention strategies.



Damjan Vukcevic and Joanne Gale, Commonwealth Scholars from Australia, with the published results of their genetic study

Damjan explains that the most significant aspect of the study is the fact that it focussed on so-called common diseases. 'Previously, it was mainly rare diseases that could be studied for genetic factors, where generally only one or very few genes are involved. With the recent development of new genotyping technologies we have been able to implement a new approach (a "genome-wide association") that is better able to identify genetic associations. This approach was controversial for a while and was seen as an expensive but futile "treasure hunt" by some, but the discovery of many new genetic associations to numerous diseases in our study shows that this approach is ultimately successful.'

Damjan feels that although it has been challenging to be involved in the study it has definitely been worthwhile. 'Both Joanne and I have been involved with this study on top of our other DPhil research projects, so have been quite busy! So it is nice to have this extra work pay off so well. We are very excited to have been involved in such a ground-breaking study, and plan to present some of our related research at the upcoming meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics in San Diego, USA, in October.'

You can send your feedback, news and views for inclusion in *Commonwealth Scholarships News* by email: comments@cscuk.org.uk

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

RESEARCHING THE LINKS BETWEEN CRIME AND MENTAL HEALTH

Leslie Ralph Kelly (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Public Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London) is carrying out research on crime and violence and poverty-related stressors and their association with common mental disorders. He describes the nature of his PhD work, the motivation for his research interests, and his future career goals.

Crime and violence are significant public health problems affecting both developed and developing countries. The prevalence of violent criminal acts (murder, rape, assault, wounding, shooting, and robbery) is increasing in many countries. This is also accompanied by increasing signs of physical degradation or disorder and social incivilities (such as noise, dirt, drug-dealing and use, loitering youth, gangs etc) in low-income communities, which are usually disproportionately affected by violent crime. Non-criminal acts of violence such as verbal attacks, harassments and types of abuse, such as elder or intimate partner abuse, may also be prevalent but are generally under-reported.

Crime and violence pose a significant public health and public policy challenge for Jamaica, which has one of the highest homicide rates in the world, and a relatively high prevalence of the other categories of violent crime.

Common mental disorders (such as anxiety and depression) are also a significant public health problem worldwide and account for significant levels of disability, reduction in human productivity and in psycho-social wellbeing.

My research fuses these seemingly disparate areas of interest – violence and mental health. It is underpinned by my interest in the much defined and contested entity 'community' – here defined as groups of people co-residing in a geographical space, sharing bonds of attachment and identity, and having the potential collectively to find solutions to address shared problems. I am therefore interested not only in the associations between respondents' exposure to violence and other potential sources of stress and mental ill-health, but also in exploring whether their bonds of attachments with their neighbours and the quality of their social relations is protective of their mental health.

My research interests were developed when I worked in many low-income, urban violence-prone communities in Jamaica as a military officer serving in the Jamaica Defence Force, and through working in an internal security role in support of the Jamaican Constabulary. I was then struck by the obvious signs of abject poverty, daily shootings, gang warfare and homicides that occurred in these communities. Over time, I realised that some of these communities were plagued by repeated periods of upsurges in crime and violence caused by youth gang or partisan politically-related warfare, whilst in other communities, sharing similar socio-economic and demographic profiles, there were no upsurges in crime and violence, and peace was maintained. I therefore became intrigued by this phenomenon



Leslie Kelly, Commonwealth Scholar from Jamaica

I hope that my PhD work may inform the debate that is ongoing in Jamaica and elsewhere about the nexus between crime and violence exposure and ill-health.

of peace and stability in some communities, and repeated outbreaks of violence in others. I also wondered how residents could live in difficult and unstable conditions in those communities that had repeated upsurges in crime and violence. Consequently, I became interested in studying the attendant health consequences of exposure to crime and violence on residents of violence-prone low-income communities.

I hope that my PhD work may inform the debate that is ongoing in Jamaica and elsewhere about the nexus between crime and violence exposure and ill-health. I also hope that it raises the profile of mental health, and common mental disorders in particular, as this area is under-researched in Jamaica.

