



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWS

Promoting learning, development and co-operation

Issue 18
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Rising to the challenge



OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS · CRAFTING THE CSC'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN · NEWS ROUND-UP
OUR ALUMNI · LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT CENTURY · NETWORKS AND EVENTS

Cover Commonwealth Shared Scholar **Sybil Akua Okyerewa Obuobi** (right) with Commonwealth Students' Association representative Daniel Wilson at the Commonwealth Residential School 2013 – read more on page 6-7.

2 Editorial

3 News round-up

The latest from the Commonwealth Scholarships community.

4 Our Scholars and Fellows

An insight into the work of our current award holders.

6 Commonwealth Scholars look ahead to the next century

Commonwealth Scholars report back from the 2013 Commonwealth Residential School.

8 Crafting the Commission's new Strategic Plan

How the CSC is planning for the future.

10 Our alumni

News and career updates from former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows.

12 Alumni profile

A look at the impact of three alumni who held awards to enhance their clinical skills.

13 Improving treatment outcomes for breast cancer

How a Commonwealth Scholarship enabled one alumnus to pursue her ambition of a career in cancer research.

14 Our impact

An interview with a Commonwealth Scholar working in migration and human rights.

16 Networks and events

Reports from recent events attended by Commonwealth Scholars, Fellows and alumni.

18 CSFP News

News from the wider Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

19 Country profile – Nigeria

A closer look at the CSFP in operation internationally.

This issue of *Commonwealth Scholarships News* celebrates the innovative work and research of current and former Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. For more than 50 years, Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships have enabled individuals from all over the Commonwealth to contribute to the development of their organisations, regions, and countries and provide a talented pool for the benefit of the global learning community.

In this edition, we highlight the achievements of the many medical Scholars and Fellows who have made innovations in treatment in their home countries as a result of their awards. For example, Dr Joan Agama Dellor set up the first rheumatology unit in Ghana, while in India Dr Babita Ghai has introduced new procedures on pain management to patients, and Professor Anil Jain has improved surgical skills in relation to spinal abnormalities at the University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi (read more on page 12).

These are just a few examples of the many achievements of our Scholars and Fellows. Their stories highlight the importance of education as a tool for development and empowerment. The CSC Evaluation and Monitoring Team is responsible for recording the value and impact of Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships, which is key to ensuring that these awards are effective and provide good value, and also enables the CSC to share good practice. Evaluation responses from alumni have been compiled in several reports in relation to key development themes, such as health, environmental sustainability, and building democracy. In relation to the priority area of governance, 62% of respondents in 2011 reported an impact, and 45% reported influencing government thinking. In the related area of social inequalities and human rights, 58% of respondents reported an impact, 35% reported influencing government thinking and policy, and 60% were involved with a specific project in this field.

To widen access opportunities, the CSC's portfolio of awards has increased over the years. In particular, Split-site Scholarships for PhD study, Distance Learning Scholarships for Master's study, and Professional Fellowships enable award holders to maintain professional and home links while studying.

Alumni surveys and interviews are an essential component of this evaluation and monitoring, and there is always an impressive response to our surveys. This is invaluable, as it helps to shape our future strategy and programmes. For example, analyses have indicated some gender imbalance in awards, and enabled the CSC to start to address this. As a result, there has been a steady increase in the number of female Scholars and Fellows, from 9% in the 1960s to 45% in 2012, with a particularly strong increase in the 1990s. However, there are still regional gender disparities across most programmes, particularly in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific, and in Academic Fellowships. This is a challenge for the CSC to address in the future.

In the meantime, let us celebrate the impressive achievements of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows thus far in helping to create a more equitable and sustainable world.

Professor Ros Wade

Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner

Director, Education for Sustainability Programme and Associate Director, Centre for Cross Curricular Initiatives, London South Bank University



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NEWS ROUND-UP



Joetta Harty, Senior Welfare and Immigration Officer at the CSC Secretariat



Christine Odro, Programme Assistant at the CSC Secretariat



Terri Jacques, Programme Officer at the CSC Secretariat

DISTANCE LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS INCREASE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

CSC Secretariat staff met with representatives from the Open University and Kulika Uganda in September 2013. The CSC has supported Distance Learning Scholarships through the Open University in partnership with Kulika since 2006, and over 70 Scholars have held awards to study MSc Development Management in both Kenya and Uganda.

The meeting, which was hosted by the Open University at their campus in Milton Keynes, was organised by Richard Pinder (Development Management Qualification Director). From Kulika, Christina Sempebwa (newly-appointed Executive Director), Magdalene Amujal (Head of Programmes), and Joseph Kasibante (Head of Finance), were present. Other attendees included senior academic and administrative staff from the Open University, as well as CSC representatives.

Dr Jonathan Jenkins, the CSC's Director of Operations, noted that this was the first time that the CSC had had the opportunity to meet with both the UK and in-country partners of a Distance Learning Scholarship programme.

Kulika Uganda presented their new Strategic Plan to the group, noting that 49% of Uganda's population is under 14 years of age. There is considerable need for experts in development management, and the CSC's Distance Learning Scholarship is a step towards more indigenous leadership in local development organisations.

Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships enable developing country students to study UK Master's degree courses while living in their home countries. The scheme was established in 2002,

as part of the CSC's and the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) commitment to exploring new methods of scholarship delivery. To date, nearly 2,000 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships have been awarded.

NEW EVIDENCE OF IMPACT FROM INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

The UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) recently undertook research to evaluate the range and extent of the wider impact of international student recruitment on UK universities. Their report – *The Wider Benefits of International Higher Education in the UK* – was published in September 2013, and concentrates on the experiences of international alumni, their reflections on UK life, the effect that studying in the UK has had on them, and their attitudes to the UK.

The aim of the report was to investigate and illustrate social, economic, and political benefits to graduates, their countries of origin, and especially the UK. The conclusions were based on interviews with 100 recent international UK graduates, representing equal numbers of men and women, and a broad spread of subjects, nationalities and UK universities. One-third of the interviewees had been supported by scholarships, either from their own country, their UK university, or Commonwealth, Chevening or British Council scholarships.

Over 90% of all of those interviewed reported a positive experience of life and study in the UK, and a number of benefits flowed from this satisfaction and indeed affection. There is still room for improvement, and the report features recommendations for the UK government, higher education providers and international higher education stakeholders, but the attachment of the majority of these students to the UK leaves a lasting impression.

You can download the report at www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-higher-education-in-the-uk-wider-benefits

DIRECTORY UPDATE

The December 2013 refresh of the online Directory of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows includes career profiles of 5,500 Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. The names of more than 30,000 Scholars and Fellows who have held awards in countries around the Commonwealth are included in the Register section. A key benefit of this update is the inclusion of email addresses (for those who have given consent). You can view and search the Directory at bit.ly/cscuk-online-directory

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT THE SECRETARIAT

Terri Jacques has joined the CSC Secretariat as Programme Officer. Previously, Terri was Personal Assistant to Chuka Umunna MP. She graduated with a BA in Modern Languages from the University of Newcastle in 2004, and gained an MA in Politics from the University of Leeds in 2011.

Christine Odro has joined the CSC Secretariat as Programme Assistant, assisting the Senior Welfare and Immigration Officer and Programme Officers. Christine previously worked at the University of Kent as an Erasmus Placement Officer. She graduated from the University of Sussex in 2010 with a BA in Anthropology and Spanish.

Joetta Harty has joined the CSC Secretariat as Senior Welfare and Immigration Officer. Previously, she was a Student Immigration and Compliance Manager at the American InterContinental University London. Joetta has a BA in English from New England College Arundel, an MA in English from the State University of New York (SUNY) Stony Brook, and a PhD in English from George Washington University.

OUR SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS

Three Commonwealth Scholars report on their research and how what they have learnt will benefit their home countries.



Mary Taiwo, 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

INCLUSIVE PRACTICE IN NIGERIAN CLASSROOMS

Mary Moyosore Taiwo is a 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, studying for a PhD in Inclusive and Special Education at Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. Her research interest is inclusive practice for children with disabilities in Nigerian classrooms. As she explains, 'Inclusive practice is the process through which children with disabilities are provided with equal educational and learning opportunities to their non-disabled peers.'

