



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

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Inclusive Communities
Facilitating collaborations to ensure equal opportunities for all

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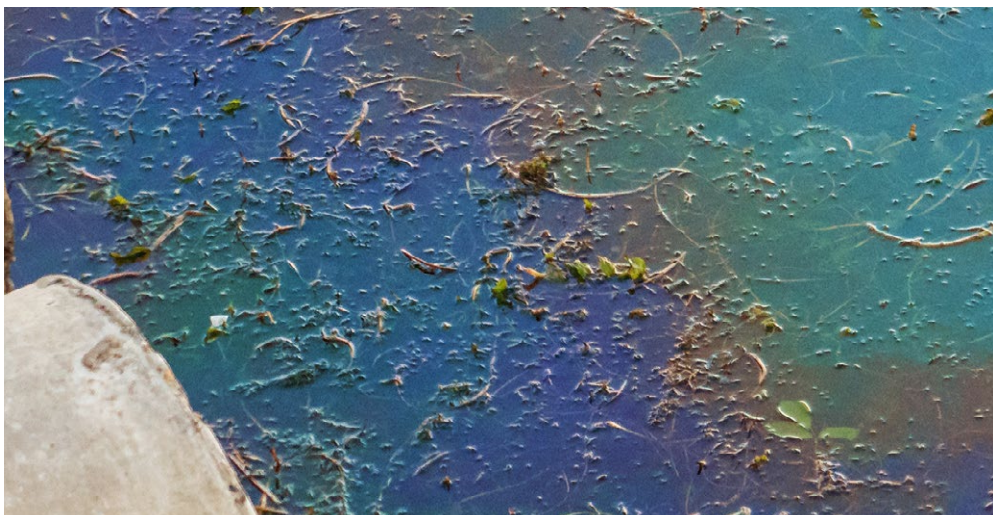
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The first word

Inclusivity and Inclusive Communities

The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission has a firm commitment to encourage greater inclusivity within communities and to create the conditions for inclusive communities to contribute to global sustainable goals. In both cases there is a great need to ensure that experiences are shared, that strategies are put in place to counter exclusion and that everyone has the chance of gaining access to opportunities, not just to create knowledge but to participate in decision-making and to generate new ideas of how to create a better world.

At a time when global health and economic development and prosperity are facing the impact of mass COVID-19 infections, it is even more vital that the communality of people is recognised, that research explores how to ensure collective wellbeing, and that the vulnerable in society are included, not just in the thinking but also the practice of policy-making.

The CSC developmental theme of Access, Inclusion and Opportunity in this difficult context will become even more important. We are therefore proud that in 2019-20, some 157 Scholars currently on-award are currently working on subjects such as Education for Sustainability, Global Ageing and Policy, Public Administration, Special Education Management, Urban Development Planning, Gender and Development and Disability Studies. Although their research has started before the coronavirus pandemic, no doubt their investigations will evolve to take account of the new challenging scenarios affecting their countries.

But Access, Inclusion and Opportunity, with its underlying ethos of promoting the common good, is not a separate theme - the theme of inclusivity and inclusive communities also cuts across the other five CSC themes. There is a need to take into consideration how all the CSC's developmental themes can contribute to ensuring equal access, inclusion and opportunity in the context of considerable social change. Inclusivity may

not always be seen as the most important aspect of research compared to programmes on, for example, the themes of global prosperity, science and technology, peace and security and governance. But within each of the themes can be found groundbreaking researchers and professionals, often the first in their community or country to take up graduate study or the first person with their background to achieve a certain milestone (some notable CSC Scholar Firsts are listed opposite).

Exemplified in this edition of *Common Knowledge* also are the ways in which Commonwealth Scholars courageously challenge a diverse range of academic fields. These contributions were commissioned before the impact of COVID-19 was known, however it is clear that the ambitious and innovative approach they report here that will stand them in good stead when confronting our changing economic, social and health environments. Their research raises awareness by providing hard evidence of the inequalities of access to basic services in their own countries as well as recognising the special conditions that need to be addressed to ensure inclusivity. Their accounts give examples of how individuals, companies and communities in contexts as diverse as prisons, legal and health systems, and educational institutions need to be more inclusive. Raising the quality of life amongst the poor and marginalised means helping health services address

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women's specific health needs and demonstrating how teachers can work effectively with children who are disabled. It means addressing the added dangers of climate change for the marginalised by, for example, building affordable sustainable housing by utilising waste products, supporting global plant health, and improving water treatment systems.

The CSC also promotes inclusive communities amongst its Scholars and alumni. There are currently 3,185 registrations across the Knowledge Hubs, the online communities which encourage debate and discussion related to sustainable development outcomes. We also foster 20 in-country alumni associations which promote ongoing collaboration and professional development amongst alumni. However, inclusive communities can also be created and supported by Commonwealth Scholars themselves. The contributors to this edition demonstrate the many different collaborations across and within industries, and the professional and community groups with which they are working.

We learn about a campaign to improve the resources and professional training programmes in health radiology, open visitation policies in prisons, and other community strategies as powerful collective tools to promote human dignity and rights. These Scholars lead or join NGOs such as 'Justice Defenders' which works with defenceless communities to increase access to legal services, and 'Project PINK BLUE' in Nigeria which focuses on cancer advocacy.

The CSC is proud that Commonwealth Scholars have this exceptional commitment to reducing current injustice and discrimination, by addressing the neglect of those most marginal in society and anticipating how their needs must be taken into account in the current climate and in the future.. Prosperity and the achievement of sustainable development depend on such a commitment to inclusivity, engagement and collaboration.

Emeritus Professor Madeleine Arnot
CSC Commissioner

Notable Commonwealth Scholar Firsts

- **Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury** (1996 Commonwealth Scholar from Bangladesh) was elected the first female Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament in 2013, and Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in 2014.
- **Uduak Udom** (2010 Commonwealth Professional Fellow from Nigeria) was the first female president of the African Council of Optometry, and was appointed President of the World Council of Optometry
- **Neelu Rohmetra** was the first woman to be appointed Director of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur, India. (2001 Academic Fellow from India, Human Resource Development, Lancaster University)
- **Selma Udine Jackman** was awarded an honorary degree by the University of the West Indies for her work on improving the patient healthcare system in Barbados. She is widely known as one of the first Caribbean-born female surgeons to have qualified and worked in the region. (1985 Medical Fellow from Barbados, Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and Bristol Children's Hospital)
- **Yogambikai Rasanayagam** was the first female Chancellor of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka. (1981 Academic Fellow from Sri Lanka, Industrial and Urban Development, University of Cambridge)





International year of plant health

To mark International Year of Plant Health, **Ida Wilson**, a plant pathologist and Crop Health Consultant, explains the importance of plant health and the threats plants currently face across the globe.



Humans rely greatly on plants and plant products for everyday survival, yet the responsibility of keeping plants healthy and the importance of personal contributions to this goal is not widely appreciated. Success in maintaining plant health is vital in the quest to end hunger, reduce poverty, and boost worldwide economic growth.

To highlight the contribution which healthy plants make in our daily lives and to inform the public of the value of plant health, the UN General Assembly declared 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health. Throughout this year, plant health professionals around the world are partaking in both national and international events, combining their efforts to share knowledge and raise the importance of plant health around the world.