After completion of my PhD studies, I will be seeking a post-doctoral fellowship to broaden my research skill base in intervention-related research concentrating on violence, social capital and mental health in Jamaica and elsewhere.

Have you joined our Public Health Professional Network yet?

This is an electronic network established for alumni and current Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, bringing together professionals working in, or with an interest in, the field of public health throughout the Commonwealth. As a network member you will receive a quarterly newsletter including news of current issues, events and publications in the field.

To sign up simply go to: www.cscuk.org.uk/news/csc_prof_networks.asp and enter your email address, your name and award reference number and a password.

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS



Participants at the **Commission's Evaluation workshop**, Cumberland Lodge, May 2007

In the last issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*, we reported on the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's plans for an extensive evaluation of the schemes it administers. Although there have been previous reports and evaluations of the Commission's work, the wish was for a systematic programme of evaluation that will not only look back over the 50 years of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP), but also shape the future of the programme.

To launch this programme, the Commission held an international workshop at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, UK, in May 2007 entitled 'Evaluating the impact of international scholarships'. The workshop was attended by representatives of the World Bank Institute, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC), and Commonwealth Scholarships' national agencies in Canada, Ghana, Malawi, the Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, the UK and Zambia, as well as Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows and other interested parties.

With such a variety of delegates, the event offered a forum for discussion and an opportunity to compare approaches to evaluation. Methodologies for evaluating capacity building for international development are well established, but it seems that reliable data for the impact of scholarships, in particular, are not so well documented. Those involved in discussions were keen to establish a better view of the impact of scholarships and, where possible, to collaborate and share the data generated. Guidelines were drawn up to determine what information to collect, to design a framework for acquiring this information, and to develop best practice in evaluating the impact of scholarship funding in capacity building.

A methodology was developed for a programme beginning in September 2007. The first stage will establish the indicators of success – both in academic and developmental terms. Empirical data can be drawn from application and selection processes, including type and number of awards, completion and

return rates, breakdown of subjects and location. It can also be drawn from our alumni, including post-award location, employment sectors and progression through those sectors, future prospects, implementation of skills gained from the scholarship, and the establishment of wider networks and international collaboration.

Further valuable data will be provided by the work of Dr Hilary Perraton (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner), who is preparing an analysis of the Commission's work over the past half a century, to tie in with the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Commission, providing a historical overview of the Commission's policy objectives.

The second stage will be collecting this data. The major method is likely to be a detailed alumni questionnaire, tracking the activities of former award holders to determine how their award has influenced their current position and how it fits with the objectives of the Commission and its funders. This means looking at not only details of paid employment, but also voluntary and political work, relationships with the UK and UK institutions, wider networks in which alumni participate, and personal attitudes. The alumni, as a key resource, may be asked to assess the impact of their award in personal terms, e.g. their standard of living, social change and professional life, as well as wider consideration of impact upon their institution or organisation, the dissemination of knowledge and the change in institutional capacity, awareness of development issues and their own impact on development in their home country.

NEW CSCUK WEBSITE GOES LIVE

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has recently launched its new website at www.cscuk.org.uk. The site provides information about awards offered by the Commission to citizens from across the Commonwealth and advice for students from the UK looking to study in other Commonwealth countries.



Further case studies or face-to-face interviews with individuals and groups could supplement the collection of this information. In addition to scholars and alumni, attention would also be focused on nominating agencies, employers and other relevant organisations.

An extensive database would analyse the material using a set of key indicators of impact, as discussed above. Ideally, this data will be benchmarked through comparative analysis with other schemes, working in conjunction with other international donors, particularly other CSFP scholarship agencies. These findings will inform future policies and provision of awards. As well as a general overview of the Commission's past and future activities, there could be additional projects, possibly involving external agencies, looking in depth at impact upon particular regions and sectors. A small number of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships will be made available for this purpose, tenable in 2008.

It is expected that the UK Department for International Development (DFID) will make an initial tranche of funding available in 2007 and that this will be the start of an ongoing and full programme of evaluation, which will demonstrate the impact of scholarships and fellowships across the Commonwealth.