'The aim of my research is to develop an understanding of how teachers in regular classrooms are negotiating the tension within the teaching and learning process, whereby children are expected to achieve the same set standards in classrooms at a particular set time. In addition, there is the issue of how expectations of individual learning needs, particularly in relation to disabilities and learning preferences, are taken into consideration.'

Mary is using photographs to capture important classroom moments for her research. This is intended to compensate for the 'logistical difficulty of using a video recording of classroom activities for several hours in a developing country context. These photographs are then used to facilitate and direct interactions with participating teachers, in order to make sense of how other teachers respond to the tension that arises as a result of the presence of a child with a disability in their classroom'.

Mary has also taken a creative approach towards refining her research aims, allowing them to develop over time. 'In allowing the research to gradually develop its focus on the ways in which teachers experience and negotiate this tension, I aim to address the dilemma of being a researcher at an institution in Scotland, rather than in Nigeria. There

is a tendency to define the research focus based on the context, but the actual issues of education in a developing context such as Nigeria differ in very significant ways from those in Scotland.

'Conducting educational research that will be beneficial to my country means accounting for contextual factors and situational elements that are relevant to the beneficiaries of the research outcome. In doing this, I think that the knowledge this research will generate will be fruitful in informing future teacher training towards inclusive practices in classrooms.'

IMAGING CHILDREN'S BROKEN HEARTS



Hopewell Ntsinjana, 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa

Hopewell Nkosispendule Ntsinjana is a 2012 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa. He is pursuing a PhD in Paediatric Cardiology at University College London's Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust. His research involves non-invasive imaging in children using cardiac computed tomography (CT) scanning and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

'Cardiovascular imaging has become an integral part of the ongoing assessment of children with congenital heart disease, whether repaired or unrepaired. The major problem with children born with a heart disease is that they require lifelong follow-up with serial imaging at various stages of their lives. Traditional imaging modalities such

as catheter-based methods are invasive, often requiring general anaesthesia and a large number of medical personnel, with potential complications. Moreover, the major concern is how to deal with radiation exposure during these procedures, and the associated risk of developing cancer, which is more worrisome in children who require serial imaging.'

Hopewell's research looks at novel radiation dose-lowering strategies which do not compromise the image quality of cardiac CT scans. 'I have so far demonstrated an eight-fold dose reduction by employing these strategies. This is good news for the field of paediatric cardiology, because cardiac CT is not only non-invasive, but also robust and it provides exquisite images that can be viewed in three dimensions, making it ideal for pre-surgical planning.'

Hopewell is also researching the use of MRI, which is radiation-free. 'I am currently assessing the ability of MRI to discriminate between anatomical structures, comparing it with CT scanning as a "gold standard". The aim is to use this radiation-free tool to non-invasively assess the structure and the function of the heart – an ideal future goal of paediatric cardiology.'

'I believe that my research will have direct impact on my home country as both the novel research and generic skills I am gaining during my time here in the UK can easily translate into routine clinical practice, helping to change follow-up plans for children born with congenital heart disease.'

SAFETY, SHELF LIFE AND NUTRITIONAL IMPROVEMENT OF OGI

Adanma Innocent-Ukachi, a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, is studying for a PhD in Food Sciences, specialising in Food Microbiology and Safety, at the University of Nottingham.

Adanma is undertaking research on spoilage, safety, and bioavailability of nutrients in fermented cereal foods using Nigerian 'ogi', a fermented food made from maize or sorghum which is used as a weaning food and breakfast for adults and those recovering from illness. 'I was prompted to investigate ogi

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Anne Dance, 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, reflects on how her research has contributed to new understandings of land reclamation in Canada.



Adanma Innocent-Ukachi, 2011
Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria

based on concerns about foodborne illnesses such as diarrhoea among infants, which occur in local communities like mine in eastern Nigeria, where this product is a major infant weaning food.

'In developing countries, 68-98% of the cereal crop produced is used for human consumption. These are mostly processed by natural fermentation. In Nigeria, fermented foods serve as the major dietary staple and find wide consumer acceptance with the belief that they are more nutritious, confer health benefits, and have unique flavour and texture. However, due to uncontrolled fermentation, most of these products have a poor shelf life and possible health risks posed by harmful substances released into the food by microorganisms. But they are still being consumed due to ignorance and limited alternative choices of food.'

Adanma's research aims to establish an optimised process for the production of ogi with a view to improving its shelf life, nutritional and therapeutic qualities, as well as reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses and spoilage associated with naturally fermented foods.

'Hopefully the outcome of this study will help to upgrade the traditional fermentation process, currently done at the household level, and assist in industrialising the production of consistent fermented cereal foods in Nigeria. I am looking forward to developing an improved shelf-stable product which will help in reducing food spoilage problems and contribute substantially to food security, safety and nutrition through fermentation technology.'



Anne Dance, 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada

I recently completed my PhD in History at the University of Stirling, where I spent three years exploring the historical background and contemporary policy implications of contaminated site clean-up in oil sands production.

A source of unconventional oil in northeastern Alberta, oil sands production is an enormously important and contentious element of the Canadian economy. While debates about new transcontinental pipelines and the sands' contribution to climate change abound, much less attention has been paid to the long-term demands of reclamation. Since oil sands mining, extraction, and processing activities produce enormous quantities of pollutants, including toxic tailings ponds which now cover over 170 square kilometres, clean-up is a pressing issue.

Working from Stirling's excellent Research Centre for Environmental History and Policy, I learned about reclamation in terms of soil quality, hazardous waste management regimes, and healthy spaces. I also studied the cultural dimensions of abandoned mines and derelict sites. The interdisciplinary nature of the project made it unique, and my hope is that it will help guide future discussions about reclamation schemes and long-term planning.

Also, instead of treating the post-extraction oil sands landscapes as a unique phenomenon, I contextualised them by looking at another site, the Sydney tar ponds in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Sydney's soon-to-be-completed CAD 400 million

reclamation project covered a much smaller area than the oil sands, but many of the issues brought up during lengthy environmental hearings are comparable to those that planners continue to grapple with in northeastern Alberta.

During my PhD I travelled to Calgary, Edmonton, and finally Fort McMurray to conduct archival research on the early years of oil sands reclamation experiments during the 1960s and 1970s. Historically, the gap between public and stakeholder expectations and the limitations of technology and funding commitments has been enormous. I found that truly effective and enduring reclamation is not only contingent on choosing the most appropriate technologies, but also on addressing historical injustices wrought by contamination and development. Indeed, reclamation itself can maintain vulnerabilities by embedding contaminants within 'clean' spaces. It can also perpetuate injustices, as those most marginalised by development are frequently responsible for maintaining and inhabiting these spaces.

My project also argues that we need a much more inclusive discussion about what sort of landscapes reclamation can and should construct. If rebuilding past environments is impossible, then how should we proceed? Future reclamation efforts must address these gaps. They must also support new conversations, however controversial and difficult, about the cumulative human footprint on this vulnerable world.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT CENTURY

In August 2013, Commonwealth Scholars studying at universities around the UK attended the third annual Commonwealth Residential School at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor.

Instigated by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in 2011, the Commonwealth Residential School aims to provide a forum to bring together brilliant students from every corner of the Commonwealth to discuss interdisciplinary issues of global importance. This year's event saw the United Kingdom host the School for the first time, under the theme 'The world in 2113: what will it be like, how can we prepare?'

Following a highly competitive application process, over 30 Commonwealth Scholars were successful in gaining places at the School and they joined other postgraduate students from around the Commonwealth at the week-long event. Sybil Akua Okyerewa Obuobi (2012 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana, MSc Drug Delivery, Aston University) was one of those selected to attend. 'Scholars gathered to discuss issues centring on global development and their impact on the approaching century. The opportunity to network and to reflect on familiar and unfamiliar issues of this century allowed Scholars to share their thoughts and experiences while learning from others.'

Judith Namanya (2012 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Uganda, MSc Public Health Promotion, Leeds Metropolitan University) was also among the attendees. 'At the School, we discussed what we all have to offer from our fields to come up with a strong agenda for the future. It is very evident that challenges facing the world today are multifaceted and, for this reason, they need a combined effort from experts in all fields.'