Understanding the threats

Diseased plants are a familiar occurrence to farmers and producers of fresh plant-based products. This is because plant diseases are most pronounced in mono-cropping environments, where genetically similar plants (in many instances clones) are planted next to each other over vast areas of land, such as commercial forests, vegetable, herb, fodder, field, or tree crop environments. Plant diseases also occur over an array of production systems, including open fields, orchards, and in covered hydroponic or vertical farming systems.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that annually between 20-40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases



Ida Wilson

2003 Split-site Scholar from South Africa

PhD Environmental Management

Durham University and the University of Pretoria



The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that annually between 20-40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases. The impact of this loss threatens the food security of millions of people around the world, and the livelihood of agricultural communities who rely on crop yields as a primary source of income. The lack of visibility regarding the impact which plant diseases can have to those outside these communities means general knowledge on the importance of plant health to human survival is lacking, and little has been done by crop science communities to raise awareness of plant diseases and pests. As such, people unknowingly participate in their spread.

Spreading disease

In 2012, the World Bank estimated the number of global international arrivals (overnight visitors) to be 1 billion. By 2019, the United Nation World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) documented 1.5 billion global international arrivals,

a 50% increase in a seven-year period. And it is not just human travel which has rapidly expanded. In the last seven years, the value of merchandise traded around the world has grown by 1 trillion US dollars, representing an unthinkable amount of goods traded globally through various routes.

This unprecedented increase in travel and trade has created increased opportunities for microbes and insects to 'hitch-hike' around the world via clothing, packaging, decayed food products, and the accidental import of unsanctioned seeds and plant products. Unknowingly, organisms that may be harmful to plants are being introduced to uninfected areas.

The impact of foreign pests and diseases in production systems can be catastrophic. In 2005, the citrus psylla, an insect carrying the bacterial disease citrus greening, was introduced in the USA. In the last decade, the disease has resulted in a 72% decline in citrus production destined for fruit juice and a 20% reduction of citrus fruit destined for

International year of plant health



the fresh fruit market. This has led to a 30% increase in fresh citrus fruit prices and the loss of approximately 7,000 jobs related directly or indirectly to the citrus production industry. In smaller countries which depend on trading plants and products to sustain their economies, the risk of the introduction of pests and disease could seriously threaten their economies and the livelihoods of those dependent on crop trade, as well as national food security and health.

International plant health standards and norms have been developed by the FAO and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to combat these risks and encourage safe trade, instead of restricting trade, which could also negatively affect these countries. Increased human travel, however, poses a new threat. It is therefore important that travellers understand how their actions may spread disease and pests, and how to minimise this.

Adapting to climate change

Exceptional changes to the climate have been observed in the last century, mainly due to the increased production of carbon dioxide as a result of human activity. Globally, this has resulted in disruptions in climate, which includes the increased prevalence of drought. Droughts often lead to the production of saline soils which impacts the resilience of crops to pests and diseases, making them more vulnerable. The changing climate also alters the reproduction rate of pests and diseases, resulting in increased populations, and as the temperature of the planet increases, agrochemicals used to combat these pests and diseases may not work as effectively, further compounding the threat.

In response, plant production is being shifted to glasshouses, tunnels, and under shade netting to overcome the rise in temperatures and possible damage to crops. This is also an opportune time to manage water availability and exposure to pests and diseases. It is not yet known how effective these measures will be and the widescale adoption of new adaptive

strategies continues without knowledge of the full implication on the long-term pest and pathogen response.

Meeting demands

There is now growing pressure to develop better control options to manage pests and diseases which threaten crops. This is caused by general growth in consumer preferences for fresh produce produced in environments with fewer chemical inputs and new regulations from importing countries that forbid certain chemical residues on fresh food products. As the options in fighting diseases in commercial plant production become less available, the battle in managing pests and diseases becomes more strenuous.

As the growing population places pressure on the production of food and other products, agricultural and plant production must expand. The development of human capacity in crop protection (involving professionals such as entomologists and plant pathologists), particularly in low and middle income countries, is however not keeping up with this expansion. This creates a significant knowledge gap which is mostly an unseen global risk to crop and plant production industries.

As a society, we rely on plants for up to 80% of the food we eat and as major constituents of animal feed, clothing, furniture, perfumes, medicinal extracts, ornaments, and various other products. If we do not address the importance of global plant health, and take responsibility for ways in which we can protect plants from the outlined threats, the damage caused will threaten our ecosystems and livelihoods. Please spread the word on the International Year of Plant Health and do your bit to keep plants healthy in years to come.

To find out more about International Year of Plant Health, visit the Food and Agriculture Organisation's website, at www.fao.org/plant-health-2020

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Increasing access to transport

This year, as part of the CSC's growing programme of engagement, Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni were involved in a consultation on DFID's High Volume Transport Project.

The project is a five-year research programme funded by DFID, the aim of which is to generate evidence to support increased access to transport services and support safer, lower carbon transport in low income countries in Africa and South Asia. Given the range of subject areas which Commonwealth Scholarships cover, in addition to their geographical spread, and in many cases their direct experience in the transport sector, Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni were approached to participate in the project.



Transport plays a key role in reducing isolation and poverty and in encouraging economic activity. Good transport links can increase national and international trade, helping to grow national income, and in turn lead to greater economic and social development. Because of this, the transport sector often receives a significant proportion of aid and public funds. However, high quality research in this area is limited, and the evidence base for large investment decisions is often out of date and over-generalised.

As part of the project, our Scholars and alumni were asked to input into the theme of 'Gender, vulnerable groups and inclusion'. This theme looked at the ways different groups use transport and the importance of being mindful of this when planning transport systems. Women, for example, tend to make more frequent short journeys during off-peak hours and have less access to private transport. They are also more

vulnerable to harassment. The needs of disabled people are also often overlooked, which excludes large numbers of people from a vital service and lifeline.

The consultation resulted in a briefing document on Disability Inclusive Public Transport which is available for download at: bit.ly/39MHLuO

CK



Radiating healthcare

Corey Drake, a medical physicist at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados, explains the shortfalls in radiation medicine in the Caribbean and his ongoing work to improve patient care.



As a medical physicist, I apply physics methods and concepts to medicine and healthcare, such as radiotherapy, X-ray imaging, and nuclear medicine (the use of radiation to diagnose and treat disease). My duties include performing quality assessments on radiation equipment, conducting risk assessments, and developing standard protocols in Radiotherapy, Diagnostic Radiology, and Nuclear Medicine. I am also responsible for the designs and evaluation of radiation room shielding, the management of radioactive waste, performing radiotherapy treatment plans for patients receiving radiotherapy, and ensuring the radiation protection of patients, hospital staff, and members of the general public.

Currently there are many shortfalls in radiation medicine in the Caribbean. These shortfalls are mainly due to the lack of regulations and legislation regarding the safe use of ionising radiation (the energy produced from natural and man-made radioactive materials), outdated imaging and treatment equipment, a lack of quality assurance programmes, and an absence of clinically trained medical physicists, partly as a result of brain drain. Across the region, there are only a handful of medical physicists, most of whom only work in radiotherapy. In Barbados, I am one of only two medical physicists specialising in nuclear medicine, with the other providing treatment privately. The quality, safety, and efficiency of patient care are affected negatively due to these shortfalls and thus require urgent attention.

Strengthening human capacities

Over the past two years, I have been working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to improve the current situation of radiation medicine in the Caribbean. I was nominated by Barbados to be a counterpart for one of the IAEA's regional projects, 'Strengthening Human Capacities of Caribbean Countries in Radiation Medicine'. The four-year project (2018-2021) aims to build capacity in radiation medicine in Caribbean countries through enhancing continuous professional education and creating and strengthening training programmes for current and new staff.