Award holders' views

Melissa Felician,
Commonwealth Professional Fellow, Institute of Policy Research in
Engineering, Science and Technology

“Having experience in evaluation, including a recent 'Evaluating Research' module at my host institution, methodological issues were not new to me, but it was good to see attempts to integrate all relevant aspects. Points relating to quantifying benefits – which I initially saw as a major challenge – were well presented and provided food for thought. The session on the recipient's viewpoint was the most interesting part; I came away from that session acknowledging that the impact of the scholarships on the recipient (country and individual) goes beyond the measurable outcomes of the scholarship programme. While much still needs to be done in building capacity at country level to improve the selection process, it was clear that the CSC is changing many lives by the opportunities that it has created over the years! ”

Imran Majid,
Commonwealth Scholar, MPhil in Engineering, University of Surrey

“Highlights of the event for me included a cost-benefit analysis of the scholarship business and a review of academic and development approaches to scholarship evaluation. The World Bank Institute's tracer study programme and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)'s success in coordinating alumni activities inspired brainstorming sessions. My contribution included ideas for prioritising regional cultures in impact assessment, while on the other hand applying the onion-shell concept (from a presentation at the UN Space Generation Forum, 1999) in scholarship evaluation; the individuals (inner core) through skill and experience affect institutions (middle layer) directly and through actions benefit the society (outer shell) indirectly. ”

Prospective applicants for awards tenable in the UK can find information on the various schemes available, the selection criteria and how to apply. They can also access practical information about studying and living in the UK, both from our site and through links to the British Council and other organisations, and explore further study opportunities in the Commonwealth.

The 'About the CSC' section outlines the roles and functions of the Commission as part of the international Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. This section also has information on our funding bodies, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and partner organisations such as the British Council.

For current Scholars and Fellows, the 'Current Award Holders' section offers access to handbooks, forms and other resources. Of more general interest is the summary of award holders' views, taken from surveys returned by Scholars at the end of their award. We also have a page for news and profiles, which will expand to represent the variety of disciplines and institutions that Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows cover.

Alumni will shortly be able to update their contact and career details online and send items for our news pages, as well as browsing our *Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows* or the current and archived editions of *Commonwealth Scholarships News*. Users can also sign up for our Professional Networks in the areas of Agriculture, Environment, Governance, Education, Health and Gender, and read news of forthcoming networks.

The new CSCUK site can be accessed independently, or via the CSFP site (www.csfp-online.org) when browsing the list of countries offering awards. We hope that you'll visit our site and take a look around. We are always keen to have your feedback and you can use the online contact form to give us general feedback on the site, or you can give us specific feedback on particular pages within the Application and Alumni sections.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Alumni Events

ALUMNI RECEPTION IN KENYA

Some 75 current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows, along with guests from Kenyan universities and the private sector, attended a reception hosted by Professor Tim Unwin (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner) at the



David Siele and Tim Unwin share a joke at the reception

Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 May 2007. Speeches by Professor Unwin, Adam Wood (British High Commissioner to Kenya) and David Siele (Director of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Kenya) emphasised the diversity and significance of scholarships and collaboration between UK and Kenyan higher education institutions. Alumnus Simon Kang'ethe, from the East African Herbarium at the National Museums of Kenya, discussed his Commonwealth Professional Fellowship at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, in 2003. The reception provided a valuable opportunity for distance learning students to meet UK colleagues, and for alumni to meet and discover more about the Commission's work.

CSFP GET-TOGETHER IN NEW ZEALAND

Dr Norman Geddes (Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner) hosted a Commonwealth Scholarships function at Victoria University, New Zealand, on 11 July 2007. Among the guests were alumni and Scholars from the UK, Sierra Leone and Mauritius as well as from New Zealand, representing the whole Commonwealth Scholarship



Norman Geddes (centre) chatting to a current scholar and an alumnus at the New Zealand reception

and Fellowship Plan. George Fergusson (British High Commissioner to New Zealand), Paula Middleton (Director, British Council), Professor Pat Walsh (Vice-Chancellor, Victoria University), and Lindsay Taiaroa, Dr Charles Tustin and Kiri Manuera from the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee also attended. The miserable weather conditions outside were hardly noticed as the guests enjoyed good food, wine and conversation. Dr Geddes hinted at the possibility of a larger function to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the scheme in 2009.

