

### Editorial

One major theme runs through this newsletter and that is the determination of St George's University, in its 30th anniversary year, to strengthen standards of healthcare in developing countries. There are generous scholarships on offer – through the Commonwealth, the Global Scholar's Programme and Kenya's renowned African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF). In each case Chancellor Charles Modica makes this important point. It is not just the award of scholarships to talented individuals that will make a difference. It is the commitment to use the qualifications earned and the knowledge gained in the service of the student's country of origin for a number of years.

The medical brain drain from developing countries to the UK and other industrialised nations must be reversed. Perhaps at last a start has been made – for other institutions to follow. We therefore take considerable encouragement from the greatly increased intake for the new term at Northumbria (see main story) and the enthusiasm of the students involved.

This 30th anniversary year has emphasised that St George's is truly an institution of considerable international reputation. And we, in the UK faculty, are proud to be associated with it.

**Rodney Croft,**  
Dean of Clinical Studies, UK

### Commonwealth Scholarships awarded

The first two scholarships in the Commonwealth Grenada St George's University Scholarship Programme have been awarded to Fritz Ndoping from Cameroon and Berilonson "Stephen" Osiro from Kenya. Both will enrol at the University in this coming August.

Fritz Ndoping has a Bachelors in Nursing degree from the University of Buea. He has been accepted for a Masters in Public Health (MPH). Berilonson Osiro will take the four year medical degree programme. Orphaned at the age of 15, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Valdosta State University in the US, which he was able to take on a Rotary scholarship.

The Commonwealth programme was jointly announced last year by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Government of Grenada and St George's University at a ceremony at the headquarters of the Commonwealth in London. Covering graduate and undergraduate degree programmes, 75 scholarships are on offer for Masters of Business Administration (25); Masters of Public Health (25); arts and sciences (10); veterinary medicine (10); and School of Medicine (5).

The scholarships are available to all 53 countries of the Commonwealth but preference is being given to students from developing countries and small states, particularly the MBAs, MPHs and arts and sciences. The programme, estimated at US\$4 million, will fully fund tuition but students will require separate support for living and travelling expenses. St George's is collaborating with the local and international private sector organisations to help raise these funds.

Applicants have until 15 September to apply for the January 2008 class (see website – [www.sgu.edu](http://www.sgu.edu)).

### Global scholars gather momentum



The groundbreaking academic partnership between St George's University and Northumbria University – the Keith B Taylor Global Scholar's Programme – gathers momentum with the next class of over 100 students from 14 countries due to start their studies in Newcastle in late August.

The partnership was launched in January with a charter class of 54 students with the overall objective of improving standards of healthcare in developing countries. Students study the first year of SGUSOM's basic medical sciences on the campus of Northumbria University before moving on to Grenada to complete their pre-clinical training. Special bursaries have been awarded by St George's for many students to enable them to take up this new opportunity. As Northumbria's Vice Chancellor, Kel Fidler comments: "we believe this

collaborative approach will enrich the experience for all the students."

St George's Chancellor, Charles R Modica, sees the collaboration as "designed to enhance our commitment to international health delivery. We believe this programme is particularly attractive to students who wish to be involved in improving standards of healthcare in developing countries or in underserved areas of developed countries. Northumbria is an ideal partner in this important mission."

The new programme strengthens a partnership which began in 2005 whereby students can begin their studies at Northumbria University in a Certificate of Higher Education in Biomedical Science course to qualify for progression into the first year of basic medicine at SGUSOM. The initial three students to successfully complete the certificate course are progressing in to the first year of basic medical sciences in Grenada this August.

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Some of the first intake for the Global Scholar's Programme with Vice Chancellor Kel Fidler (left) and Chancellor Charles Modica.

### New York in June

More than 5,000 family members, friends, faculty and administration officials attended the Annual Commencement Ceremony at Radio City Music Hall in New York in June when over 450 medical students and 75 veterinary medical students received their diplomas.

This was the largest audience in the history of the University – and a memorable day for graduating students.