The Commonwealth Residential School had the ambitious aim of exploring what the world might be like in 100 years, and what measures society needs to put in place to anticipate this. Delegates were presented with a wide variety of issues from a range of disciplines, and challenged with bringing these sometimes conflicting ideas together, to consider what the future might hold. 'The event held important discussions on whether the world will exist in 2113 and the kind of world we will exist in, language and culture evolution, the policies the world will need, democratic trends, the Commonwealth, and how student leaders could contribute as we forge into the coming century,' said Sybil. 'Whether the look into a hundred years ahead was much too ambitious or not, I would say that the ability of humans to predict the future using lessons from history and current worldwide trends allows adequate preparation'.

The Seychellois Minister for Environment and Energy, HE Professor Rolph Payet, delivered the keynote speech titled 'Will the world exist in 2113?' As a former Commonwealth Scholar (1999 Commonwealth Scholar, BSc Biochemistry, University of East Anglia) and Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Seychelles, Rolph explored a broad range of global development issues, calling for a collective and collaborative approach to preparing for the major issues of tomorrow.

Rolph spoke of how 52% of the land in the Seychelles is protected and yet the fate of the nation is largely out of its own hands due to the rise in sea levels caused by the melting of the

polar ice caps. 'The important thing to remember with climate change is that it touches everybody,' he warned. 'The world will lose several thousand islands by 2113, mostly as a result of the rise in sea levels.'

Rolph called on the students to develop a long-term mindset in order to prepare effectively for the future. 'We already have so many problems in the world today. Who has time to think about 2113? There is so much we don't know and there is so much we are still learning today, but we mustn't forget that 100 years is not such a long time for humankind.'

The role of science and technology was particularly relevant to many of the Commonwealth Scholars. An overriding reflection from those taking part was the need to work together, across disciplines, to achieve an impact in the future. 'Despite rising environmental issues and the threat to future generations, the fact that humans have recognised the issues surrounding these major changes – and their impact on the world we live in – is a step in the right direction,' said Sybil. 'Science and research may be at the centre of the post-2113 era; however, an international developmental policy merging with sustainable development are also key "wheels" behind progress in the coming century.'

Judith also emphasised the importance of universities. 'I came face to face with the fruits of higher education and this left me advocating the need for more sponsorship for higher education in all fields, if we are going to create a sustainable human resource for the next generation.'



Commonwealth Scholars at the 2013 Commonwealth Residential School

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Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, asks delegates 'How will we communicate in 2113?'

The culmination of this exploration and reflection was seen in the event's political activities, with the creation of delegate policy groups and elections for the world government of 2113. 'Each group tried to come up with a strong manifesto to be elected for the world government in 2113,' said Judith. 'I was amazed at the determination of the students to take on the issues that are proving a challenge to this world for both this generation, and the generation to come.'

Mimi Zou (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, PhD Law, University of Oxford) felt that the world government elections were the highlight of the programme. 'The five political parties presented their grand visions for the world in 2113. As expected from highly experienced and astute politicians, the party leaders put forward an enticing smorgasbord of promising ideas for change (including taking the human civilisation to Mars!), all delivered with the perfect dose of flair and charm. The audience pushed the politicians to the edge with their challenging and witty questions – democracy at its most contagious!'

In achieving the objective to challenge participants to think critically about the future, and the responsibilities of individuals in all disciplines, the Commonwealth Residential School was a great success. 'By the end of the School, my life as a youth and a potential leader received an overhaul, said Judith. 'My perspective and direction of thinking has changed from seeing things in my world, to also focusing on things that are yet to come in 100 years.'



Discussing a manifesto for the **2113 world government elections**

CRAFTING THE COMMISSION'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, on how the Commission is planning for the future.



Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioners

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) was first established by Act of Parliament in 1959 to deliver the UK's commitment to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP). Member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries through the CSFP. The CSC's portfolio of awards and the means through which these are delivered have varied over the years, but this fundamental remit has remained the same.

The CSC consists of up to 14 Commissioners and a Chair, who undertake award selections and also shape its policies – ensuring that the Commission remains fit for purpose in a changing world. As an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) in its own right, and being at arms' length from

the government departments that provide most of its funding, the CSC can take a long term view of the role of scholarships and fellowships across the Commonwealth.

In this article, I present a very personal overview of the ways in which the CSC walks the fine line between being independent of, and yet funded by, government. I want to share my reflections with our many stakeholders about how the Commission is crafting its new Strategic Plan, coming into effect in 2015, to promote discussion around some of the key issues. It is this strategic policy role that actually takes up much more of the Commissioners' time than handling selections.

The views of UK government ministers have changed substantially since I was first appointed

as a Commissioner in 2004. Then, neither scholarships nor support for universities in poorer countries featured prominently in the view of the Department for International Development (DFID). Today, both are recognised as being particularly relevant priorities, with DFID funding increasing from £17.43 million in 2009/2010 to £25.56 million in 2014/2015. In contrast, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2008 decided to cease providing funding to the CSC for Commonwealth Scholarships to applicants from 'developed' Commonwealth countries. High-level interventions fortunately led to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) providing a small amount of support for the scheme, enabling us to remain a truly Commonwealth-wide programme, albeit at a much reduced level.

Over the last decade, the CSC has built up an enviable reputation in undertaking detailed monitoring and evaluation of the experiences of our Scholars, Fellows and alumni

Despite the challenges facing the Commonwealth, the CSC's work has always seemed to me pivotal in shaping wider understanding and cohesion within the Commonwealth. We have played a significant role in establishing a cadre of outstanding alumni who are committed to serving others for the common good. That is after all what lies at the heart of the 'common weal'. I believe that the scheme would be much the weaker without Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows from all Commonwealth countries. However, with such limited funding from central government for those from the richer countries of the Commonwealth, it is right that we should ask whether or not these values are still worth championing.

Over the last decade, the CSC has built up an enviable reputation in undertaking detailed monitoring and evaluation of the experiences of our Scholars, Fellows and alumni. Norm Geddes, a recent Commissioner, led much of this work and we all owe him a very considerable debt of gratitude for his foresight in driving this agenda forward with indefatigable zeal. The CSC's ongoing evaluation work, as featured regularly in this magazine (see page 14-15), has provided us with much evidence not only to respond to the numerous government reviews of the Commission's work, but also to help us shape our future agendas.

We are delighted that the recent government review of our NDPB status affirmed our role and status, but one significant challenge that the CSC continues to face is simply ensuring that our strategic planning process coincides with the requirements of an increasingly onerous burden of external review. In July 2013, Commissioners held a two-day meeting to start developing our strategy for the period from 2015 onwards and, as part of this process, we wish to be assured that we are indeed delivering on the needs of our diverse stakeholders. These include the UK government departments from which we receive funding, our Scholars and Fellows, the governments and peoples of the Commonwealth, the employers of our alumni, and UK universities, which provide most of the research and teaching as well as substantial financial support for the scheme.

Many issues were discussed at this 'retreat', and the most important of these have already been taken forward through the CSC's committees. I wish, though, to use the opportunity to share with

the wider family of our alumni and stakeholders what I see as being four of the most challenging and interrelated questions that we are addressing.

GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT BETWEEN OUR DIFFERENT SCHEMES, WHILE SEEKING TO MINIMISE OUR TRANSACTION COSTS

The CSC currently has seven types of award, including three Master's schemes, two types of PhDs, Professional Fellowships, and Academic Fellowships. Recently we have reduced the costs of delivering our programmes, from 10% in 2008 to less than 6.5% in 2013, and it is extremely difficult to reduce this further. Simplifying the application process and reducing the number of separate schemes would have the advantages of making the process easier for applicants and could offer further financial savings, channelling more of our funding into the awards. This is the only UK government scholarship scheme that currently offers awards to overseas students for PhD study at UK universities. We remain convinced that PhD awards make a very significant contribution to development and leadership, but it remains difficult to judge the exact level of funding for PhD awards. A single application route could also simplify our Master's programmes.