Alumni News

FORMER MEDICAL FELLOW FIGHTS CHILDHOOD DISEASES

Dr A S Narayana (Commonwealth Medical Fellow, University of Wales, 1971-1972) is Chief Executive of the Sai Oral Health Foundation, a non-profit, voluntary organisation that aims to improve the health of impoverished people, particularly from rural and tribal areas, and especially children of school age. The Foundation is currently working on the provision of defluoridation plants and rainwater harvesting structures in Andhra Pradesh, India.

ALUMNUS RESEARCHES ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENT



Dr Pulok Mukherjee, former Commonwealth Fellow

Dr Pulok Mukherjee (Commonwealth Fellow, King's College London, 2005-2006) is currently working on the development of natural medicine to treat Alzheimer's disease, in his position as Director of the School of Natural Product Studies at Jadavpur University, India. This joint project with the Department of Pharmacy, King's College London, UK, looks at the efficacy of plants used in Ayurvedic treatments to treat Alzheimer's disease, and recently featured on the BBC news website.

FORMER SCHOLAR'S PHD DATA UPLOADED TO DATABASE

Protein data gathered by Dr Amam Zonaed Siddiki, (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Molecular

Parasitology, University of Glasgow and University of Liverpool, 2002-2006) during his PhD studies has been accepted by the CryptoDb database, an online



Dr Amam Zonaed Siddiki with Dr Jonathan M. Wastling, his PhD supervisor, on graduation day in 2006

worldwide research resource. Dr Siddiki's data is the first analysis of a deadly worm which is responsible for deaths in many developing countries worldwide. He is now Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology and Parasitology, Chittagong University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bangladesh.

ALUMNUS APPOINTED VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr Professor Malcolm Gillies (Commonwealth Scholar, MMus in Music, King's College London, 1978-81) has recently been appointed Vice Chancellor of City University, London, UK. Professor Gillies has had several high-profile positions in his home country of Australia, including President of both the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Musicological Society of Australia, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President of the Australian National University, and Chair of the Australian Youth Orchestra.

In Brief

AWARDS AND CAREER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr Muhammad Tahir Javed Khan

(Commonwealth Fellow, University of Strathclyde, 1997-1998) is now working as Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University College of Pharmacy, University of the Punjab, Pakistan, and is also a member of the Pakistan Pharmacy Council.

Dr Praveen Mathur (Commonwealth Fellow, Great Ormond Street Hospital, 1999-2000) has recently been promoted to Associate Professor and Head of

ALUMNI PROFILE

the Department of Paediatric Surgery at RNT Medical College, India, and has established the first Paediatric Laparoscopic Unit in Rajasthan.

Dr Leonard Mizzi (Commonwealth Scholar, PhD in Economics, University of Reading, 1992-1995) has recently become a Head of Unit at the European Commission in Brussels, in charge of ACP countries, South Africa, FAO and Food Aid. Formerly, Dr Mizzi worked in the Ministry for Economic Services in Malta, the Malta Chamber of Commerce and the Malta Business Bureau.

Professor Sultan Ali Sadiq (Commonwealth Medical Fellow, Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, Edinburgh, 1976-1977) is currently the Director, Medical Project and Chief Medical Superintendent at Hamdard Medical College and the associated Majeedia Hospital, Jamia Hamdard University, India.

Dr Jyoti Wadhwa (Commonwealth Scholar, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Imperial College London School of Medicine, 2000-2001) has recently been elected as a Member of the Indian National Academy of Medical Sciences (MNAMS) in Medical Oncology. Dr Wadhwa currently works as a Consultant Medical Oncologist in New Delhi, India.

Keep in touch

Please keep us informed of your news, such as significant research, new senior appointment, major publication or national honour or award. We also welcome feedback on any aspect of this publication.

You can get in touch by email:

comments@cscuk.org.uk

or you can write to:

**Sarah Humphreys,
Alumni Development Officer**

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We appreciate all your feedback and contributions, although it may not always be possible for us to include all your news, due to the amount of space available on these pages.

