

# Alumni Newsletter

No.2: Winter 2017

Welcome to the second alumni newsletter of 2017 which showcases recent research developments in the department and alumni news. New events for 2018 include an invitation to join the department's annual symposium in January and a second Graduate Careers Day in June. Please contact us if you'd like to be featured in the newsletter or if you have any ideas to develop the alumni group.

We would like to wish Sasha Shepperd all the best in her new role at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and welcome Maria Quigley into the role of Director of Graduate Studies (DPhil).  
Best wishes, **Sarah** and **Maria**.

## Research highlights



### REVEAL study results announced

The results of the Randomized EVALuation of the Effects of Anacetrapib through Lipid Modification (REVEAL) trial were announced at the European Society of Cardiology Congress in August. The study concluded that Anacetrapib reduces the risk

of serious cardiovascular events among high-risk patients on intensive statin treatment. **more...**

### Routine oxygen treatment doesn't improve outcome after stroke

The SO2S study has found no worthwhile benefit from giving patients oxygen during the first few days following stroke. **more...**

### Body size and prostate cancer risk

A CEU study found that taller men and men with more fat are at greater risk of high grade prostate cancer and death from prostate cancer. **more...**

### Breastfeeding may reduce a mother's heart attack and stroke risk

Breastfeeding is not only healthy for babies, it may also help to reduce mothers' risk of having a heart attack or stroke later in life, according to research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association. **more...**

[www.ndph.ox.ac.uk/news](http://www.ndph.ox.ac.uk/news)

## News

### Big Data Institute officially opened in May

The Big Data Institute (Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Information and Discovery) was opened in May by Li Ka Shing (centre at right), Lord Patten (centre) and Philip Hammond MP. Research at the institute is conducted in areas such as genomics, population health, infectious disease surveillance, and methodology. Find out more at [www.bdi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bdi.ox.ac.uk)

### MSc – new title

Following extensive consultation with our MSc students and graduates, we are delighted to announce a revision to the MSc course title to MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology to more closely reflect the curriculum.



## Awards

Congratulations to **Jennifer Carter** who was awarded the Early Career Teaching Excellence Award in the Medical Sciences Division 2017 Teaching Excellence Awards, and also to **Marian Knight** of NPEU, who was admitted to Fellowship ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

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## Where are you now?



**Kremlin  
Wickramasinghe**  
DPhil Graduate, 2015  
NDPH

I am a researcher in non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention at the Centre on population approaches to NCD prevention. As a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre (WHO-CC), our research group work closely with the WHO to develop, implement and evaluation NCD prevention action plans.

My current research focuses on how to work with non-health sectors to address NCD risk factors and how to evaluate the multisector actions. We conduct evidence reviews, develop tools and training courses with the WHO. As the co-director of the WHO CC, I join WHO missions to countries to support national NCD action plan development and capacity building for NCD prevention. These opportunities have allowed me to pursue my interest of conducting policy relevant research with the skills I gained from my MSc and DPhil.



**Kimberly Schaefer**  
MSc Graduate, 2016  
Harvard Medical School

After graduating in 2016, I was fortunate to step directly into various global settings where I could apply my knowledge and skills gained. At the WHO in Geneva, I worked in the Strategy, Policy, and Information Department, where I analyzed publication policies during public health emergencies such as Zika. I then spent my summer at a surgical clinic in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and through observing surgeries and working with the admin team, was able to gain a clearer understanding of how a free clinic operates and sustains itself in a very resource-limited environment. Skills gained and honed through my MSc course— from critical thinking and analysis of health issues to technical skills in research methodology— were invaluable throughout these experiences, and will continue to help guide me as I begin my first year at Harvard Medical School.

**Emily Dobell**

**MSc Graduate, 2016  
Oxfordshire County Council**



I'm a public health registrar and I currently work at Oxfordshire County Council in a building hidden between the old Oxford castle and the new Westgate shopping centre. I'm working on several projects including health and wellbeing services for young people, self-harm prevention and local implementation of NICE public health guidelines. Much of the work involves interpreting data, report writing and meetings with partner organisations but has more recently extended to event planning for the upcoming Oxford Public Health Registrars' annual symposium. I've also joined the 'on-call' rota for Health Protection which involves following up cases of notifiable disease, outbreaks and chemical incidents.

My MSc provided a useful academic basis for my public health training in terms of understanding what constitutes reliable evidence, particularly when considering how to apply recommendations to local public health initiatives.

**Kate Coffey**

**DPhil Graduate, 2016  
University of Otago**



I am in my final 18 months of training as an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. I finished my DPhil in Population Health in October 2015, and returned to complete my clinical training in Australasia in December 2015. My DPhil looked at risk factors for Human Papillomavirus (HPV)-related genital cancers in women over 50 in Million Women Study cohort participants. Since completing the DPhil I have collaborated on a few papers, but the bulk of my time is taken up with my clinical training at the moment. I will apply for an academic appointment in the next couple of years and would like to maintain a focus on HPV-related disease, screening in women's health, and perinatal epidemiology. The rigorous process of preparing and submitting papers during my DPhil has given me an excellent grounding, and I think being able to carry that forward in my career will be invaluable.

## What's on

### **NDPH Annual Symposium** Thursday 11th January 2018 Saïd Business School

A small number of places are available for alumni members to attend this event.

Please **email** to register your interest.

### **NDPH Graduate Careers Day** 7 June 2018

**Richard Doll Building, Old Road Campus**

Following the success of the event this year, we will host a second careers day in 2018. We are looking to engage alumni members, specifically those working in industry, to speak about their own career development at the event. Please contact us for more information.

### **Careers Service Careers Fairs**

Don't worry if you're not local to Oxford - the Careers Service produce a booklet for each fair with all the employer vacancy details.

## Office news



### **Alumni profiles on NDPH website**

Following the restructuring of the 'Study with us' section of the website, we hope to feature our alumni on our website to showcase your achievements and research. If you would be willing to be profiled, please get in touch.

### **NDPH Student Blog**

Alumni are invited to contribute to the student blog. Whether it is to share an experience at a conference or an update on research, **please submit an article here**.

[graduate.studies.office@ndph.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.studies.office@ndph.ox.ac.uk)