ASSURING THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE CANDIDATES ARE NOMINATED TO THE CSC, AND THE ROLE OF NOMINATING AGENCIES

As a scheme built on bilateral relationships between governments, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan has been fundamentally based on creating a set of relationships between nominating agencies in every country. However, concerns are sometimes expressed that the selection processes are not equally transparent in all countries. Considerable costs are involved on the part of nominating agencies in nominating candidates to the CSC for selection. Our Electronic Application System has streamlined and facilitated the application process, and we are exploring ways through which this could enable more efficient administration of the scheme. However, opening up the application process for anyone to apply independently could dramatically increase the number of applications – and the costs of administering the scheme. It would also fundamentally alter the traditional relationship between nominating agencies. Getting this balance right between applications, nominations, and

selections, while retaining links with nominating agencies, remains tricky.

THE JUSTIFICATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS

Given the wider economic and political climate in the UK, there are those who increasingly question the value of international development assistance. We need to do more to emphasise that Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships not only contribute very significantly to the home countries of our Scholars and Fellows, but also add to the richness of our research base in the UK, indeed building closer international scientific collaboration. Additionally, they play a crucial political and cultural role in fostering closer understanding between peoples of the Commonwealth.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH ONLINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Over the last decade, the CSC has championed the value of distance learning, with over 850 Distance Learning Scholars from across the Commonwealth having commenced such courses taught by UK universities between 2008 and 2012. These courses are being delivered through the use of online digital technologies, with increasing numbers of students using materials that are freely available on the internet. I would like to see the CSC taking a leading role in promoting the potential of such technologies. Such an approach can help UK universities position themselves at the cutting edge of innovative Master's course delivery. The challenge, though, remains how to resource the very considerable level of interaction and discussion that lies at the heart of high-quality Master's learning, and the time that academics need to spend in supporting large numbers of students across the world. Such interaction must always remain at the heart of quality Master's courses.

These are just some of the more complex issues with which Commissioners are engaging, and we would be interested in feedback from all stakeholders as to how they would like to see us move forward – please email comments@cscuk.org.uk. The Commissioners remain the custodians of all that has been good in the scheme in the past, and we want to ensure that we remain fit for purpose in the years ahead.

OUR ALUMNI

Alumni news

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARS IN THE NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



Senator George Brandis, 1981 Commonwealth Scholar and Attorney-General of Australia

Senator George Brandis (1981 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, BCL Law, University of Oxford) has been appointed Attorney-General of Australia, following recent elections. He spoke of the pivotal part his scholarship has played in his life. 'Winning the Commonwealth Scholarship, and the opportunity to study at Oxford, was the defining moment of my career. Everything I have achieved in the years since for the betterment of my country was made possible by the Commonwealth Scholarship, for which I will be forever grateful.'



Josh Frydenberg, 1996 Commonwealth Scholar and Australian MP

Josh Frydenberg (1996 Commonwealth Scholar from Australia, MPhil International Relations, University of Oxford) was re-elected as MP for Kooyong, and has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. 'My new role involves leading our deregulation agenda which will see the government cut AUD 1 billion a year in red and green tape. Deregulation is a vital microeconomic reform, and I look forward to applying myself to this task.'

ALUMNUS APPOINTED TO UGANDAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Justice Professor Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinza (1986 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, LL.M Commercial Law, University of Bristol) was appointed a Justice of the Uganda Constitutional Court/Court of Appeal in July 2013. Lillian was the first female Professor of Law in the East African region, and the first female Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University, Uganda.

Lillian has published three books that are in use in East African law schools. 'I have examined the interaction between law and legal institutions and non-legal social institutions, such as culture, and social factors,' said Lillian. 'The work links the law with the socioeconomic and cultural milieu, offering an invaluable critique of the law from a lived reality perspective. It presents important lessons for law reform and development.'

DELIVERING URBAN DESIGN QUALITY

Antoine Zammit (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Malta, MSc Development and Planning: Town & Country Planning, University College London) has recently been awarded a PhD in urban design in Malta by University College London, his former host institution. Examiners praised his thesis as an 'immaculate piece of work'.



Dr Antoine Zammit, 2004 Commonwealth Scholar and recent PhD graduate

Antoine's thesis takes Malta as a case study and questions the role of development control in delivering urban design quality. 'My aim was to determine the possible relationship between the planning process and the quality of urban design outcomes on the ground, and provide recommendations to stimulate a rethinking of planning practice,' he explained.

Antoine is the Founding Architect of Malta-based practice Studjurban and a Lecturer at the Department of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, University of Malta.

IMPROVING KIDNEY HEALTHCARE IN RURAL INDIA

Dr Sanjay Vikrant (2010 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Nephrology, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham) is using the advanced nephrology training he received during his Fellowship to deal with critically-ill patients. Sanjay is Head of the Department of Nephrology at Indira Gandhi Medical College, India, which is developing its own kidney transplant programme.

Since his return, Sanjay has acquired new equipment and carried out in-house training to make new practices integral to the clinical services offered at

the hospital, which serves a state with a population of 6.8 million people. Future challenges include providing treatment in remote areas, and enabling more training opportunities to meet these needs.



Dr Kevin Lynch, 1972 Commonwealth Scholar and Chancellor of the University of King's College, Canada

ALUMNUS APPOINTED UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR

Dr Kevin Lynch (1972 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, MA Economics, University of Manchester) became the 14th Chancellor of the University of King's College, Canada on 9 September 2013. Kevin has previously served as Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, Canada's most senior civil service post.

Awards and prizes

Dr Ruby Asmah (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, PhD Aquaculture, University of Stirling) has won the Leverhulme Royal Society Africa Award for the 'Planning for improved and sustainable cage aquaculture in Lake Volta, Ghana' project. The three-year project will improve environmental monitoring and introduce sustainable cage aquaculture to the lake, and is a collaboration between Ruby and colleagues at her former host institution.

Dr Sanjay Kataria (2011 Commonwealth Professional Fellow, Middlesex University), Librarian at Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, India, was named SATKAL Young Librarian 2012.

Dr Thomas J Murray (1967 Commonwealth Scholar and 1985 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Canada, Neurology/Neurological Education, University of London/University College London) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Dalhousie University in May 2013, in acknowledgement of his contributions to medical

Have you changed job or email or postal address? Let us know at alumnitrace@cscuk.org.uk

Please note that all employment information received by the CSC will be added to our database and included in our annual refresh of the online Directory.

education. Thomas was also inducted into the Discovery Center Hall of Fame in November 2013 for his contributions to science and, in April 2014, he will be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for his contributions to multiple sclerosis research.



Dr Thomas Murray,
Commonwealth Scholar
and Commonwealth
Academic Fellow from
Canada

Salahuddin Nur (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh, MSc Nanoelectronics and Nanotechnology, University of Southampton) has been awarded the Dean's Prize by University College London to support his doctoral research at the London Centre for Nanotechnology.



Salahuddin Nur, 2011
Commonwealth Scholar
from Bangladesh

Uduak Udom (2010 Professional Fellow from Nigeria, World Council of Optometry) was named as one of the Eye Health Leaders 2013 by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, for her contribution to the development of the optometry profession in Nigeria and internationally.

Publications

Dr Abayomi Jimoh (2005 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Biotechnology of the Brackish Water Prawn, Lagos State University and University of Hull) has published part of his PhD thesis in a paper titled 'Mismatch between molecular (mtDNA) and morphological classification of Macrobrachium prawns from Southern Nigeria: Cryptic freshwater species and brackish water morphotypes', in *Aquaculture* (410-411: 25-31, 2013)

Kelechi Njoku (2011 Commonwealth Shared Scholar, MSc Public Health and Health Services Research, University of Newcastle) has published a paper based on his Master's thesis titled 'Socioeconomic variation in survival from childhood leukaemia in northern England: 1968-2010' in the *British Journal of Cancer* (108: 2339-2345, 2013)

Dr Franklin Obeng-Odoom (2006 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Ghana, MSc Development and Planning, University College London) has published *Governance for Pro-Poor Urban Development – Lessons from Ghana* (Routledge, 2013)

Dr Prabhugouda Patil (2011 Commonwealth Academic Fellow from India, Convective Heat Transfer and Instability, University of Bath) is publishing a paper based on his Fellowship research titled 'The onset of convection in a porous layer with multiple horizontal solid partitions' in the *International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer* (January 2014).