Diabetes has been recognised as a major challenge for developing countries. The St Lucia Diabetes Project was set up to assist diabetic care in the Caribbean, and has participated in the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Programme since 2005.

THE ST LUCIA DIABETES PROJECT

Following research and screening projects in the UK and Jamaica, Mary Matthias, a specialist diabetes nurse, was determined to contribute to diabetic care in the Caribbean, where resources are more limited. She founded the St Lucia Diabetes Project (SLDP) in 2003, when a medical team visited the island to hold screening and training sessions and distribute equipment.

The SLDP aims to promote awareness of diabetes and hypertension among the general public, facilitate training for nurses and allied professionals, and develop facilities for good diabetes care for the people of St Lucia. Follow-up visits provided further training in treating both children and adults including shadowing podiatrists on visits to health centres and elderly care homes across the island and 'hands on' practice. All team members are volunteers and help to fundraise for the programme.

ST LUCIAN NURSES IN THE UK

Over the last two years, the project has hosted six St Lucian nurses through the Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Programme. The nurses each spent three months in the UK on diabetes management programmes, gaining experience and knowledge to enhance diabetic care on the island and to pass on to other health workers.

Frances Lesmond was one of the first cohort of Professional Fellows in 2005, who observed treatment and services in GP surgeries, specialist clinics, London hospitals, the Royal College of Nursing and in the community. They had an overview of various aspects of treatment, including antenatal, renal and podiatry. The Fellows were also able to access up-to-date material on diabetes health education. This access to resources and the experiences gained have served as a guide for their subsequent work in St Lucia.

Since her return home, Frances has continued her work as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), serving a

catchment area in St Lucia with a population of 16,000. She renders general care including funduscopy, treatment, and both dietary and general counselling. As Frances herself says, 'It is important for Family Nurse

Practitioners to be multi-skilled!' Her time in the UK has widened her skills and knowledge and encouraged more consistent use of treatments such as basic foot assessment of diabetic and hypertensive patients. She has, in turn, passed these skills on to Community Health Aides, extending the benefits across the St Lucian medical service.

Nurse and midwife **Elvina Phillips-Raveneau** was a Professional Fellow in 2006, and saw her award as an opportunity to experience diabetes management in a different culture and improve her understanding of the patient's role in managing their condition. She is now more confident in delivering care to diabetics and their relatives, and has the support of a network of professionals in the UK.

On returning to St Lucia, Elvina has worked closely with staff at Victoria Hospital and is looking to establish a system of care for both current and potential sufferers, and to improve local perceptions of the condition. She has conducted diabetes management workshops with hospital and community-based staff and has visited towns and villages to speak with residents about diabetes. Elvina feels that her professional growth and development will benefit the people of St Lucia and improve the quality of life of patients.



Harriette Smith, 2006
Commonwealth Professional Fellow, attending to a patient's feet

DIABETES PROJECTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Iddrissu Issahaku works as a Senior Nursing Officer and Diabetes Nurse Manager at Tamale Teaching Hospital in Ghana. His Professional Fellowship at the Tropical Health and Education Trust in 2006 offered him clinical experience at Southmead Hospital Diabetes Clinic and Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, and the North Tees University Hospital. He enjoyed spending time with the

hospital staff and particularly noted the importance of visiting patients in the community as well as in hospital environments. His experiences have further equipped him to meet the challenges of the weekly diabetic clinic that he and his colleagues run at Tamale, which has a total of 995 patients and covers a region with high levels of poverty.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS BEATEN BY THE RAIN, AND SOME GOOD CRICKET

Peter Munro, former Commonwealth Scholar (PhD in Electromagnetic Modelling, Imperial College London, 2002-2006) and member of the Commonwealth Scholars cricket team, reports on this year's match against Rhodes.

Those of you who are new to the United Kingdom will have, no doubt, realised by now that the weather here is very variable, as well as a favoured topic of conversation amongst residents. In keeping with this, the fifth annual cricket match between the Commonwealth Scholars and Rhodes scholars took place under extremely trying and at times ridiculous weather conditions. But we managed to have a great day.

