

### Editorial

The announcement of the scholarship programme for British students is an indication of the growing links between St George's University and UK medicine. At the present time around 80 students are undergoing clinical training at NHS hospitals. Fifteen British graduates are currently practising as doctors in the UK, with a further 27 international graduates being attached to hospitals across the country. These numbers have risen sharply compared with previous years.

To some extent they reflect the importance of the international experience offered by St George's in preparation for a career in an increasingly multicultural Britain. The comments of British students at St George's are an indication, too, of the spirit engendered by the university. St George's is indeed a very special place to study.

### Summer Camp Medicine

The third premed and prevet summer camp at St George's in July proved as successful as the others. Beth Healey, Holly Brown and Lizzie Walters (pictured from left to right) were the lucky winners from the UK. The ten day Camp Medicine programme included sessions on studying skills, clinical lab skills and medical instruction. The prize, a roundtrip airfare from the UK to Grenada, included accommodation, meals, medical instruction and field trips. The students won their trip by taking part in a quiz organised by the University of Nottingham for students aiming for a career in medicine and veterinary medicine. A further Camp Medicine is planned this summer.



Beth Healey, Holly Brown, Lizzie Walters

## New scholarship programme for St George's

St George's University School of Medicine will offer 25 half scholarships to British students for this year - and for the next five years, Chancellor Charles Modica has announced.

The scholarship programme is intended to strengthen the number of British students at the university with the longer term objective of providing more British doctors for the National Health Service.

"At the present time the NHS is heavily reliant on overseas medical staff," says St George's

UK Dean of Clinical Studies Rodney Croft. "This is often to the detriment of health services in developing countries which simply cannot afford to lose their healthcare professionals to the NHS."

The scholarship will be awarded to promising British students who would otherwise face difficulty in raising the necessary funds to study at St George's.

"There are no strings attached," says Rodney Croft. "We will not insist on

scholarship graduates necessarily practising in the UK. But we believe there are advantages in doing so - eventually as GPs or as specialist hospital consultants, where the government has acknowledged there are serious shortages.

"It is important, however, that UK medicine remains attractive to students who graduate from overseas universities, such as St George's, or they will pursue their careers elsewhere."

### St George's in the UK

#### First UK RCVS graduate

Michelle Cook, became the first graduate from St George's University School of Veterinary Medicine to pass the UK's Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) statutory examination for membership. This entitled her to register as a member of the RCVS and practice veterinary surgery in the UK.

"I initially chose to study at St George's because the veterinary medicine programme gave me the opportunity to study in two countries, Grenada and the UK. It also meant that I was given the opportunity to study, at first hand, animal diseases presently considered exotic to the UK," Michelle says.

In a ceremony of admissions to membership

in July 2005, Michelle was awarded her certificate by Lynne Hill, the President of the RCVS. Michelle is the first graduate from St George's veterinary school to be officially registered in the UK.

She was also one of the first two UK students to graduate from the School of Veterinary Medicine, which was recognised at a ceremony held at the UN headquarters in New York in June. She began her studies at St George's in 2001, having been awarded a scholarship, which covered her full tuition and administrative fees. After spending three years on Grenada she then completed a year of clinical rotation at the Royal Veterinary College in London, an affiliated school.

Lynne Hill,  
President  
of the  
RCVS with  
Michelle Cook



Michelle has since begun her career as a veterinary surgeon in a mixed practice in Yorkshire, England with the majority of work concentrating on companion animals but she also has the occasional horse, poultry and cattle case. She has a keen interest in cattle reproduction and wildlife and in the future would like to become more involved with research.

St George's School of Veterinary Medicine continues to flourish since it started in 1999 and there are currently 35 UK students studying at the school.

#### Grace before dinner from UK Dean Rodney Croft

Before we raise our knives and forks,  
And drink what come from well-pulled corks,  
Let us all give due thanks for our forthcoming fare  
And St. George's fellowship we cherish and share.  
Remember ye well our mission and charge  
To train young doctors for the world at large,  
In this, the UK Faculty strongly forge  
So thanks be to God for England and Saint George!

## 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 • Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior •
- Sir Kenneth Stuart • Mr Jonathan Taylor • Dr Keith Taylor • Lord Walton of Detchant • Mr Bowen Wells •



## Medical school forges link with Northumbria University

On 6th December 2005, St George's signed a groundbreaking new agreement with Northumbria's School of Applied Sciences in the UK. After studying for a one-year pre-medical programme at Northumbria, students will be able to

complete their medical degree at St George's. Northumbria has a long and distinguished record in teaching Biomedical Sciences and is recognised by professional bodies as being one of the principal innovators in the field. Both universities will liaise to select suitable candidates.

