

S1

The Newsletter for all
SchARR graduates

Issue 3 April 2008



Leading the way to better health

What causes public health disasters such as HIV/AIDS or famines in developing countries?

According to United Nations Development director Inge Kaul, it's not a virus or a failure of crops that leads to public health crises, but underlying problems of governance and poor leadership. Lack of systems and infrastructure, corruption and poor management can often turn a challenge into a disaster.

Tide

From September, SchARR's new Master of Public Health specialist programme in Management and Leadership will do its bit to turn the tide of public health.

Management and governance of public health have been recognised as among the greatest challenges facing governments in newly developed and newly-democratised nations. Managers trained in commercial settings lack the background to link policy to management science effectively. Our new programme is geared to the needs of public health specialists (clinical or non-clinical) who wish to influence the direction of policy and governance, and make a difference.

The MPH (Management and Leadership) brings together knowledge of key public health issues and approaches and insight from relevant management science. Core options include strategic management, health policy and leadership, with options in economics, governance and public policy and information management.

Together

The course will be taught alongside the MPH and MPH (HSR) and students will work together during their studies. These courses currently attract students from approximately 20 overseas nationalities, so students on the new programme will be exposed to experiences from a breadth of developed and developing countries.

For more information, have a look at the SchARR web pages, or e-mail scharrtu@shef.ac.uk.

School recalls its old boys

Two new teaching spaces in Regent Court are now up and running, with names that hark back to the early days of public health in Sheffield, long before SchARR was conceived.

A state-of-the-art 100-seater lecture room recalls 1950s Sheffield public health academic, Professor John Pemberton, founder of the Society for Social Medicine.

John, who is now 95 and lives in the Hope Valley, said he was delighted the new room, used for MPH classes, will bear his name. The Eric Wilkes seminar room cele-



brates Sheffield's professor of Community Care and General Practice in the 1970s and 80s, who founded the St Luke's palliative care hospice.

NICE work for SchARR's public health profile

SchARR has won a bid to become a prestigious centre for public health evaluation.

The School is to become one of two new Public Health Collaborating Centres for the Centre for Public Health Excellence (CPHE). This is part of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the body that evaluates health technologies for the government.

The Public Health Collaborating Centres will work with analysts at the Centre for Public Health Excellence to produce evidence reviews, economic appraisals, systematic reviews and other evidence based products. They will base their future recommendations for national public health guidance on these reviews.

Dr Liddy Goyder, Director of Public Health at SchARR said "The new team will be contributing to the work of the Institute as it takes on some of the toughest challenges in public health and NHS policy making."

The new Public Health Collaborating Centre will be operational from May 2008.

Sarah Barnes

Inside this issue of S1

Get a £100 reward

plus

Alumni News

Starting from scratch



Information is at the heart of ScHARR. S1's Charlotte Hollins asked Director of Information Resources Andrew Booth about a personal journey that led him to Sheffield, and the innovative teaching he brought with him.

Creative writing always interested Andrew Booth, which is why he read English at Reading University, with a view to becoming a journalist or teacher. 'Ironically I have ended up in a job where I do a bit of writing, a bit of teaching and a bit of information support.'

After Reading, Andrew went on to specialise in medical librarianship, a move that led indirectly to his current post. 'I visited a postgraduate medical centre when I was doing my librarianship qualification and I felt that this was the sort of place I would like to work in. From that point onwards I specialised in working in medical libraries and medical information.'

Public Good

'I didn't just want to do information for information's sake; I wanted to use information in a practical way, a way that contributed to the public good. Helping doctors to interpret research is one way of actually doing this.'

Fifteen years ago Andrew began work at

the King's Fund Centre in London supporting managers within the health service. 'The King's Fund is where I first started having contact with the Department of Health and other health related organisations, which stood me in good stead for ScHARR', said Andrew.

Pedigree

'My boss at the King's Fund thought I was mad to move. At the time ScHARR was the new kid on the block and it had no pedigree at all. But that was part of the attraction. I had been working at the King's Fund, which had been established for 100 years and had a very large staff. When I first started at ScHARR we just had two computers and four rows of empty bookshelves, so the idea of starting something from scratch was a real attraction.'

Various factors enticed Andrew from the bustling capital to the sleepy Yorkshire hills. 'I'd been married for about four months and it was very expensive living

in London. I went to school in Worksop so I knew Sheffield. There was a beautiful blue sky when I first arrived. I've been here for 14 years and have never seen another one like it! Sheffield definitely did it's best to get me here under false pretences!'

Andrew has a reputation in ScHARR for his innovative teaching techniques. 'One of the key things of the evidence-based health care approach is problem-based learning. It's very much presenting a scenario or a problem to a group and getting them to brainstorm in order to answer the question and then come up with a solution. It's very suitable for the sort of courses we offer. Many of our students are practitioners and they will want to make that link between theory and practice when they get back to their workplace.'