The match, played in Oxford on 21 July 2007, was somewhat of a decider with the Commonwealth and Rhodes teams having won two matches each and the former looking to win their third match in succession. Tanzil Rahman, a veteran of the Commonwealth side and captain on the day, found himself in the desirable and yet unusual position of having more than 11 players to choose from. This was somewhat surprising since many roads and railway lines were closed due to the recent heavy

rains. It is hoped that this interest and commitment to the team prevails next year!

The decision was taken to play on an artificial wicket as it was too wet to use a turf wicket. The Commonwealth side fielded first and it wasn't long before the ball was waterlogged. The Rhodes team made a good start before a breakthrough was eventually made via a run out. A few of the Rhodes top order batsmen made the retirement score of 40; however, they were allowed to continue their innings as the Commonwealth side eventually had the Rhodes team 9 wickets down.

The Commonwealth innings did not start well, losing both openers relatively early on. Only one batsman, Guru Joshi, made a half century, which was the only score of note made by the Commonwealth side. Fortunately, several players rallied around Guru and batted with him; however, the side never recovered from the early loss of wickets. The weather actually fined up for the Rhodes fielding team and in the end the Rhodes total was just too great – 217/9 in 30 overs against 153/9 – and they moved ahead to a 3-2 lead in the annual matches.



The barbecue afterwards was once again brilliantly organised by Tanzil. Everyone had a great time despite it raining for the entire evening and it was a testament to the good spirit under which the match was played. Thanks go to Tanzil, for the effort that he has put into organising the last two very enjoyable matches, Francis King, who as umpire arguably had the toughest job having to spend both innings in the rain, and all the people who turned up (or attempted to turn up) to play or observe! The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission also deserves a big thank you for making the day possible. Finally, thanks to the Rhodes players for once again giving us a great match – let's see if we can make it 3-3 next year!

PCF5 LAUNCHES IN LONDON



The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) launched its Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF5) in London on 17 May 2007, in front of an audience representing education institutions, governments, development agencies and Commonwealth organisations.

Conference Co-Chairs Sir Graeme Davies, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, and Sir John Daniel, President and CEO of COL, spoke at the event, which aimed to engage education and development communities in discussion about how open and distance learning (ODL) can help achieve international development goals and education for all. Sir John spoke about the conference's ambitious targets to sponsor fully at least one in six delegates to PCF5, and that the University of London and the UK Open University have committed to sponsoring 40 delegates from sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and small island states. The conference theme 'Access to Learning for Development' will focus on four key areas:

- Governance, conflict and social justice
- Health
- Livelihoods
- Provision for children and young people.

The keynote speaker at the launch event was Professor Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director General for Communications and Information, UNESCO and former Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University, India. Professor Khan commented that globally the MDGs were not going to be met, with sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia in particular need of assistance. More controversially perhaps, he suggested that, whilst universities make policymakers for government and train professionals and business leaders, conventional approaches to education cannot deliver the MDGs; instead, it is necessary to educate policymakers to the notion that ODL, through interaction, hands-on training and group work, provides a real opportunity for universities to use technology and innovation to mass educate people with a good mixture of skills and to teach them the ability to think critically. This will lead to knowledge, freedom of expression, inclusion, diversity and empowerment.

Running from 13-17 July 2008, PCF5 will be hosted by COL in partnership with the University of London as part of its celebration of 150 years of external studies. The Programme Committee is now inviting proposals for contributions to the conference. The conference website at www.col.org/pcf5 has guidelines and information about how you can submit a proposal and full details of the conference themes. It also contains information about guest speakers, registration, the venue, accommodation and travelling to London. For further information on PCF5 please email cde@london.ac.uk To contact COL on other matters, please email info@col.org.

COUNTRY PROFILE – FALKLAND ISLANDS

In the second of our features on how the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) operates throughout the world, **Barbara Booth**, of the Falkland Islands Education Department, explains how the process works on the Islands.



Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands is an archipelago comprising over 700 islands in the South Atlantic, approximately 300 miles off the eastern tip of South America – and 8,000 miles from the United Kingdom. The Islands are a self-sufficient Overseas Territory of the UK and the elected Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands Government, responsible for internal government and economic management, gives consistent support to education for its young people, a key element in sustaining the economy for the future.