Qualified students will be awarded a Certificate in Biomedical Science after their year at Northumbria before entering the freshman class of the medical school in Grenada. The medical students will complete the next two years of study in the Caribbean and spend the fourth and fifth years in clinical training at affiliated

hospitals in the United Kingdom or the United States.

"The agreement between St George's University and Northumbria is a logical development. Both are modern universities yet maintain traditional standards of education and professionalism," says Margaret Lambert, Dean of Enrolment Planning at St George's.

It is envisaged that future collaboration will lead to a similar arrangement whereby students can progress from an appropriate Certificate of Higher Education programme at Northumbria to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree programme at St. George's.



Margaret A Lambert, Dean of Enrolment Planning, St George's and Professor Bob Cryan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Northumbria University

## Study Days

Students undergoing Clinical Attachments in the UK have an opportunity to attend Study Days held at regular intervals. This concept began with ENT surgery in March 2000, organised by Stephen Thomas, Associate Chair of Surgery, and proved most successful. SGU students in the UK congregate at the Study Day hospital, so it is not just an educational exercise but a great SGU reunion. The Study Days include specialities so essential to medical students' clinical training and now include as well as ENT, Pain Management, Plastic Surgery/ Management of Burns, Radiology/ Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Emergency Medicine and Orthopaedics. There is a theoretical and a practical component to each day and on completion, the students receive a Certificate of Attendance, which can be included in their Curriculum Vitae.

## New appointments

Friends of St George's extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr Joseph Charter, the new High Commissioner for Grenada and his wife Valerie. The High Commissioner took up his London post in November 2005, coming from Grenada where he was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health before becoming a lecturer in Caribbean Studies at St George's University.

Meanwhile Chancellor Charles R Modica has been appointed Ambassador-At-Large for Grenada, not least for his continuing work to help Grenada develop its tourism industry. Our congratulations to him, too!

## WINDREF

The distinguished Labour peer, Baroness (Ros) Howells of St Davids, has accepted an invitation from Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior to join the UK board of the Windward Islands Research & Education Foundation (WINDREF). Lord Soulsby is chairman of the board. Baroness Howells, a Grenadian, has a special interest in community relations and is a former chair of the Lewisham Racial Equality Council. She is a Friend of St George's and her sister, Dame Hilda Bynoe, is a member of the Academic Board of the university.

St George's is the only independent university in the Caribbean with an accredited research foundation offering postgraduate masters degrees.

## UK Students profiled

Students from the UK are bound to mention the weather as a draw for studying at St George's but they mention many other benefits too, some of which surprised even them. Lian Doble's veterinary studies at St George's led her to Uganda, where she studied at Makerere University as part of an international partnership that is developing between the universities. "The opportunity to interact with an international student body has opened my eyes to the global opportunities available," explains Lian. "When I decided to come to Uganda to do part of my MSc in livestock development, it again showed me another side of veterinary science, that of our role in sustainable development." Lian would like to return to Africa to work in livestock development and plans to return to the UK eventually to assist farmers implement herd health plans.

Amit Patel (pictured), chose St George's for its reputation as a great international medical school and liked the idea of taking the four year course rather than the full five year course offered in the UK. "I feel that the course

taught here is more intense than UK medical schools and that I could easily practise in other countries as the faculty teaches world medicine with excellent visiting professors," comments Amit. "For example, I understand that St George's has the only full credit parasitology course in the world." Amit plans to take rotations in both the UK and the USA.

Other students from the UK who have experienced life at St George's include Olivia Wood who graduated in 2004 and is now on the London Deanery Foundation Programme at Lister Hospital, Carol Munyame who also graduated in 2004 and is on the Eastern Deanery Foundation Programme at West Suffolk (Cambridge University Teaching) Hospital and Anthony Dyal who, although still studying at the university, has ambitions to go into paediatrics. Rebecca Williams, a fourth year veterinary student from Wales has been on the island for three years, hopes to specialise in exotic/wildlife medicine and is yet to decide in which part of the world. Another veterinary student, Rowena



Amit Patel

Barty, was initially concerned that the education would not be as comprehensive as in UK universities but has been impressed with how thoroughly the subjects are taught. She hopes to pass the RCVS licensing exam this year and return to the UK to specialise in avian medicine.

All the students from the UK have different backgrounds and ambitions but they all agree on one thing, that studying in the international environment of St George's has inspired them in many ways and as one student comments, "where in the UK can you go snorkelling for a study break in November?"

### For further information please contact:

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