Problem

'When we teach people how to read research we start with a patient problem and to make it humorous we make up names for the patients, but we keep the setting as realistic as possible. On the MPH we took this a step further and assigned groups of students a particular country of the world, which became their case study. They were asked to find out about the population, the health problems, treatments, the economics and the future planning. It was about building up a whole scenario rather than just having a single one and we all learnt a lot from each other.'

Andrew looks back fondly on his time here. 'I was in the first dozen people recruited in ScHARR and at the time we had no idea that it would end up being a school of 200 plus people. I think it's fair to say that the scope of ScHARR has also increased as we have added public health interest and more work in primary care.'

'My first post at ScHARR was Senior Information Officer, which had no academic side to it. I was then asked to lead on a Systematic Review module and I have grown as an academic from that point onwards.' It seems that Andrew really does have the best of both worlds in his current role. 'I am delivering the information service and also doing my own research and teaching.'

Tell a friend and get £100 reward

There's an old English saying that suggests that if you get something 'from the horse's mouth', you can be sure its true. We're not too sure why horses should be trusted to pass on reliable evidence, but we do think ScHARR alumni can.

That's why we've launched a reward scheme for our alumni, recognising the part you play in recommending the School and the University of Sheffield as a place to study. So now, if you recommend ScHARR to a friend, family member or work colleague, and they end up as a student here, we'll give you £100 in Amazon vouchers as a reward. There's no limit to how many recommendations you can make, or how many £100 vouchers you can earn.

To earn your reward:

- Tell friends, colleagues or family members about our programmes.
- If you know someone who would be interested in one of our programmes, send their name and contact details to

schartu@shef.ac.uk. We will send them further information and application details. Please also include your own e-mail address.

- When your contact completes the application form, make sure s/he puts your name in the 'where did you hear about us' box. NB: only one name can be put in this box. Rewards will not be paid if more than one name is included.
- If your contact is offered a place and becomes a fully registered full-time student on one of the programmes listed below by 1 December 2008, we will send you £100 in Amazon vouchers.

The offer applies only to new full-time applicants (Home, EU or overseas) from 1 April 2008 to the MPH programmes, New Route PhD in Public Health, and standard PhD. It does not apply to the EuroPubHealth programme.

That's one hundred more reasons why you should recommend study at ScHARR to friends, family and colleagues, who'll trust what they hear, direct from 'the horse's mouth'!

Regent Court Circular

Home-grown talent fills University's top jobs



A Sheffield endocrinologist and current Dean of the Medical School will take over as Faculty chief from this September, as part of a shake-up of the University's top team.

Professor Tony Weetman will lead the Faculty of Medicine for the next five years, as one of eight pro-vice chancellors (PVCs), appointed to run the University's faculties, teaching and research.

Although these high profile posts were also open to external applicants, only one, the PVC for research, is likely to go to an outside candidate.

The new University structure will give much more autonomy to the Faculty of Medicine, which comprises SchARR, and the schools of medicine, clinical dentistry and nursing and midwifery. Under a plan devised by the vice chancellor, faculties get more control over how money is spent, and additional power to direct strategic developments.

The faculty PVCs replace the deans, including the current dean of the medical faculty, SchARR professor of public health Allen Hutchinson.

Prof Weetman has been dean of the Medical School for eight years, and professor of medicine since 1991. He previously held academic posts at Cambridge University.

Calling all African Alumni!

Graham Jones, a lecturer in SchARR's Health Services Research section, would like to make links with any SchARR African alumni engaged in health and development work in Africa.

Graham is currently developing some research and inquiries into health and development policies in the African context (especially in West Africa), so is very interested in any possible case studies, or even possible research collaborations.

On the other hand, you may just want to link up, and keep in contact with other African alumni.

Please drop Graham a line at graham.jones@sheffield.ac.uk and let him know what you are up to.

Get more SchARR news from our web site: www.shef.ac.uk/scharr

Alumni News

Beenish Khan (MPH 2007)

Beenish is currently working as a Research Supervisor in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Aga Khan University, one of the most prestigious universities in Asia. She is currently working on an early childhood development project, the first one of its scale in developing countries.



Kirsten Herrmann (MSc Health Economics and Management 2007)

Kirsten completed the Master in Health Economics and Management last year and has just secured herself a job as a Research Associate at SchARR!

"SchARR was the place of my choice for a Masters, because of the innovative concept, the variety of modules offered and the multidisciplinary approach of the program," said Kirsten. "Modules could be combined following individual interests and were taught by excellent researchers. We were all heartily welcomed by the course direc-



tors Carolyn Czoski-Murray and Malcolm Whitfield."

'The program was very challenging with a heavy workload. I was very impressed that lecturers and course directors were very approachable, as well as the personal tutors who were always around with supportive solutions or a good word to 'cheer up' were necessary. All in all it was a very intensive and interesting year.'