Recent appointments

Paul Stephen Boyce (2008 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from South Africa, LLM, University of Cambridge) has been appointed Program Manager at the National Centre for State Courts, USA.

Dr Sandeep Buttan (2009 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from India, MSc Community Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) has been appointed Program Development Advisor – Eye Health and Health Systems Strengthening at Sightsavers Asia.

Julius Niba Fon (2004 Commonwealth Shared Scholar from Cameroon, MA Ecological Economics, University of Leeds) has been appointed Technical Project Coordinator at FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), Cameroon.



Mary Kachale,
2008 and 2010
Commonwealth Scholar
from Malawi

Mary Dominica Kachale (2008 and 2010 Commonwealth Scholar from Malawi, LLM and MPhil Law, University College London) has been appointed Chief Legal Aid Advocate in the Department of Legal Aid, Ministry of Justice, Malawi.

Professor Susan Mumm (1990 Commonwealth Scholar from Canada, DPhil History, University of Sussex) has been appointed Dean of Arts and Science at Queen's University, Canada.

Dr Olayinka Nwachukwu (2003 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Soil Science, University of Glasgow) has been appointed Head of the Department of Soil Science and Meteorology at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Nigeria.

Dr Patience Ebehiremen Orukpe (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, PhD Control Systems, Imperial College London) has been appointed Senior Lecturer at the University of Benin, Nigeria.



Dr Patience Orukpe,
2004 Commonwealth
Scholar from Nigeria



Dr Maureen Owor,
2004 Commonwealth
Scholar from Uganda

Dr Maureen Owor (2004 Commonwealth Scholar from Uganda, PhD Human Rights Law, University of Bristol) has been appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Bristol, UK.

Dr Murali Prasad (2011 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from India, Library and Archives Services, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) has been appointed Librarian at the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, India.

Scholastica Ukwoma (2011 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Nigeria, Library and Learning Services, University of East London) has been appointed Senior Librarian and Head of Digital Library Unit at the University of Nigeria.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to enhance clinical skills offer award holders the opportunity to learn and practice a new clinical skill, and to network with others in the same and related specialties. This issue, we look at three alumni whose awards have transformed the lives of patients in their home countries.

Dr Joan Agama Dellor (2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, Rheumatology, Hammersmith Hospital) is a specialist in the Department of Medicine at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, and a Fellow of the West African College of Medicine. She found that her Commonwealth Scholarship enhanced her skills and helped her to set up the first rheumatology unit in Ghana.

At Hammersmith Hospital, Joan had the opportunity to work as an honorary Specialist Registrar with the rheumatology unit. 'It was a truly educative and empowering experience. I got the chance to run the general rheumatology, vascular, lupus, and soft tissue clinics, seeing patients independently.'

Joan's Scholarship also provided wide-ranging experience at other hospitals. She watched nephrologists running special lupus and prenatal counselling clinics, attended the scleroderma clinic at the Royal Free Hospital, and observed the review of patients with lung diseases at the respiratory unit at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

Joan's training has been integral to improving rheumatology care in Ghana. 'It has given me the confidence to better practice rheumatology back home, where I was instrumental in setting up and running the first ever rheumatology unit in Ghana.' Currently, Joan and her team are seeing over 380 patients with between 16 to 20 new cases each month, and they are collecting data to start epidemiologic research on these cases to improve treatment in the future.

Dr Babita Ghai (2011 Commonwealth Academic Fellow, Chronic Pain Management, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary, University of London) is Associate Professor at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India.



Dr Babita Ghai, 2011 Commonwealth Academic Fellow in Chronic Pain Management

Babita's Academic Fellowship covered interventional pain management and research, as well as sessions at a pain clinic and supervising inpatient ward rounds. She learnt a systematic approach toward pain management and improved her skills in interventional procedures. She was also involved in a pain management research project as a co-investigator.

The skills learnt during her Academic Fellowship have enabled Babita to introduce new procedures in her daily work, providing greater pain relief to patients. She has started performing intradiscal procedures for back pain, and recently performed three percutaneous hydrodissection procedures, which received wide media coverage.

The Academic Fellowship continues to enhance Babita's research activities in India. She is working

towards collaborative research with her former host institution and, since returning home, has secured funding from the Indian Department of Science and Technology for a project on 'Prescribing pattern, tolerance and its impact on quality of life in patients with chronic low back pain'.

Babita has shared the new techniques she learnt with her colleagues across India. 'I am teaching my residents and colleagues who come from all over India and also from neighbouring countries, disseminating education on pain management widely.'

Professor Anil Jain (2009 Commonwealth Academic Fellow, Spine and Scoliosis Surgery, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh) found that his Academic Fellowship helped him address the treatment of acute spinal conditions.

Anil's Academic Fellowship focused on deformity correction in spinal cases, and included the evaluation of scoliosis deformities for treatment planning and management. 'The outpatient and inpatient exposure gave a broad outlook in the planning of surgical treatment as well as long-term outcomes of spinal deformities. The Academic Fellowship really improved my skills in spinal stabilisation in various spinal pathologies.'

In India, doctors face a large number of cases of tubercular kyphotic deformity in the acute and healed stages. With Anil's Fellowship experience in treating congenital kyphosis and scoliosis, the correction of kyphotic deformity in tubercular spine cases has been refined. Importantly, as a Professor of Orthopaedics at the University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, he has been able to pass on his new knowledge to colleagues. 'The Academic Fellowship has improved surgical skills at our institution, as well as research generally on kyphotic deformities in spinal infection.'

IMPROVING TREATMENT OUTCOMES FOR BREAST CANCER

Caryn Ross-Innes was inspired by her Master's degree to pursue a career in cancer research – and her Commonwealth Scholarship has enabled her to realise this ambition.

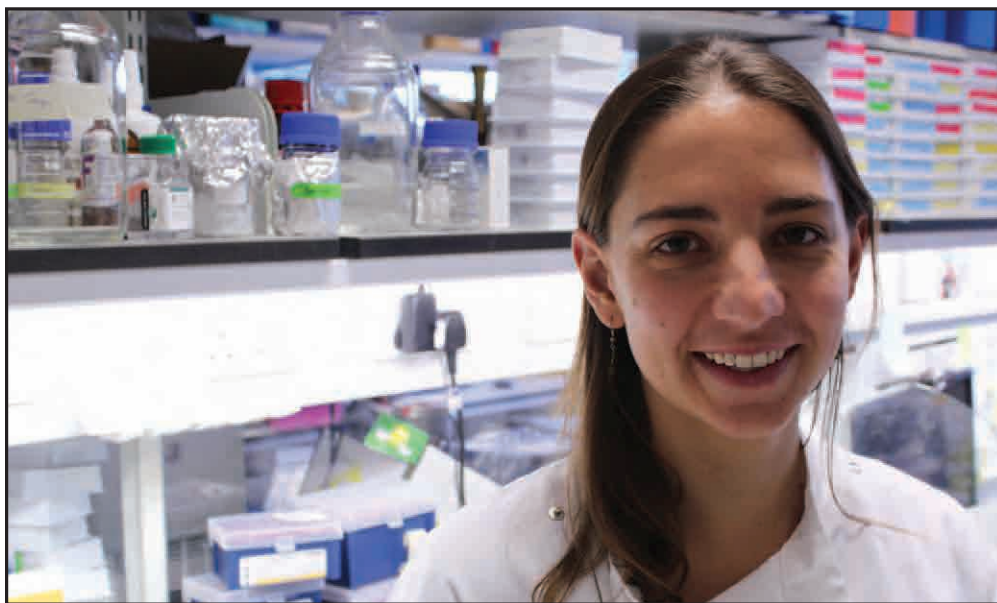
Dr Caryn Ross-Innes, 2007 Commonwealth Scholar and cancer research scientist

Caryn Ross-Innes is a 2007 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa who studied a PhD in Cancer Research at the University of Cambridge. Her PhD research focused on further understanding oestrogen receptor (ER)-mediated transcription within breast cancer cells. She is currently a postdoctoral scientist at her former host institution.