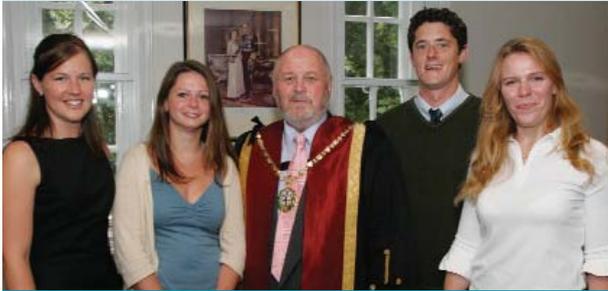
Chancellor Modica presents a diploma to a proud Nisha Patel

## Friends of St George's

- Dr Peter Bourne • Mrs Vanessa Bourne • Sir Kenneth Calman • Mr Rodney Croft •
- Mr David Jessop OBE • Baroness Hanham CBE • Baroness Howells of St Davids OBE • Sir Jim Lester DL •
- Professor Sir Malcolm Macnaughton • Professor Ian McConnell • Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior •
- Sir Kenneth Stuart • Mr Jonathan Taylor • Lord Walton of Detchant • Mr Bowen Wells •



## Six out of twelve



Claire Lambourn, Emily Jubert, Jonathan McCotter and Fiona Dobbie with the RCVS President, Dr Bob Moore, after receiving their certificates of membership to the RCVS.

Six out of 12 students who passed the Statutory Membership Examination of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) were graduates of St George's School of Veterinary Medicine. They are now able to practice veterinary surgery in the UK.

Austin Kirwan, Assistant Dean for UK Clinical Affairs, describes these results as outstanding. "After all, our veterinary classes only started in August 1999. It shows that high standards are being achieved."

One of the graduates, Claire Lambourn from Berkshire, completed her clinicals at University College, Dublin, as part of

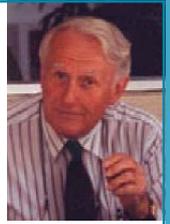
her St. George's degree programme. She describes her time in Grenada as 'fantastic'. St George's was a 'great all round experience. You grow so much as a person as well as for your career. I would never take it back'. She was joined at the ceremony by her grandmother, Christina Witherington, also a veterinary surgeon. Mrs Witherington qualified in 1942 from "the London College". She was the first female veterinary surgeon in Malaysia, where she lived with her late husband.

St George's University has 25 British students enrolled in the veterinary medicine school.

## Keith B Taylor, DM, FRCP

Vice Chancellor Emeritus

April 16, 1920 – December 31, 2006



Keith B Taylor, Vice-Chancellor from 1989 to '98, had a lasting impact on St. George's University which was emphasised again at a memorial service held at his old University, Magdalen College, Oxford, on 1 July this year. Family, friends and many colleagues attended.

As Dean Margaret Lambert said in her reflections on his life, he was a man "who profoundly changed St George's." His knowledge and leadership played a critical role in transforming a regional medical school into an international world-class University. "He guided us each step of the way with humility, compassion and generosity of spirit."

## Foundation launched

Jason Roberts, the Blackburn Rovers forward and the only Grenadian in the Premiership, has launched the Jason Roberts Foundation with the support of St George's University. At a function held in Blackburn in May, attended by Grenadian High Commissioner, Joseph Charter, and current and former football stars, Jason pledged to "work with children and young people, both in Grenada and UK, using football to help them become healthy, responsible members of society while creating a positive optimistic focus for their lives."



Jason Roberts (left) with South African football star and fellow Blackburn Rovers' striker, Benni McCarthy, at the launch

## Special scholarship awards

St George's University has presented the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), Africa's leading health development organisation, with two Masters of Public Health scholarships. Awarded in recognition of AMREF's work since it was founded 50 years ago, the scholarships will cover all tuition fees, travel and living expenses for the successful scholars.

Presenting the awards in May to AMREF's Director General, Dr Michael Smalley, at AMREF headquarters in Nairobi, Dr Calum Macpherson, Vice Provost of International Programme Development at St George's, said that St George's new mission for its own anniversary year was "to reach out to talented and ambitious students from developing countries to enable them to discover their full potential, for their own benefit and for the benefit of their countries.

"We now want to work with key organisations and institutions in the developing world, particularly in Africa, which share the same values and commitment to strengthening capacity in critical areas such as medicine and health care," he added.



Cal Macpherson of St George's presents the scholarships to AMREF's Michael Smalley

### For further information please contact:

Executive Director  
UK Trust  
St George's International  
School of Medicine, Grenada  
2 Vincent Street  
London SW1P 4LD  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7630 9778  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7630 5067  
e-mail: info@raittorr.co.uk

Registrar  
St George's International  
School of Medicine, Grenada  
Kingdon's Yard  
Parchment Street  
Winchester  
Hampshire  
SO23 8AT  
Tel: +44 (0) 1962 850 650  
Fax: +44 (0) 1962 850 567  
e-mail: shuntington@sgu.edu

## New Friend

Professor Ian McConnell has accepted an invitation to become a Friend of St George's. Professor of Veterinary Science and Director of Research at Cambridge University, he is recognised as an authority on infectious diseases of livestock and is a member of several key government and Royal Society committees on animal and human health. He delivered the 13th Geoffrey H Bourne Memorial Lecture in Grenada in February.

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