The project focuses on diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine, and radiotherapy as important tools for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of major illnesses, including non-communicable diseases. As a counterpart for the project, I am responsible for assisting in the design of the project work plan, informing and coordinating changes to current healthcare practice, and working with national institutions at the country level to identify suitable participants for the training. Since the implementation of the project, participants have been involved in expert missions carried out by the IAEA to assess the status of radiation medicine in some Caribbean countries to identify areas for development.



Corey Drakes
2014 Scholar from Barbados
MSc Physics and Engineering in Medicine
University College London



Currently there are many shortfalls in the Caribbean region in the area of radiation medicine... The quality, safety, and efficiency of patient care are affected negatively due to these shortfalls and thus require urgent attention.

As a result of these missions, the project includes the ongoing identification of sub-regional centres which can be strengthened and transformed into reference centres, which will provide clinical and human resources in radiation medicine and increase the number of patients able to access this type of treatment. As part of the development of sub-regional centres, I have coordinated the development and delivery of regional training courses and workshops to enhance the skills, knowledge, and competencies of radiologists, oncologists, medical physicists, and radiographers, who all play important roles in the safety, quality, and efficiency of patient diagnosis and treatment. Between 2018-2019, three workshops were delivered and provided training to over 65 personnel in IAEA member states within the region. These individuals are now disseminating this knowledge through institutional training, as well as updating and/or implementing standard protocols and policy governing quality, safety, and efficiency in radiation medicine.

I am currently in the process of developing a questionnaire in combination with a tool from the IAEA to assess the status of medical physics in the Caribbean. The results will provide data on the ongoing impact of the project and much-needed data specific to the region.

Key future outcomes

For the remaining two years, further training courses and expert missions are planned to encourage ongoing professional training for current and new staff and assess the impact of this work in delivering quality and safe diagnosis and patient care. Additionally, through the project many hospitals in the region will be presented with quality assurance test equipment to assist in the development of quality control programmes.

Another key outcome of the project within the next two years will be to establish clinical training programmes for medical physicists in nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, and diagnostic radiology. These programmes will ensure the Caribbean region meets the demands of clinically trained medical physicists and enable them to contribute to the enhancement of quality patient care.

While the lack of ionizing radiation regulations and legislation throughout the Caribbean is concerning, the development of radiation safety cultures and best practices will greatly accelerate the improvement of sustainable quality patient care. It is my firm belief that this current IAEA regional project will catapult the Caribbean region in meeting international standards and best practices in the field of radiation medicine.

CK



Waste not, want not

Oriyomi Modupe Okeyinka explains how her research into the utilisation of waste by-products as building materials has contributed to the development of sustainable and affordable housing.



The availability of affordable housing and road infrastructure plays a major role in the economic growth of any country. Evidence from the World Bank has shown that 10% infrastructural growth contributes to 1% growth in GDP. My doctoral research focused on the innovative use of waste in the production of eco-friendly, low-cost, and sustainable construction materials, in particular the lightweight, non-load bearing blocks used in housing construction.

Through my research, I created an eco-friendly block unit, designated as a 'Cement-less Wastepaper-based Lightweight Block' (CWLB). I innovatively utilised wastepaper as a major filler and partial replacement for fine aggregate and utilised 'waste lactose' (a waste by-product of the dairy industry) to create a binder, replacing the conventional and controversial Portland cement. Concrete causes up to 8% of the world's CO₂ emissions and has been linked to respiratory illnesses.

A CWLB contains 75% waste content and exhibits properties satisfying the requirements for application as a non-load bearing lightweight block in building construction. A CWLB also displays compressive strength far outweighing that recorded for the existing cement-based wastepaper blocks available.

Environmental benefits

The potential benefits of the methodologies I developed as a result of this research and the consequent implementation of CWLB as a building material in the construction industry are numerous.

The properties of CWLB as a material in wall construction and its eco-friendliness in terms of natural resources conservation and improved compressive strength suggests that it may serve as a more sustainable low-cost alternative to the existing conventional non-load bearing blocks. The utilisation of locally available waste materials in the production of CWLB and the zero-cement content also addresses several environmental impacts associated with the construction industry, including high consumption of natural resources, greenhouse gas emission, and the environmental pollution resulting from unsustainable waste generation.



Oriyomi Modupe Okeyinka
 2013 Scholar from Nigeria
 PhD in Civil Engineering
 University of Wolverhampton

Nigeria requires at least 1 million housing units every year to meet the 17 to 20 million housing deficit targets by 2033.

Building a future

Presently, the demand for housing in some low and middle income Commonwealth countries is much higher than the housing construction volume. The low cost plus lightweight properties of CWLB and its impressive thermal resistance properties mean that implementing CWLB in building construction could contribute to the provision of affordable housing in these countries. Nigeria requires at least 1 million housing units every year to meet the 17 to 20 million housing deficit targets by 2033. The low production cost and lightweight properties of CWLB will help reduce the cost of construction and its high thermal resistance properties will reduce the cost of heating and cooling buildings during its service life. This may lead to huge energy savings for the government and cost-savings for the occupiers of buildings.

Collaborate to innovate

To date, I have implemented my research findings through collaborations with local masonry block factories in Nigeria. Through these collaborations, I have seen the real-life/in-situ application of Wastepaper Aggregate (WPA), an artificial cellulosic aggregate innovatively produced from post-consumer wastepaper, as a partial replacement of natural aggregate in the masonry block production. The integration of WPA is presently helping local private masonry block-producing factories and construction firms to achieve a lower production cost, and smaller usage of natural aggregate, while also producing blocks with satisfactory properties and attendant profit increase.

Through the pilot stage of these engagements, innovative building materials, including lightweight blocks incorporating wastepaper, ceiling boards incorporating sawdust, ceiling boards incorporating wastepaper, and ceiling boards incorporating kanekalon wastes (artificial hair), have been developed with the potential for further optimisation of these innovative products and subsequent development of the initiatives into small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) in the near future.

Further research

Following my Commonwealth Scholarship, I was awarded a Blue Charter Fellowship through the Association of Commonwealth Universities in 2018 to further my research in the development of eco-friendly building materials. I investigated the applicability of recycled polythene wastes, such as shopping bags and film packaging, as a binder in the production of low-cost polymer-based paving blocks, which would be suitable for construction of pavement for light traffic roads. Based on the evidence gathered so far, waste materials such as nylon and polythene can be recycled and used as universal adhesives and moulding materials.

I am hopeful that the implementation of my research into wider construction and building practices will reduce the impact of construction on the environment and meet the growing demand for affordable and sustainable housing in low-income and higher-income countries.

CK



Cement-less Wastepaper-based Lightweight Block specimen produced from 75% recycled wastes



Connections which combat cancer

Runcie C W Chidebe explains the direct benefits his Shared Scholarship is having on the work of his NGO, Project PINK BLUE - Health & Psychological Trust Centre, to improve health outcomes in Nigeria.



Nigeria constitutes approximately 20% of the population of Africa and slightly over 50% of the West African population. Cancer is a critical public health problem across Africa and is a major contributor to the overall cancer burden on the continent, with 115,950 new cases of cancer and 70,327 cancer deaths in 2018.

Every day, Nigeria loses 31 women to breast cancer, and 29 women to cervical cancer, which is 99% preventable. Death from prostate cancer is also preventable, yet it kills 15 men every day. Nigerians also have one of the world's poorest 5-year cancer survival rates. With poor awareness, limited access to treatment, fewer than 50 oncologists providing care to hundreds of cancer patients, and one doctor to 5,000 patients, the effectiveness of Nigeria's healthcare system needs to be urgently addressed.