Caryn studied Biochemistry and Microbiology as an undergraduate at the University of Cape Town (UCT), followed by an Honours and Master's degree at the UCT Medical School. Her postgraduate research at UCT looked at the potential influence of the human papillomavirus in the development of oesophageal squamous cancer, which affects predominantly black males on the east coast of Africa.

During her postgraduate study at UCT, Caryn became particularly interested in the complexity of the development of cancer, and wanted to pursue a career in cancer research. 'I saw the potential to make a positive contribution to scientific research and to hopefully improve patient care.' Being awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2007 allowed Caryn to follow this path.

Caryn was based at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute, and found that the scientific community at Cambridge provided a conducive and challenging environment for conducting doctoral research. She embraced the opportunity to listen and learn from colleagues in the Cambridge community, and met interesting scientists from all over the world. She also attended international conferences in Canada, Croatia, Greece, and the USA, and was given the opportunity to present her PhD research. The enthusiasm and excitement surrounding cancer research within the institute fuelled Caryn's interest and enabled her to produce three first author papers during her PhD, including one published in the journal *Nature*.



A key part of Caryn's PhD work focused on further understanding ER transcriptional dynamics within breast cancer cells. This is a very important area of research, as women with ER-positive breast cancer can be treated with anti-oestrogen drugs, such as tamoxifen. However, the majority of women will become resistant. By mapping ER binding patterns in primary tumours with good or poor clinical outcomes, as well as metastatic samples (where the cancer has spread to other organs), Caryn and her colleagues found a core set of ER binding events that occur in all contexts, and these represent the ER cis-regulatory elements that contribute to tumour formation.

In addition, Caryn and her colleagues found that, even though tumours acquire drug resistance to anti-oestrogen treatments, this is not due to a failure of ER to function, but is a result of change in specific ER binding patterns. This is a change which can happen surprisingly rapidly. These findings showed that ER binding can be used to predict outcomes and importantly reveal the underlying properties and target genes that determine responses to drug treatment. Defining the mechanisms used by ER-positive tumours to circumvent drug response is one of the major unanswered questions in breast cancer biology.

Caryn completed her PhD in July 2011, and is now a postdoctoral scientist in Professor Rebecca Fitzgerald's laboratory at Cambridge. To gain a better understanding of how cancer research can alter patient care, Caryn decided to join a more translational and clinically-focused laboratory. Her current research uses skills that she acquired during her doctoral work.

Caryn is working on two main projects, both on oesophageal adenocarcinoma. Using the genomic skills that Caryn gained during her PhD, she is involved in a large effort to sequence the DNA from 500 oesophageal adenocarcinomas as part of the International Cancer Genome Consortium. The study aims to identify recurrently-mutated genes in oesophageal adenocarcinoma with the hope of identifying novel biomarkers for screening and early detection.

Caryn is also involved in a screening study for Barrett's oesophagus, the precursor lesion for oesophageal adenocarcinoma. Her role in this project is to devise a risk stratification biomarker panel that can be applied to cytosponge, a novel non-invasive cell-sampling device. This will help identify patients with an increased risk of developing oesophageal adenocarcinoma.

OUR IMPACT

Professor Ingrid Palmary is a 2003 Commonwealth Scholar from South Africa who undertook a PhD in Psychology at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is now an Associate Professor at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Following a recent evaluation survey, Kathryn Scurfield met her in November 2013 to discuss her current work, the effect of her Commonwealth Scholarship on her career, and her wider development impact.

KS: What was your PhD research about?

IP: In 1998, South Africa passed the Refugees Act which was a move away from apartheid mobility control towards a more human rights-based legislative framework. I was very interested in women who had been engaged in or in some way affected by armed conflict in Africa, and how they spoke about and understood their role in politics. At that time, a lot of attention was focused on gender-based persecution claims in the asylum system, as it was a new area. My research was therefore trying to understand women's engagement with political change, violence, and conflict across the African continent.

KS: Tell us more about your current job as an Associate Professor.

IP: Our centre [the African Center for Migration and Society] is interdisciplinary, based in the social sciences. Although I have a psychology background, there are others who are from political science, anthropology, and even drama. For the last six years, we've had a series of projects that have focused on the area of gender violence and displacement. We offer Master's and PhD programmes, and we conduct research. I have an administrative role in coordinating the teaching, and I also do quite a lot of supervision of students.

As a result of my PhD work, a few students joined and, together, we continue to conduct research on women's engagement with armed conflict. At the time, cracks in the asylum system started to show, and so we began research in that area as well. We've also conducted research looking at the intersections of domestic and political violence, and how they shape one another in times of conflict. Another area of research we've focused on is post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation. We have about eight to nine different areas of research on the go at any one time.

KS: In your response to our recent evaluation survey, you stated that you strongly felt that you use specific skills and knowledge gained during your award in your current work. Would you be able to expand on this?

IP: The PhD is probably the only time in your life that you get three years to really focus on your research, and so it enabled me to continue to draw on work I was doing back then. It was a really big boost to my academic career. The main skills I gained were around writing. I already had a Master's in research methods, so I knew how to be a researcher, but I really needed to improve my writing skills. I had very strong supervision and the intensity of the feedback that was given during that phase was really helpful.

KS: You also stated that you were able to introduce new practices or innovations in the workplace. Can you outline any specific examples?

IP: The teaching programme was very weak when the first group of us [at the centre] came together. So I designed two out of the three courses we ran in the beginning. I was able to structure the degree programme in ways that I thought would be effective and according to how I think the programme should run. Our director designed the introductory course and then I designed two others, which were a health and psychosocial consequences of migration course and a methodology course.

KS: Can you tell us about any links that you were able to establish in the UK, particularly ones that led to joint collaboration on work you've conducted?

IP: I chose Manchester Metropolitan University because there was a group of well-known researchers in my field whose work I had used a lot in my own research. It was a very warm and supportive environment and I continue to work with my supervisor, Erica Burman. Our centre has nominated her as an honorary researcher, so we

continue to have a very close collaboration. In 2010, we co-edited a book called *Gender and Migration*, which in some ways brought together all the people working in gender and migration that I'd met in the UK. I also keep in contact with some of the other students that I met. I've even co-authored a journal article with one of them, and will be submitting something for a special issue that she's doing in a journal. The people on that course came from all over the world, so I wasn't just establishing UK links, but also international ones.

KS: What have been your achievements in having an impact on development?

IP: Our research centre is involved in a lot of applied and policy-relevant research. For example, the Department of Health issued a memo asserting that no person should be asked for identification when accessing antiretroviral medication [for HIV/AIDS treatment] in South Africa. It was a really progressive move, because it recognised the public health benefits of not implementing an immigration policy that was potentially denying people access. Our centre did research regarding that issue related to implementation methods and making recommendations. That came alongside a whole range of policy dialogues with key government officials. In the same way, we continue to engage with the Department of Home Affairs on the research we conducted on gender-based persecution in the asylum system. I've also done a lot of work for donors because of my history in the NGO sector. At the time I finished my PhD and moved to University of Witwatersrand, Atlantic Philanthropies wanted to move into South Africa to provide funding for the migrant rights sector, and so I did consultancy work for them. I feel that being able to influence that was really important, because it's had a huge impact on the sector. I've also done work for UNICEF and Save the Children, advising them around migrant children programming. And of course there's the academic work that I'm involved in.



An **evaluation breakout session** at the CSC Welcome Programme 2013 for new Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows. Participants were asked to consider what they expect they will be able to do differently on their return home as a result of their award, and what methods the CSC should use to track and report on this impact. Read more about the event on page 16-17.

I think the Commonwealth Scholarship allows people to have an experience that would otherwise have been impossible.

KS: *You mentioned that you are able to participate in a lot of government and NGO forums that help shape policy. Could you explain this a bit more?*

IP: Trafficking legislation has just been passed, though it was introduced in 2010, and there was a lot of debate around whether sex work should be decriminalised in South Africa. So I've made formal policy submission surrounding that. Also, when we see an opportunity such as a new policy development, for example, we try to hold a series of consultative workshops where we invite people to debate the issues. I've also done some work for Lawyers for Human Rights, which has been used in litigation. I'm currently doing work on LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] claims that have been brought to the South African asylum

system, and Lawyers for Human Rights are using that both in resettlement claims and in broader litigation.