Chris Wiffen (MSc Health Economics and Management 2003)

Chris completed his Master in Health Economics and Management after an enjoyable but challenging two years of study. The subsequent five years have seen numerous role changes for Chris at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust where he has worked since 1998. Up until the end of 2007 his work had been primarily focused within the Trust's Medical Imaging and Medical Physics Directorate as Lead Manager for Medical Physics and Contracts Manager for the Di-

rectorate as a whole. More recently, Chris has taken a significant step out of his comfort zone and become the Trust's "Breast Services Manager"!

He has no regrets as his new role provides the opportunity to work closely with the Directorates of General Surgery, Medical Imaging, Plastic Surgery, Histopathology and Oncology (all integral to the provision of an efficient and effective Breast service) and drive forward the Trust's strategy for Sheffield Breast Services while ensuring compliance with the Department of Health's current (and future!) targets, primarily relating to Cancer. Furthermore, being Breast Services Manager provides a fantastic talking point at dinner parties!

Kent Stuber (MSc Health and Social Care 2007)

Kent is now working as both a Chiropractic Clinician at West Springs Chiropractic Health Centre in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and a Chiropractic Resource Officer and Researcher at the Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board (CCEB). He is currently conducting an online job analysis of the Canadian chiropractic profession for the CCEB.

Mike McHugh (MPH 2007)

Mike is currently working a specialist registrar in Public Health at the Department of Health.

Chris Wiffen, pictured here in the middle, enjoying graduation celebrations in 2003 with fellow course-mates Prem Singh (left) and Nick Miller

Says Chris: 'As to the future, who knows? In terms of further study though, I have my hands full with four and one-year-old sons right now!' (See story above)



My SchARR ...

A Personal Look Back by Dr Chris Swift: (PhD 2006)

Having decided to do a PhD several different factors led me to SchARR. When I tell anyone associated with the School that my topic involved religion and postmodernism, they usually guess that Nick Fox was my supervisor! For the best part of six years, my research had the kind of ebb and flow that I imagine is familiar to most part-time students. I did all the things you shouldn't do – changed job twice and moved house three times – and, thankfully, a few of the things I should have done. Time was always in short supply and I was very fortunate in getting a grant from the St Luke's College Foundation which helped buy many of the key texts I needed. This made me less reliant on the library and ensured that when I need to check a reference I had the material to hand. Overall it was a great and challenging experience – and one that continues to generate value for my day-to-day work and research interests. Graduation was a great day!

Barometer

Life post-PhD has certainly not been dull. In much the same way that many retired people seem puzzled that they ever had time to go to work, I wonder how on earth I ever had time for the PhD. Since 2001 I have headed up the Chaplaincy Department at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and alongside this was President of the College of Health Care Chaplains from 2004-7. As society changes chaplaincy feels rather like a barometer of personal and group beliefs in Britain. There is a reduction in the number of those practising their faith in traditional ways; new religious groups coming through immigration; and a general growth in a kind of eclectic and personal spirituality. My thesis concerned the role of NHS chaplaincy in postmodern conditions and suggested a potential crisis for chaplaincy as the NHS began to place major emphasis on particular kinds of evidence. My thesis related to these changes, and the vulnerability of chaplaincy at a time of social and epistemological change. On many occasions I was grateful for the way the PhD had made me look deeply into difficult questions, and this was a major resource when I was faced with questions in the media in my role as CHCC President.

Exciting

I have tried within the Leeds chaplaincy team to foster a culture of research. In September 2007 we had an article published in the *British Journal of Nursing* on nursing attitudes towards recording religious data. I am now engaged with delivering (on time!) a book for Ashgate on chaplaincy in the 21st century. This is largely based on my thesis. Along with all of this I still maintain some work with



Chris (centre) in action on the wards

patients, and this roots my academic and strategic concerns for spiritual care where it matters most. People continue to amaze me, and the individual nature of supporting the values and beliefs of each patient is both creative and very moving. There is some exciting work going on to make this contribution to health more evident, and I hope to be a growing part of that in the coming years.

Tell us about your time at SchARR! Send 500 words and a recent picture to S1, at scharralumni@shef.ac.uk

Keep in touch!

If you're reading this, then hopefully you are still in touch with SchARR, and the University of Sheffield.

We are keen to make sure we don't lose contact with our graduates. So here are some of the things you can do to make sure we stay in touch .

1. Make sure we have an up-to-date e-mail address, so if you change your e-mail address, make sure you let us know!
2. Use 'Sheffield Reunited' to create a profile of yourself, so your old colleagues can keep in touch.
3. Send us some news about what you are doing. We will consider any news for publication in S1.
4. Become an **alumni contact** for your year. You will be our link with other students in your year. To become a contact, simply let us know at the address below.
5. Let us know details of any of your former friends and colleagues from SchARR student days who are doing interesting things or making a mark, whether its in their professional or personal lives.

E-mail: scharralumni@shef.ac.uk