Project PINK BLUE

With these challenges in mind, I acted to bring about the positive change I wanted to see in cancer awareness and treatment in my country. In 2013, I founded Project PINK

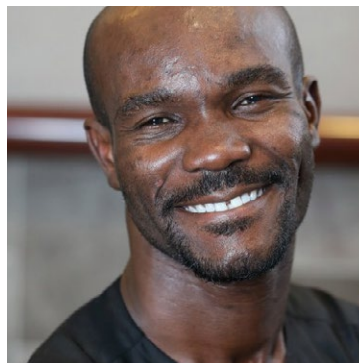
BLUE – Health & Psychological Trust Centre as a cancer-fighting not-for-profit organisation in Nigeria. My goal was to use this platform to boost cancer awareness, provide support to impoverished cancer patients, advocate for better cancer control, improve health financing and budgeting, improve psychological wellbeing and contribute to the attainment of SDG 3, 'Good Health and Wellbeing'.

Within its first five years, Project PINK BLUE became a leading cancer advocacy organisation in Nigeria, reaching millions of people through awareness walks and free cancer screenings, and raising millions of naira to support cancer patients. The money raised has also provided medical oncology and patient navigation training for 185 doctors and nurses from 11 universities and 14 hospitals in five of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, improving their capacity to provide quality cancer care to patients. Over 901 volunteers in Lagos, Abuja, Enugu, and other parts of Nigeria are working with our nine staff to change the way Nigerians think about cancer. In total, Project PINK BLUE has implemented over 50 life-saving projects since it was founded.

The knowledge from BCU and networking within the UK will help me to better contribute to strengthening health systems, source new funding, and reduce donor dependence in Nigeria.

Runcie C W Chidebe

2019 Shared Scholar from Nigeria
MSc Transforming and Leading in
Health Care
Birmingham City University



In 2015, we established the first patient navigation programme in Nigeria. This initiative focused on helping the general public to access cancer diagnosis and treatment using a toll-free telephone centre and providing information and resources to cancer patients during their diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. In 2017, we founded the first breast cancer support group in Abuja with nine cancer patients, providing psychological support, peer navigation, and resource mobilisation to indigent cancer patients. Currently the group has over 49 patients.



The Trust also produces research and advocacy articles on cancer awareness and treatment which have helped gain the attention of policymakers to prioritise cancer as an issue in Nigeria, assisted by the #FixRadiotherapy and #ChokeCancer campaigns. In light of these achievements, we have won several awards in Nigeria, USA, Malaysia, and Turkey, including the prestigious Nelson Mandela-Graca Machel Innovation Award, which recognises innovative projects that create and promote social change and also empower future generations.

Some failures are positive failures

In 2017, as the Executive Director of Project PINK BLUE, I led my team to apply for a grant from an international grant-making organisation to implement technology-driven research to investigate the use of a mobile application for self-discovered breast masses among women in Nigeria. We were successful throughout the different stages of the grant process, however although we reached the final stage, Project PINK BLUE were not selected to receive the grant to implement this project.

Feedback indicated that as the project lead, I did not have the sufficient research qualifications to implement the research project in Nigeria. A lack of finance had been a major impediment to me pursuing a Master's degree or PhD programme previously, however in 2019 I took a step to change this narrative. I applied for a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship to pursue an MSc in Transforming and Leading in Health Care at Birmingham City University (BCU) and build my research experience and qualifications.

My Research

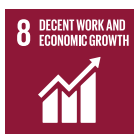
In addition to being directly related to my career path and the needs of Trust, my Master's has also allowed me to research global healthcare challenges and has provided me the space to ask critical health questions, such as 'What is Nigeria doing right with regards to healthcare?'; 'What can we learn from other countries' health systems?'; 'What can we do to improve cancer control?'; and 'How can we tackle the numerous health challenges facing a population of over 196 million?'.

My research at BCU is focused on the healthcare workforce, cancer screenings, and health policy, and I hope to use my research to better understand and develop solutions to the aforementioned challenges. I have also joined the BCU professional mentoring programme, which is a great opportunity to network with healthcare leaders in the UK. The knowledge from BCU and networking within the UK will help me further contribute to strengthening health systems, source new funding, and reduce donor dependence in Nigeria. Today's world is data and technology-driven, therefore I am also learning how to apply technology and data in my work at Project PINK BLUE in Nigeria.

In January 2020, I received the 2020 Global Ties United States International Visitor Leadership Program Award for Social Innovation and Change and addressed over 1,000 leaders on my research and our fight against cancer. As a proud Commonwealth Scholar who is working to transform healthcare in Nigeria, I hope to inspire other young professionals to pursue further research into the health issues affecting their communities and make the most of their networks in order to ensure future momentum in this arena.

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Inclusive education

Commonwealth Scholars **Samuel Frimpong** and **Evans Lwimba** share their experiences of deaf education in Ghana and Zambia and discuss developments which will improve educational inclusion in their respective countries.

Inclusive Education (IE) is a form of education that seeks to remove the access to education barriers which disabled people face and is an integral part of Article 24 of the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPWD). Deaf education seeks to provide educational and support services to deaf students who are enrolled in mainstream classes (which are open to both disabled and non-disabled learners) and special school classes.

Samuel Frimpong shares the findings of his research into deaf education in Ghana over the last 60 years, and highlights key challenges still to overcome

My hearing loss began while I was in upper primary. I had difficulty comprehending lessons, socialising with peers, and faced bullying from children who accused me of pretending to be deaf due to my convincing academic performance. Growing up as a child in Ghana, and suffering from a lack of adjustment support in mainstream schools at the basic (for those from 4 years – 15 years old) and Senior High School (SHS) levels (for those from 15 years to 18 or 19 years old), I encountered a lot of obstacles and frustrating experiences. These experiences, however, did not discourage me from working hard to pursue my goals.

Deaf education in Ghana today

Although there appear to be conflicting reports on the estimated number of deaf people in Ghana, according to The Ghana National Association for the Deaf (GNAD), the figure stands at over 110,000. Currently, there are 18 schools providing education access for deaf students in Ghana. These schools use total communication, composed of sign language, sign-supported English, and spoken speech, as part of their teaching and learning. At the tertiary level, deaf students attend mainstream schools and universities, which provide

education for both disabled and non-disabled learners. For deaf students, this includes the provision of sign language interpreting support in class.

Despite the provisions made by the Disability Law 2006 Act 715, the government of Ghana has not done enough to implement key aspects of this law, including the provision of free education for all people with disabilities and the establishment of accessible schools. This has made it difficult for people with disabilities to enrol in existing schools which do not provide the support these learners need. Reasons for the lack of investment in educational services for learners with disabilities include wider negative attitudes towards people with disabilities and a lack of understanding of their needs.

Affordable education is not accessible to deaf children aged 3-5 years in public deaf schools in Ghana. This is because all but one of the thirteen public basic deaf schools are boarding schools and require students to be at least 6 years of age. In a population of 29 million people, there is only one overcrowded and poorly-resourced public SHS for deaf students, and since deaf education started in Ghana in 1957, it has remained the only SHS where all qualifying deaf basic school graduates





For any country to achieve inclusive education, all policy documents and strategies must be made available to provide access to those the policies will affect and support

(after 6 years of primary education, and 3 years of Junior High School) can enrol to prepare for pre-tertiary education.

Through my research, I have identified key challenges facing deaf education advancement, including the lack of funding, inadequate emphasis on research, large class sizes, the absence of feasible legislative policy on deaf education, inadequately skilled sign language interpreters, and political and leadership barriers in the Ghanaian educational system.

Investing in future leaders

Presently, IE for deaf students in Ghana is theoretical, with current practice built around the provision of sign language interpreters for deaf students in mainstream higher education institutions, many of whom are not able to provide adequate support.