KS: *Can you give an example of a specific policy that you've been able to establish?*

IP: One of the key things that we were very vocal about was the conflation of trafficking and sex work, particularly around the World Cup in South Africa. I made submissions to the policy process which eventually did manage to disconnect various aspects of sex work from trafficking in a much more sensible way. I also worked with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on their training programmes and reviewing curricula. It was not only policy in the formal sense, but also softer policy; being able to shape how they trained

government officials in implementing policy, and also changes to the actual policy stance.

KS: *What are your thoughts about your Commonwealth Scholarship?*

IP: I think the Commonwealth Scholarship allows people to have an experience that would otherwise have been impossible. The academic training is really important, but more than that I think the opportunity to study outside your own environment enables you to broaden your horizons. It allows you to experience new things and meet new people. The Commonwealth Scholarship is one of the most well-known and is very generous in regard to studying abroad. And at a personal level, I would have never met many of the people I continue to work with if it hadn't been for the Commonwealth Scholarship.

NETWORKS AND EVENTS



Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, meets new Commonwealth Scholars from Pakistan at the CSC Welcome Programme 2013

CSC WELCOME PROGRAMME 2013

In celebration of the arrival of new Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows for 2013, the CSC hosted the annual Welcome Programme on 11 November 2013 at Senate House in London. This year's event saw over 300 new award holders, including those undertaking postgraduate awards and also short-term fellowships, from around 35 countries in attendance.

As the Welcome Programme is the only time in the year that the CSC is able to bring so many award holders together, it therefore represented an excellent opportunity to explore issues that are central to the Commonwealth Scholarship scheme.

The event began with an introduction from Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, and a keynote address from Jonny Baxter, Head of the Secretariat to the Higher Education Taskforce at the Department for International Development (DFID). Jonny explored the role of higher education in international development, inviting attendees to consider the significance of tertiary education and the role it should play in the future of development. This was complemented by later presentations on different priority areas for the post-2015 development agenda, including climate change and gender.

The theme of development impact was further explored during breakout sessions, where Scholars and Fellows held small group discussions to share ideas around some key questions relating to the evaluation of Commonwealth Scholarships and their

impact. The session was an excellent opportunity for new award holders to reflect on their own experiences, and provided valuable information to guide the CSC's Evaluation Programme.

The Welcome Programme was also a fantastic networking opportunity, giving Scholars and Fellows

the chance to make friends and create links that can be built upon throughout the duration of their awards. The event concluded with an evening reception, attended by Scholars, Fellows, Commissioners, and Secretariat staff, as well as external guests from High Commissions, universities, host organisations, and Commonwealth associations.

Photos of the event are available at www.flickr.com/cscuk

Regional Networks

The Regional Networks are an important part of the CSC's strategy to build a community of Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows on award in the UK. Operating across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, the Regional Networks provide opportunities for Scholars and Fellows to meet and interact with others in their local areas, encouraging both personal and professional networking.

To support this activity, the CSC has recruited a strong team of Coordinators – from among current Scholars – to manage the Regional Networks. The



Regional Network Coordinators – (l-r) Inalegwu Oono, Seith Mugume, Dacia Leslie, Mustak Ayub, Meshack Efeoma, Megan Webber, Neeraj Sharma, Adanma Innocent Ukachi – at a training day in October 2013

role of the Coordinator is to organise events within the region, to act as a point of contact for network members, and to bring Scholars and Fellows together, both in person and via social media.

As part of the recruitment process, new and continuing Coordinators were invited to London to attend a training day in October 2013. The aim of the day was to provide support and guidance to those taking on the role, and to share ideas for network activity over the next year. The Coordinators have access to both financial and logistical assistance from the CSC, to enable them to plan a variety of events in different locations across their regions, and to keep in touch with network members via email.

Professional Networks

ONLINE NETWORK FEATURES

The work of members of the Agriculture and Rural Development Network and the Science and Technology Network has recently been highlighted on the CSC website. A feature on the work of members of the Environment Network and Public Health Network will be published in April 2014 – post your news items on the Network LinkedIn pages or email alumni@cscuk.org.uk by 1 March 2014.

NEW ENVIRONMENT NETWORK COORDINATOR

Zareen Pervez Bharucha is the new Environment Network Coordinator. Zareen has a PhD in Environmental Studies, and is Research Officer at the Essex Sustainability Institute, University of Essex, and Editorial Assistant for the *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*.

Zareen's research focuses on sustainable agrifood systems and social-ecological resilience and wellbeing. She says 'I'm delighted to be involved with this Network, which will give me the opportunity to share my interests and to learn from members about their diverse work across the Commonwealth'.

Zareen is posting regular discussion topics and news on topics related to sustainability and natural resource management on the Network LinkedIn page – and is keen to hear your interests and views.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK CO-ORDINATOR

Dr Kaushik Chattopadhyay is the new Public Health Network Coordinator. Kaushik is currently a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he is responsible for a clinical trial in cardiovascular health.

Kaushik will be posting a mix of news on medical developments, and wants to hear from Scholars and Fellows about your experiences and challenges working in this sector, as well as examples of best practice. He says 'Being the Network Coordinator gives me an exciting opportunity to let Network members know about public health issues, and also research areas that I am interested in. I hope that members will post about their specific interests so that I can reflect these in my posts'.

Alumni events

KENYAN ALUMNI DEMONSTRATE IMPACT

Have you fulfilled your promise? Kenyan alumni and Distance Learning Scholars were asked this question at the beginning of a reception held in September 2013 in Nairobi. Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner Richard Middleton wanted those present to think back to the statements that they had made on their application forms to evaluate if they were using the skills and knowledge gained from their Scholarships and Fellowships to contribute to the development of their home country.

Some alumni took the opportunity to tell their stories through exhibition tables, which showcased their workplace and business activities. Dr Lydia Nzoka (2011 Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholar, MSc Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, Royal Veterinary College) displayed craft items and baby clothes from her own business, Warm Collections. The business started through her passion for art and combining it with handcrafted work from local communities. She works with women from Kitui County, which is classified as an area of minimal economic activity, to produce handmade items, providing local women with an income.

George Onyango (2010 Commonwealth Professional Fellow, International HIV/AIDS Alliance) explained that, since returning to Kenya, he had started an organisation called Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group (DADREG), which deals with street families by enabling them to improve their wellbeing and think

of alternatives to sorting garbage for recycling as a way of earning a living. George reported that he had been able to devise projects that improve the skills of young people as a direct result of skills gained during his Professional Fellowship.

The 'Pulse of the Association' presentation, given by Dr Maurice Okoth, President of the Kenyan alumni association, looked back at the original idea behind the association, highlighting achievements over the three years since its formation.

Closing remarks were given by Tony Reilly, British Council Country Director, and Dr John Kirkland, Executive Secretary of the CSC. Afterwards there was a lively and productive networking session, which also included guests from DFID, the British High Commission, the Kenyan Ministry of Education, the Royal Commonwealth Society, and the British Council.

ALUMNI EVENT IN MONTSERRAT

Professor Tim Unwin, Chair of the CSC, hosted an informal gathering for alumni in Montserrat in September 2013. Alumni shared their experiences of using the skills gained via their Commonwealth Scholarships in dealing with the challenges facing Montserrat. For example, Gregory Julius (2008 Commonwealth Scholar, MA Policy Studies in Education, Institute of Education, University of London) explained that his Scholarship has strengthened his policy skills, enabling him to help in education planning for the country.

CSC PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

The CSC has eight Professional Networks for both current and former Scholars and Fellows in a range of professional subject areas:

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Economics and Finance
- Education
- Environment
- Gender
- Governance
- Public Health
- Science and Technology

To join a Network, you first need to sign up to LinkedIn, and then join the Commonwealth Scholarships parent group at [linkd.in/commonwealthscholarships](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/commonwealthscholarships) – once you are a member, you can then join any of the CSC Professional Network subgroups.

