

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Major contributions and achievements

- The Medical Research Council's (MRC) Statistical Research Unit led by Bradford Hill and based in the School first discovered the **link between smoking and lung cancer**.

- In the early 2000s the value of the UK national cervical screening programme was being questioned. Our work showed that **cervical screening had prevented around 6,000 deaths/year**, which significantly impacted on the debate around the cost-effectiveness of cervical screening. The School also undertook the **world's largest study of whether Tamoxifen**, the breast cancer drug, is safe to use or increases the risk of cancer of the womb.

- LSHTM significantly contributed to the **Assessment Reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** which won the recent Nobel Peace Prize.

- Our landmark MRC-funded study demonstrated that **there is no link between the Mumps, Measles and Rubella (MMR) vaccination and autism**, restoring public and clinical faith in the MMR vaccine.

- We recently showed that **it is possible to eliminate ocular Chlamydia trachomatis infection** (cause of trachoma) from endemic communities for at least five years with a single oral dose of azithromycin mass treatment. This renewed impetus to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Alliance for the Elimination of Trachoma, and encouraged Pfizer to donate 135 million doses of the drug to the International Trachoma Initiative.

- **The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize (akin to a Nobel) for medical research was awarded to Brian Greenwood in May 2008 for his bold and innovative work on malaria.** When malaria was spreading uncontrollably in Africa claiming more than 1 million lives a year, Prof. Greenwood helped develop strategies to control the disease. His crucial contributions greatly developed the tools and knowledge to turn the tide on malaria.

- The late Prof Chris Curtis demonstrated that **bednets impregnated with insecticide reduces the incidence of malaria**, thus saving hundreds of thousands of infant lives annually. LSHTM's bednets work has strengthened donor support for providing 'free net' approaches and informed the position of WHO, whilst playing a leading role in high-profile drug treatment trials for malaria using novel combinations to overcome drug resistance.



The LSHTM Keppel Street building has been at the epicentre of public health research since 1928



Prof Brian Greenwood's Hideyo Noguchi award ceremony in Japan honouring his African tropical health work May 2008



The late Prof Curtis laid the foundations for approaches to malaria control



LSHTM lecturer Dr Claire Bertschinger, the nurse who inspired Band Aid and Live Aid, received the Human Rights & Nursing Awards 2007

Major contributions and achievements



Dr Carolyn Stephens received the London Education Partnership Award

- Dr Stephens works on the links of environment and inequalities with health and in 2007 won the prestigious **London Education Partnership Award** in recognition of her groundbreaking work in engaging young people from deprived communities with science.
- LSHTM has developed the **methods used by UNAIDS to estimate the number of AIDS orphans** and School research demonstrated that **treating sexually transmitted diseases can reduce HIV infection by up to 40%**.
- Sir Wilson Jameson, then Dean of LSHTM (1939), pioneered thinking on the formation of the **post war National Health Service**.
- An important series of studies **established alcohol as the main direct and underlying cause of the dramatic decrease in life expectancy** seen in Russia after the collapse of the USSR. This work, extremely influential in Russia (cited by President Putin) led to legislative controls on production of these substances. Initial evidence suggests a substantial fall in alcohol poisoning in 2006.
- Staff from several units form one of the most highly regarded teams in the world working to understand and reduce the public health impact of the convergence of HIV and tuberculosis. **LSHTM work fed directly into the new WHO Stop TB strategy**. We have published, with WHO, the most recent academic update on global estimates of tuberculosis.
- LSHTM research revealed that the simple act of washing your hands can **reduce the risk of diarrhoeal diseases by over 40%** and interventions to promote hand washing can save millions of lives.
- We played a central role in the widely-cited **WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence**, in which large household surveys of 24,000 women in 15 sites in 10 countries illustrated the high prevalence of physical and sexual violence, and its strong association with a range of poor health outcomes.

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