Moreover, there is overcrowding, which results in large class sizes. Large class sizes increase the workload of teachers and there is also a lack of qualified teaching assistants to support the teachers. Most deaf schools are dependent on final year university and college students on their teaching practice placements to act as teaching assistant support within their assigned classrooms.

Considering that many deaf students are visual learners, and in the absence of projectors, laptops, and interactive smartboards in classrooms, large classes lead to boredom for some deaf students, which affects their attention and comprehension of lessons. Also, difficulties arise in the planning of small groups or individualised support provision for deaf students with different learning abilities.

With funding challenges posing a barrier to implementing inclusive education in existing schools, there is an argument for the government to consider investing in a new facility for the only SHS for the deaf. While this would not advance IE in Ghana, it would create an environment where a new

generation of future deaf leaders can access quality education in the present.

Policy documents and sector performance reports produced by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ghana Education Services (GES) on IE are no longer available on the ministry's website. For any country to achieve IE, all policy documents and strategies must be made available to provide access to those the policies will affect and support. This will encourage greater awareness and understanding of these policies, and support further research to inform decision-making and policy development in future.

Over the past two to three decades, the MOE and GES, and the Ghana National Association of the Deaf, have not conducted and published any further studies into the needs of disabled learners. Most of the inclusive education initiatives have been built around workshops and seminars aimed at creating awareness and seeking stakeholders' perceptions, most often excluding representatives or members of vulnerable groups. It seems that awareness of the importance of research on vulnerable groups as a basic platform toward planning for the implementation of IE for deaf students in Ghana is not being addressed.

Practical changes need to be made at both the government and policy level to support the implementation of IE in Ghana. This includes the provision of funding to develop and implement inclusive education initiatives, and the publication of all research and policies to support disability and inclusive education advocacy. The above is necessary if Ghana as a country is to plan effectively towards the inclusive education implementation of deaf students.

To read Samuel's recent publication, 'Sixty Years of Deaf Education in Ghana (1957 - 2017)', visit <https://bit.ly/32vUgnn>



Inclusive education requires the creation of an enabling, conducive, and safe learning space through the application of the 'social model of disability'

Evans Lwimba shares an insight into the difficulties and challenges faced by deaf and hard of hearing learners in Zambia, and how his MSc Inclusive Education at the University of Bristol is helping him define his teaching approach to support diverse learners in his home country.

The education of deaf and hard of hearing learners in Zambia is currently provided by a limited and geographically inconsistent spread of special education schools and units at the pre-tertiary level. Since the introduction of the Inclusive Education (IE) policy in 1997, education for the deaf has been provided within mainstream schools. The current Zambian education system is, however, unable to support the growing population of learners who have been identified as having additional hearing needs. This has been worsened by the number of under-qualified teachers who are not fluent enough in sign language to provide effective teaching.

The special units for the deaf and hard of hearing learners are mostly located in urban areas, with most of these centres offering day provision only. As such, many deaf and hard of hearing learners living in the outskirts and rural areas must travel significant distances to attend the units, or simply cannot access them. In such cases, learners must enrol in their local school and often receive instructions without adequate sign language or alternative support.

Reports on the performance of these learners is mixed; while some perform well, many struggle to achieve academic goals. In a regular classroom, non-deaf learners support deaf and hard of hearing learners. Conversely, in ill-equipped special units, deaf and hard of hearing learners are not able to adequately support each other and do not have the support of their non-deaf peers. As such, they often lag behind in information acquisition, which impacts their educational and social experiences, and intellectual growth. This deficit has contributed to below-par academic performance in several disciplines or subject areas, alongside an increased risk of

antisocial behaviour. In many instances, individuals with a hearing disability risk greater disadvantage when working with others in the workplace and experience more difficulties in securing and maintaining employment.

Safe learning spaces

Building an inclusive society is about recognising diversity in an individual and IE is not an expensive approach. The perceived expense is often used as a reason not to make changes to the education system and encourages reluctance among those who do not understand the benefits of IE.

IE requires the creation of an enabling, conducive and safe learning space through the application of the 'social model of disability'. This model looks at the society or environment and how it may be hindering an individual's learning experience rather than treating the person's disability as the obstacle. For example, if a deaf or hard of hearing learner is being taught in an environment without sign language, it is the environment that is restricting their learning, not the disability.

Broadening the scope of IE practices

The current challenges in the education of learners with disabilities can only be solved by those trained in IE practices. My MSc in Inclusive Education at the University of Bristol is broadening my scope of these practices. As a teacher trained in both special education and IE, and as a hearing-impaired person, on my return I plan to take an inclusive approach to the classroom. My first approach will be to include non-deaf learners to be taught alongside deaf and hard of hearing learners in a special unit.

IE is not a one-lane road where learners with special educational needs are included in mainstream classes, but a dual carriageway, that involves reverse inclusion, where learners without special educational needs are taught together



with learners with disabilities in special schools or units. This is the approach taken at the renowned Mambilima Special School in Mwense District, Zambia, which has contributed to an improvement in the social skills and academic performance of learners – those with learning needs and disabilities across a diverse range, and those without.

Influence on a large scale

As an executive committee member of the Special Education Association of Zambia (SEAZ), and as a provincial chairperson for Zambia National Association of the Deaf (ZNAD), I hope to influence the government of Zambia to implement policies on special and inclusive education on a large scale, in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders. I also aim to work with the University of Zambia and the Zambia Institute of Special Education to shift their training focus from only offering special education to inclusive education, or a combination of both.

I am confident my research and studies will contribute to the finding of the lasting mechanism of mainstreaming, supporting, and educating learners with special educational needs in mainstream classrooms in Zambia. If I can succeed in an inclusive education system with my hearing impairment, others with learning disabilities can and should also excel in the same situation.

CK

Did you know?

- The CSC is committed to supporting talented individuals who have the potential to make change and encourages applications from a diverse range of candidates.
- We work with Disabled People's Organisations including Leonard Cheshire International, the Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum, the Pacific Disability Forum and Disability Rights UK to ensure that our policies, procedures and on-award provision supports candidates and Scholars with disabilities.
- Our partnerships with universities across the UK ensure that our Scholars with disabilities have all their academic needs met during their stay in the UK.
- We offer additional financial support to Scholars with disabilities according to their individual needs and provide reasonable adjustments for all CSC events in the UK and abroad.

Justice defenders

Matteo Cassini, Community Development Manager at Justice Defenders (formerly the African Prisons Project), explains his work to increase access to legal systems and the application of criminal law in Africa, and the impact of Commonwealth Professional Fellowships in helping to transform and strengthen access to justice.

Matteo Cassini

Community
Development
Manager at Justice
Defenders



Around the world, more than 10 million people are held in prisons, 3 million of whom have yet to access a fair trial. In Kenya and Uganda, more than half of inmates are pre-trial detainees or remand prisoners. Many of them will never meet a lawyer, and languish for years in overcrowded facilities. Overcrowding in prisons fosters negative environments that consequently undermine inmates' basic rights to safety, wellbeing, and rehabilitation.

Not only are these challenges putting pressure on correctional systems across Africa, they are also limiting investments in the development of judicial and prison staff, who often experience similar conditions to those placed under their care. While committed personnel, who go to great lengths to serve their communities, abound in courts and penitentiaries, the lack of resources and opportunities for growth hinders the promotion of accountable institutions and the rule of law.

Only improved access to justice for all and the equal application of the law can prevent defenceless communities from continuing to spread and suffer across the globe. Without the assurance of a fair hearing and adequate pathways for capacity building, the prospect of a peaceful and inclusive society is highly unlikely.