Gentoo penguins on the march

Given the size of the community (approximately 3,000 people), further and higher education is provided mainly in the United Kingdom but sometimes in Australia or New Zealand. Post-16 education, up to first degree level, is fully sponsored by the Government. Many choose to study in the UK but often students studying agriculture or sports opt for universities in Australia. Where students wish to pursue Masters' courses, they must seek sponsorship or scholarships, as this is not provided for under the existing policy.

It is here that the links with the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) have been forged, with six students benefiting from Commonwealth Scholarships. The Education Department is the nominating

agency and awards are publicised through the Education Service and in local media. The nomination criteria include whether the chosen field of study will support the strategic development of the Islands, and candidates' willingness to return to the Islands to support future developments. Alumni have studied journalism, design, marine archaeology, marine biology, oceanography and environmental sciences. Given the geography of the Falkland Islands, the links with advanced marine and environmental studies are self-evident.

The overall size and population precludes the Falkland Islands being in a position to offer Commonwealth Scholarships in its own right but there may be scope in the future to participate more fully in the Fellowship scheme. Currently there are no students participating in the scheme but its profile has been raised over the past year and there has been an increase in enquiries about the criteria for scholarships. Further details can be obtained from the Falkland Islands section of the CSFP website, at www.csfp-online.org

ALUMNI PROFILES

Andrea Clausen completed her PhD in Ocean Sciences in 1997, at the University of Wales, Bangor. Andrea then returned to the Islands and worked for two years as a Manager for Byron KSJ, a joint venture squid fishing company with a number of vessels operating in Falklands waters. Transferring to a post of Scientific Officer for Falklands Conservation, Andrea used many of the skills built up during her education. In particular, she was responsible for the Seabird Monitoring Programme established in the late 1980s to investigate the level of interaction, if any, between the commercial fishery and certain seabirds of the Falkland Islands and South Atlantic. After 5 years, and the arrival of a child, she left Falklands Conservation and decided to stand for election as a Legislative Councillor for the Stanley constituency. She was elected in November 2005 (for a four-year term) and, as a Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Falkland Islands Government for the past 2 years, she holds the portfolio for Industry and Development.



Andrea Clausen,
*former Commonwealth
Scholar*



John Barton,
former Commonwealth Scholar

John Barton graduated from the University of Wales, Bangor in 1982 with a BSc in Marine Biology and Oceanography. He says 'At that time it would have been difficult to undertake such a course without the benefit of a Commonwealth Scholarship. Studying in the UK made sense as all our communication links were with the UK back then. Bangor was one of the main centres for marine science and fisheries'. In 1986, a 200-mile fishing zone was declared around the Falkland Islands, and John has now spent some 20 years working in fisheries. Revenue from the fishery has transformed the Falkland Islands economy. John is currently the Director of Fisheries for the Falkland Islands Government, a key position in maintaining a sustainable economy for the future.

ABOUT THE CSFP...

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is one of the oldest and most prestigious schemes of its kind in the world. It was established at the first Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in 1959. Since, over 24,000 individuals have held awards, hosted by over twenty countries.

From the outset, the United Kingdom has been the largest single contributor, and over half of the awards have been held here. CSFP awards in the United Kingdom are managed by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, a public body established by Act of Parliament. Two government departments fund the Commission: the Department for International Development, which supports awards to developing Commonwealth countries, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which supports awards to the remainder of the Commonwealth.

Day-to-day administration of the Commission is handled by its Secretariat, which is based at the Association of Commonwealth Universities. The British Council handles welfare and financial administration, and provides pre-departure advice through its local offices.

At present, the Commission offers six discrete types of award:

- General Scholarships
- Academic Staff Scholarships
- Academic Fellowships
- Split-Site Scholarships
- Professional Fellowships
- Distance Learning Scholarships

Further details of current provision and selection procedures can be found on the UK section of the CSFP web site at <http://www.cscuk.org.uk>

We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of Commonwealth Scholarships News. If you have any feedback, or you have a suggestion for a future article (indeed you may be interested in writing one yourself!) please get in touch with the Editorial Team at:

comments@cscuk.org.uk

Commonwealth Scholarships News

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**The Association
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