2013-2014 CSFP ENDOWMENT FUND AWARDS

The CSFP endowment fund supports Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships in low and middle income countries. The fund was established in 2009, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

The following individuals have been selected for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships supported by the CSFP endowment fund in 2013-2014.

- Shaffy Niyoyita, Commonwealth Scholar from Rwanda, MSc Climate Change and Sustainable Development, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Christinah Matswane, Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, MSc Horticulture, University of Swaziland
- Ujjawal Kumar, Commonwealth Scholar from India, MBA, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Melitah Tawana, Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, MBA, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Godiraone Motube, Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, MSc Molecular Life Sciences, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Elizabeth Mantebeeah, Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, MA Heritage Management, University of Mauritius
- Ibrahim Babayo, Commonwealth Scholar from Nigeria, MSc Physics, University of Buea, Cameroon

- Kevina Honajee, Commonwealth Scholar from Mauritius, Magister in Dietetics, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Kettie Mughogho, Commonwealth Scholar from Malawi, MSc Information Technology, Durban University of Technology, South Africa
- Sreekanth Asanapuran, Commonwealth Scholar from India, MSc Information, Communication and Technology, Central University of Technology, South Africa
- Francisco de Assis Antonio Muir, Commonwealth Scholar from Mozambique, MTech Tourism and Hospitality Management, Central University of Technology, South Africa
- Larona Modisaemang, Commonwealth Scholar from Botswana, MSc Agriculture, University of the South Pacific
- Dr Farai Chinyanganya, Commonwealth Academic Fellow from Zimbabwe, Pharmacy, University of Zambia
- John McGovern, Commonwealth Academic Fellow from the United Kingdom, Formulation of institutional international policy and strategy, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan
- Dr Mohammed Rahman, Commonwealth Academic Fellow from the United Kingdom, Molecular Genetics and Biotechnology, Khulna University, Bangladesh

ACCESSING NEW TECHNOLOGIES



Emmanuel Manteaw, 2011
Commonwealth Scholar supported by the CSFP endowment fund

Emmanuel Manteaw is a 2011 Commonwealth Scholar from Ghana, supported by the CSFP endowment fund. He studied MSc Electrical Engineering Power Systems at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

At the University of Nairobi, Emmanuel was introduced to cutting-edge technological research of which he was previously unaware, as the MSc course he pursued is not available in Ghana. He was able to develop his skills in independent study and research, and cites the dedication of his course lecturers as integral to his success.

Working with engineers from around the world has equipped Emmanuel to adapt to any international context, which is important in an increasingly global economy. 'The course study methods of research,

presentations, and international publications have given me the confidence to approach any complex problem knowing that I am as qualified as any Electrical Engineer elsewhere in the world,' he said.

Emmanuel believes that the new scholarships offered by the CSFP endowment fund can have a far-reaching effect on professional development. Having benefited himself from access to a new course, he knows that these opportunities can enable 'many aspiring professionals to pursue their career dreams and goals'.

BRINGING SCIENCE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Professor Shaun Hendy (1995 Commonwealth Scholar from New Zealand, PhD Physics, University of Alberta, Canada) combines his work as a Professor of Physics with encouraging public engagement in science. In 2012, he won the New Zealand Prime Minister's Science Media Communication Prize for his work in communicating science to the public.

One of the projects that Shaun has financed from his prize is Pounamu, a free online game that aims to increase public dialogue with science and scientists. Players post micro-forecasts (similar to Twitter) of future possibilities and build on or reshape other players' ideas. Points are gained by posting ideas



New Zealander
Professor Shaun Hendy, 1995
Commonwealth Scholar to Canada

that create more discussion, contributing interesting ideas to the game, and winning awards.

CSFP ENDOWMENT FUND: DONATIONS UPDATE

The CSFP endowment fund recently received a significant boost, following a USD 50,000 donation from the Government of Sri Lanka. Other recent donors are listed below, and a full list is available at www.csfp-online.org/fund/donors.html. We would like to thank all those who have donated.

- Samuel A J Ibikunle
- Aweeda Newaj-Fyzul
- Peter McDonald
- Doris N Onwukaeme
- Peter Jarvis
- Donald Ukeh
- Ronald M C So

COUNTRY PROFILE – NIGERIA



Photo © Mark Hillary

Since 1960, more than 2,300 Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships have been awarded to Nigerian citizens under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. The Federal Scholarship Board is responsible for nominating Nigerians for Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships to study in the UK. Its general objective is the development of high-level manpower in Scholars and Fellows who will return home and make significant contributions.

Dr Abubakar Suleiman (2012 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Molecular Epidemiology, Royal Veterinary College) was inspired to apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship by an alumnus, Dr Junaidu Kabir (2004 Commonwealth Split-site Scholar, PhD Veterinary Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University and University of Bristol), who is now Director of the Centre for Biotechnology Research at Ahmadu Bello University.

Abubakar's PhD research focuses on the economic impacts of animal diseases as major constraints to livestock production and its implications for public policy. His studies are further strengthening his critical thinking skills and ability to conceptualise research priorities. The workshops, talks and conferences he has attended in the UK have helped him to identify development and research needs in Nigeria, and he hopes to gain skills that will enable him to 'appropriately respond to practical challenges within

Gurara Falls, Nigeria

the context of Nigerian working environment'. He has found the environment to be conducive for learning and working, and has relished opportunities to interact and network with people across different backgrounds and disciplines.

Through his Scholarship, Abubakar has had the opportunity to build networks in his home country, which he believes will help him to achieve his goal of transferring his skills and contributing to his field



Dr Abubakar Suleiman, 2012 Commonwealth Scholar at the Royal Veterinary College

in Nigeria. He is confident that he will be able to transfer his knowledge of various fields – including complex decision analyses, infectious disease modelling, participatory methods, food security, and risk assessment – to students at his home institution.

Abubakar intends to maintain his links with the CSC and be part of the CSC community after his Scholarship. He aims to promote Commonwealth Scholarships and become an active alumnus.

Dr Nneoyi Egbe (2005 Commonwealth Scholar, PhD Medical Physics, University of Aberdeen, and 2012 Commonwealth Academic Fellow, Medical Physics, University of Dundee) applied for a Commonwealth Scholarship because he wanted expert supervision in his field and to gain access to the most modern radiological equipment.

Since his Scholarship, Nneoyi has provided consultancy services in medical physics at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, including training resident doctors in radiology and providing quality assurance and radiation protection services. His Commonwealth Academic Fellowship further enhanced his skills in radiological equipment commissioning tests and quality assurance in radiology modalities.

Nneoyi's contributions to the field have included developing postgraduate curricula in diagnostic radiography and medical physics, and providing supervision for radiation physics, medical physics and diagnostic radiography students. He feels that the latter has been the most direct way in which he has transferred his skills and knowledge to the next generation.



Dr Nneoyi Egbe, 2005 Commonwealth Scholar and 2012 Commonwealth Academic Fellow



Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom (CSC) is responsible for managing Britain's contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP).

The CSC supports over 900 scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate study and professional development each year. Awards are funded by the Department for International Development (for developing Commonwealth countries) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Scottish Government (for developed Commonwealth countries), in conjunction with UK universities. The CSC also nominates UK citizens for scholarships to study in other Commonwealth countries under the CSFP.

The CSC makes available seven types of award:

- Scholarships for PhD research
- Scholarships for Master's study
- Shared Scholarships with UK universities in support of Master's programmes
- Academic Fellowships for staff serving in developing country universities
- Split-site Scholarships for PhD students to spend up to one year in the UK
- Professional Fellowships for mid-career professionals in developing countries
- Distance Learning Scholarships for developing country students to study UK Master's degree courses while living in their own countries

The CSC was established by Act of Parliament in 1959, and is a non-departmental public body in its own right. Members are appointed in line with the Code of Practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The CSC's Secretariat is provided by the Association of Commonwealth Universities; overseas services are provided by the British Council.

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is an international programme under which member governments offer scholarships and fellowships to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. It was established at the first Commonwealth education conference in 1959 and is reviewed by ministers at their triennial meetings.

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