A call to action

Over the last 10 years, Justice Defenders has responded by working with defenceless communities in Africa to increase access to legal services and improved application of criminal law for all. We have trained paralegals, lawyers, and leaders from within defenceless communities, including inmates and their own prison wardens, to provide legal services and facilitate a just legal process for themselves and others.

In pursuit of our vision to elevate both individuals and communities facing injustice, as well as supporting them to become defenders of just societies, we have invested in legal education and training in prisons. Recognising that no



Patrick Mwenda

2014 Professional Fellow
from Kenya



Aggrey Otieno Onyango

2014 Professional Fellow
from Kenya



Oliva Onyango

2014 Professional Fellow
from Kenya



Elizabeth Sivi

2014 Professional Fellow
from Kenya



Betty Chepkosgei

2016 Professional Fellow
from Kenya



Fairbain Ombeva

2018 Professional Fellow
from Kenya

Only improved access to justice for all and the equal application of the law can prevent defenceless communities from continuing to spread and suffer across the globe.

positive transformation can occur in the lives of inmates without fostering the welfare of their caretakers, from 2014 Justice Defenders have provided professional development opportunities for African prison officers and judicial officials in the form of secondments to the UK.

In partnership with the CSC through the Commonwealth Professional Fellowships scheme, we have supported eight cohorts of criminal justice personnel to experience British courts and prisons. These opportunities have enhanced their confidence, skills, and networks to bring improvements in defenceless communities, resulting in remarkable changes and innovations.

Transforming perceptions

Our interventions are transforming the image of prison and judicial staff. Unprecedented channels of communication have been fostered, which constitute the building blocks of a new relationship between criminal justice stakeholders based on restored trust. As trained personnel use the acquired knowledge to improve the conditions of prisoners and help release those who should not be detained in the first place, they are restoring some balance between the lawmakers and those who suffer at the hands of the law. The personnel are providing a route to redemption for those who have admitted their guilt and want to reform, establishing new models for imprisonment based on rehabilitation which recognise the inherent humanity of each person.

Our Professional Fellows

Each Fellow has gained directly from their Professional Fellowship opportunity and they are now using their skills and knowledge to make a difference to thousands of lives through policy, leadership, and process reforms. The water purification system which former Governor of Kodiaga Prison Aggrey Otieno Onyango installed in the compound following his Fellowship did not benefit just the prison inmates. The project provided a new, clean water source for over 12,000 people living in the 10 villages which form the Kodiaga jurisdiction, leading to a reduction in the number of deaths caused by water-related diseases.

In 2015, Patrick Mwenda returned to Naivasha Maximum Security Prison determined to implement a new open visitation policy to allow visiting families to spend extended quality time with their incarcerated family members. Open visitation has been linked to a reduction in symptoms of anxiety and depression among prisoners and an improvement in familial relationships during their time in prison. The number of beneficiaries has quickly extended beyond the 3,000 inmates

of Naivasha, and now the scheme supports hundreds of families across Kenya.

After completing her Fellowship, Elizabeth Sivi resumed her leading position at Machakos Women's Prison in Kenya. She capitalised on her reinvigorated advocacy and networking capacity to build a new school where children living both outside and within the prison walls could learn and play together. Recognising the need for the latter to be educated and raised outside the prison environment, Elizabeth took the initiative in establishing a centre for children born within the prison walls to access basic educational and health services alongside children in the community.

Fellows are also having an impact at the policy-making level, with five officers selected to take part in the 2015 revision of the Prison Act (Chapter 90 of Kenya Law), stemmed from the exposure received in the UK. Among the consultants was Fairbairn Ombeva, who recently received the Innovation Award, which showcases organisations, coalitions, or initiatives that are taking inventive approaches in navigating complex and changing external environments. She joins fellow alumni who distinguished themselves for their transformative leadership and exemplary work in African correctional facilities, including Betty Chepkosgei, who is also the first recipient of the Human Rights Officer of the Year award; Olivia Onyango who received the 2016 Huduma Ombudsman Award, which recognises responsive and compliant public officers and public institutions in Kenya; and Patrick Mwenda, recipient of the International Corrections & Prisons Association's (ICPA) 2018 Outstanding Correctional Employee Award.

Four Fellows are due to commence training in the UK in Spring 2020, joining our highly educated coalition of 32 change-makers who share common values and similar strategic vision. While the full impact of the innovations spearheaded by our community will become fully evident as the programme matures and more alumni gain leadership positions, the changes our officers have undergone and brought about already represent unstoppable beacons of hope. These efforts and successes remind us of the power of education and sharing of experiences. They reassure us that challenging and changing the way our world understands prisons and human dignity is possible and attainable. They reinforce our determination in making sure that no-one is imprisoned or otherwise punished without being able to access a fair hearing and tell their side of the story. Together with these and other Justice Defenders, we can create a world where no-one experiences injustice, where people serve others with equality, and where the inherent value, potential and dignity within each individual is recognised. **CK**

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink

Aashima Sharma explains the importance of developing wastewater treatment practices alongside industrial and agricultural expansion.



Just like the famous line, ‘water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink’, in Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s poem, ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’, water is around us but is often not clean or safe enough to drink. The lack of clean or safe water is a global problem, which, if unaddressed, will lead to an unsustainable future as the global population increases from 7.5 billion today to a predicted 9 billion by 2050.

The uneven distribution of water and the fact that only 3% of available water is freshwater has forced us to consider its effective usage. Of freshwater, only 1% is located in lakes and rivers which are directly available for people to use. Globally, 663 million people do not have access to clean water, and of this number approximately 553 million live in rural areas.

The issue of water quality is exacerbated by increased industrialisation and urbanisation, coupled with unsustainable production and consumption. Industrial activities, such as textile, sugarcane, leather and tanning, paper and pulp, and pharmaceuticals, are often established without proper wastewater treatment facilities, both wasting and contaminating freshwater sources.

Dyeing for fashion

Textile dyeing is the world’s second-largest polluter of water. It takes between 700 and 2,000 gallons of water to produce a cotton shirt and pair of jeans, the equivalent of one person drinking eight cups of water per day for 10 years. The water leftover from the dyeing process, containing a number of hazardous chemicals, is often dumped into ditches, streams, and rivers, resulting in clean water sources becoming polluted.

A number of developments have been made in wastewater treatment, however in many cases, these have not synchronised with industrial and agricultural advances. The practice of dumping untreated wastewater from textile dyeing is therefore continuing. My research aims to align the relationship between industrial and agricultural practices and

It takes between 700 and 2,000 gallons of water to produce a cotton shirt and pair of jeans, the equivalent of one person drinking eight cups of water per day for 10 years.

Aashima Sharma
2019 Commonwealth Split-site
Scholar from India
PhD in Environmental
Medicine
University of York



wastewater treatment to eliminate water contamination and increase the practice of recycling the water used in these processes.

Green chemistry

The theme of my research is wastewater remediation, which refers to the removal of hazardous chemicals from water to make it suitable for people to use in their daily life. It is very important to re-use water to reduce wastage and water scarcity. There are a number of methods available to remove hazardous chemicals, such as chemical treatment, but adsorption using non-toxic adsorbents (where the hazardous chemicals adhere to the adsorbent material) is an effective and environmentally friendly method.

In my research group we are focusing on environmentally friendly methods, also called green methods, to produce mesoporous materials (those with pores between 2 and 50 nanometres) which will adsorb the textile dyes, chemicals, and any other organic pollutants in the wastewater to produce clean water. As part of our green methods approach, we will use other waste as a resource in this process, such as biomass, to generate carbon-based magnetic adsorbents. The magnetic core enables easy recovery of the pollutants from the wastewater, due to its mesoporous nature. These organic chemicals, such as dyes, are useful components which industries can use again. This model therefore reduces both water and chemical wastage.

A huge opportunity

While this water treatment system can be applied on a large scale, smaller, portable systems could also be designed for installation on a residential or community scale. The recycled water can be used for activities such as agriculture, irrigation, and toilet flushing, which avoids the use of freshwater for these activities and prioritises this resource for human consumption. In low income countries where agricultural practices in large communities require great amounts of water, recycled water can be used to reduce freshwater wastage. This process would also prevent water being taken from natural habitats, such as forests and wetlands, and reduce the impact on the natural environment. Recycled water technology therefore has huge potential to unravel the scarcity of water in low income and higher income countries.

CK



Alumni news

The updates below (listed by year of award) summarise just some of the achievements of our global alumni. To let us know about your successes, email alumni@cscuk.org.uk

1968

Norman HILLMER has been elected as a Fellow in the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists by the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) for outstanding contributions to his field and to Canada's intellectual and artistic breadth. (Scholar from Canada, PhD History, University of Cambridge)

1981

Andrew John PETTER has been appointed to the Order of Canada for his visionary leadership in shaping the political and academic landscape of British Columbia. He contributed to the development of innovative public policies, including the British Columbia Treaty Commission, the Forest Practices Code, and recognition of same-sex rights. (Scholar from Canada, LLM Law, University of Cambridge)

1983

Stephen J TOOPE has received International Publishing Award by the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) for his outstanding scholarly contributions on human rights, international dispute resolution, the use of force, and legal theory. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Law, University of Cambridge)

1984

William KYMLICKA has been awarded Gold Medal by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada. He has received the award for his ground-breaking work on the link between democracy and diversity and animal ethics. (Scholar from Canada, BPhil Philosophy, University of Oxford)

1991

Mark CARNEY has been appointed the UN Climate Finance Envoy, following his terms as Governor of the Bank of England. (Scholar from Canada, DPhil Economics, University of Oxford)

1996

Nalin SHINGHAL has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer. He has published a number of articles in leading national and international journals in the areas of transport economics and logistics. (Scholar from India, PhD Transport Studies, University of Leeds)

2005

Jennifer DONVILLE has received a Gender Equality Award from the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health for her outstanding contributions towards the development of a robust architecture for gender transformative programming and measurement that incorporates women and girls' agency and empowerment when evaluating health outcomes. (Scholar from Canada, MSc Development Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science)

2008

Samuel Edward WILLS was awarded the 2018 Ralph C. d'Arge and Allen V. Kneese Award for the most outstanding paper in the Journal of

the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. The paper explores the relationship between oil booms and rural poverty and inequality. (Scholar from Australia, MPhil Economics, University of Oxford)

2010

Aizan Sofia AMIN has received the Tokoh Pekerja Negara 2019 award by the government of Malaysia. As a member of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, Malaysia and a Transformasi Nasional 2050 ambassador, she has been recognised for her contributions in the rights of work for people with disabilities and non-discrimination. (Scholar from Malaysia, PhD Disability Studies, University of Glasgow)

Mary KACHALE has been elected to the Executive Committee of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) as Ordinary Member representing Africa and the Indian Ocean Region. She is the first African young female to be elected to the IAP Executive Committee. (Scholar from Malawi, LLM Faculty of Laws, University College London)

Rohankumar CHARIWALA has established Shubhan Netraseva Trust, which aims to provide comprehensive eye care to people living in tribal areas on the borders of Gujarat and Maharashtra in India. After 11 years hard work, he has finally been able to set up Shubhan Netraseva Trust aiming for providing comprehensive eye care to the people of the tribal areas. (Scholar from India, MSc Community Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)



Mary Kachale



Afzal Basha Shaik-B



**Enowntai Nkongho
Ayukotang**



Mary Nabaggala

2012

Raj Shekhar SINGH has received the National Geoscience Award – 2018 for his significant contribution and outstanding research in the field of Sustainable Mineral Development. He has developed four patents and been granted copyright for an economical and environment-friendly method for nitrogen estimation in soil, coal and plants. (Scholar from India, Academic Fellow Environment & Ecology, University of Nottingham)

2014

Corey Anderson DRAKES has received a Fellowship through the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Barbados to spend a month at the University College London Hospital. (Scholar from Barbados, MSc Physics and Engineering in Medicine, University College London)

2016

Chloe ANDERSON has been promoted to Records Manager & Policy Officer in the Falkland Islands Government in recognition of her work developing and improving records management processes and procedures throughout the government. (Scholar from Falkland Islands, MA Archives & Records Management, University College London)

Afzal Basha SHAIK has been recognised in the iB Hubs Super 30 – Special Mentions category for extraordinary teachers across India. Additionally, he was awarded the ‘Best Researcher and Consultant Award 2019’ by Vignan Pharmacy College, India. (Scholar from

India, Professional Fellow, University of East London)

Enowntai Nkongho AYUKOTANG

was invested into the World Council of Optometry (WCO) Board of Directors, one of three directors representing Africa. He is the current President of the Cameroon Association of Optometrists. (Scholar from Cameroon, MSc Public Health for Eye Care, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

2017

Rizwan JAVED has received the Harold Gunson Fellowship by the International Society of Blood Transfusion for presenting at the 29th Regional Congress of the ISBT in Basel, Switzerland. Moreover, his work on ‘Ex Vivo Culture of Red Cells from Different Sources’ has also been recognised at the joint conference of Asian Association Of Transfusion Medicine (AATM) and American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), and secured first position. (Scholar from India, MSc Transfusion and Transplantation Science, University of Bristol)

Obituaries

1963

Robert CHURCH was an accomplished research pioneer, philanthropist, and rancher. He was the founding member of the Medical School at the University of Calgary, where he served as Associate Dean of Medical Research and the School's first head of the Division of Medical Biochemistry, and later Professor Emeritus. In 2002 he was

made a Member of the Order of Canada and received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. Robert passed away on 6 September 2019. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh)

1995

Jonathan BURSTON was an Associate Professor at Western University in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS). After completing his Commonwealth Scholarship, he secured a tenure track job at New York University and returned to Canada in 2002 to teach at FIMS, where he was a much respected colleague and teacher. Jonathan passed away on 15 October 2019. (Scholar from Canada, PhD Media & Communications, Goldsmith's University of London)

2019

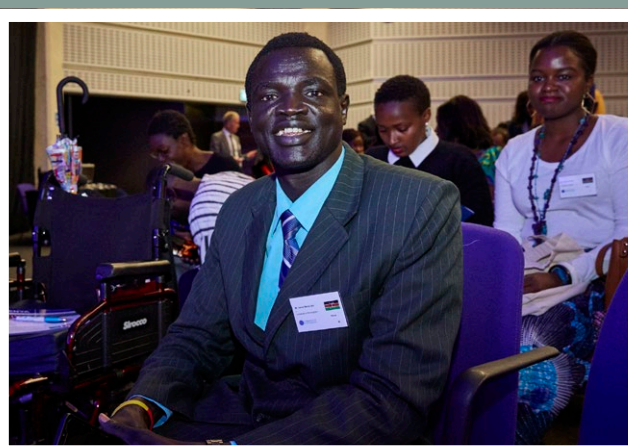
Mary NABAGGALA arrived at Teesside University on a Commonwealth Scholarship from Uganda in September last year to study on the Master of Public Health Programme. Sadly, she was diagnosed with late stage stomach cancer and passed away on 14 December. She leaves behind an 11-year-old son in Uganda and will be remembered as a hardworking, committed and self-motivated woman who touched the hearts of many. (Shared Scholar from Uganda, MPH Master of Public Health, Teesside University)

Scholar events



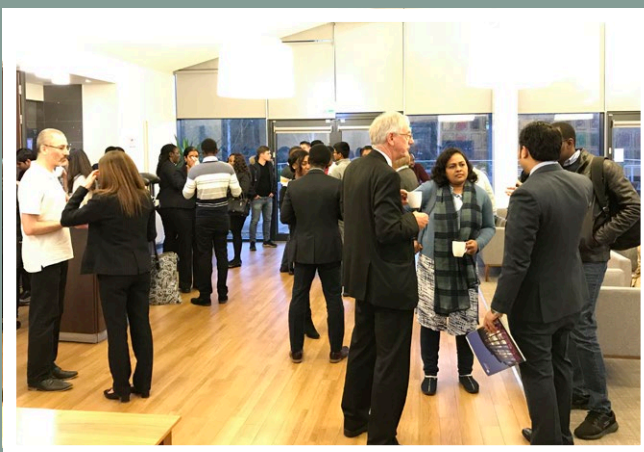
London Scholar event

Scholars attended a CSC talk led by Commonwealth alumni Gehan Gunatilleke at Woburn House, London in November 2019



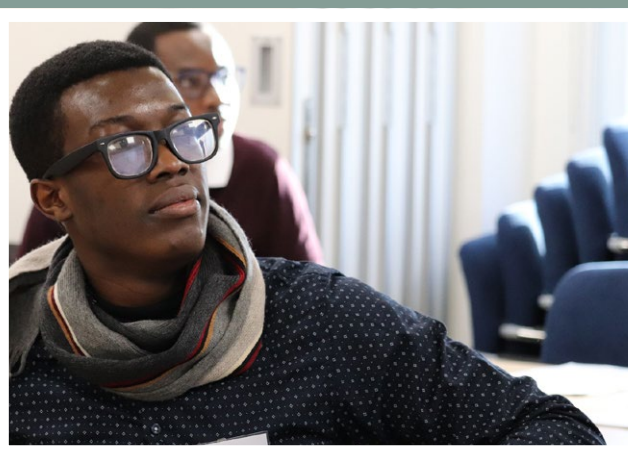
Welcome Event

The 2019 Welcome Event for Commonwealth Scholars was held in London in November



60th Anniversary event at Durham University

Scholars continued the 60th Anniversary of the CSC celebrations by attending a special Alumni lecture, held at Durham University Business School in December 2019



Research Impact Writing workshop

A workshop run by INASP, an international development organisation with over 25 years' experience of working with a global network of partners in Africa, Latin America and Asia, helped Commonwealth Scholars improve their skills in communicating their research. This workshop was held in London in January 2020



Bid/Grant Writing workshop

Another workshop run by INASP in January 2020 encouraged Scholars to develop high level action plans using new tools and frameworks to maximise their potential



Sharing and maintaining ownership of research

A CSC workshop run by AccessEd introduced Scholars to academic networking and pitching. This was held at the University of Manchester in January 2020

Alumni events



Bangladesh

Alumni delivered a workshop on research communication and Commonwealth Scholarship opportunities to university students in July 2019



Ghana

Alumni attended a Study UK fair to promote Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship opportunities, as well as share their experiences of studying and living in the UK, in Accra in September 2019.



Ghana

Alumni attended a panel discussion on 'Access and Empowerment for People of All Abilities' in Accra in December 2019. Panellists included Commonwealth Alumnus and President of the Centre for Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Alexander Tetteh.



Nigeria

The Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association Nigeria (COSFAN) hosted an end of year workshop and alumni lecture, 'Disability Law in the Hands of All' to mark International Day of Disabled Persons and the Lagos State Special People's Law. During the event, alumni presented 5,000 copies of a simplified version of the law for dissemination among local communities to raise awareness of the law and the rights of disabled people. The event was attended by the President of the Joint Association of People with Disabilities (JAPD), The Minister of Education, and the British High Commissioner, alongside Commonwealth Alumni in Lagos in December 2019.

Alumni events



◀ Uganda

Sanyu Africa Midwives Commonwealth Association (SAMCA) delivered a training workshop on maternal neonatal child health in Eastern Uganda in September 2019. SAMCA brings together alumni in Uganda working in midwifery and public health.

Uganda (Below and below left)

To mark World Mental Health Day in October 2019, alumni attended a panel discussion to raise awareness of suicide and suicide prevention. The panel included Commonwealth Alumni and lecturers and clinical psychologists from Makerere University



◀ Rwanda ▶

Alumni gathered to discuss alumni engaged in Rwanda and develop plans for the newly launched Rwanda Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association in Kigali in December 2019. They were joined by Richard Middleton, CSC Chair, who discussed the importance of the CSC alumni community in Rwanda ahead of CHOGM 2020 which will take place in Kigali later this year.



Get involved!

You can stay part of the CSC community through events across the Commonwealth, promoting our Scholarships and Fellowships to potential applicants, and joining our alumni associations and other networks.

Regional Networks

Connect with Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows in the same university or region in the UK

Scotland
North West
North East
Wales and Northern Ireland
Midlands and Oxford
South West
South East

For full details, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/networks/regional-networks

Knowledge Hubs

The CSC's nine Knowledge Hubs provide a platform for Commonwealth Scholars and Alumni studying and working in similar disciplines to network and exchange ideas to support a shared sustainable development outcome.

As a member of a Hub you can post news about your current work and research, share links to reading and publications, and ask and answer questions related to your work.

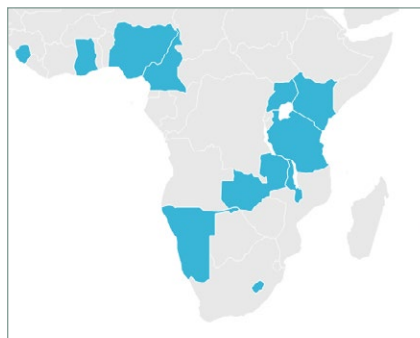
The nine Knowledge Hubs are focused on the following sustainable development outcomes:

- Achieving sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Attaining sustainable economic growth
- Achieving inclusive education
- Strengthening climate change resilience and mitigation
- Ensuring gender equality and equal opportunity
- Strengthening global governance
- Increasing global health coverage
- Enhancing science, technology, and innovation
- Promoting peace, justice, and fair representation for all

For full details about the Hubs and to join, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/networks/knowledge-hubs/

Alumni Associations

Meet and network with past, present, and future Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows



Africa

Cameroon	Namibia
Ghana	Nigeria
Kenya	Sierra Leone
Lesotho	Tanzania
Malawi	Uganda
Mauritius	Zambia



Caribbean

Barbados	St Lucia
Grenada	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	
Jamaica	



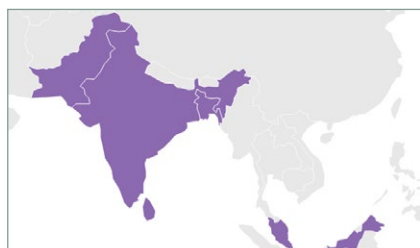
Europe

Gibraltar



N. America

Canada



South Asia

Bangladesh	Pakistan
India	Sri Lanka
Malaysia	

For full details, visit cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/alumni/associations/

For further details about these activities and more, visit www.dfid.gov.uk/cscuk

COMMON KNOWLEDGE

ISSUE #9 MARCH 2020



▲ Commonwealth Scholars in the main auditorium of the QEII Centre attending the CSC Welcome Event, November 2019



Commonwealth Scholarship
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