

## RSTMH Research in Progress London 2024

Thursday 5 December 2024, 9:00AM - 5:00PM GMT  
 Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA

Research in Progress London is designed specifically for early career investigators to present their unpublished research in progress to peers and senior experts in all fields of tropical medicine and global health. Lunch and refreshments will be provided, along with opportunities to network. Certificates of attendance will be provided.

### Programme

Time (GMT)	Item
09:00 AM	<b>Arrival</b>
09:30 AM	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Dr Wendy Harrison</b> , Joint RSTMH President, Chief Executive Officer of Unlimit Health (formerly the SCI Foundation)
09:40 AM	<b>Session 1</b> , Chaired <b>Nell Dasso</b> , Membership Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene <b>Charlotte Bestwick</b> , London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, <i>Neglected Tropical Diseases in conflict-related humanitarian emergency settings: a systematic review of the literature</i>
10:00 AM	<b>Rawa Badri</b> , End the Neglect Initiative, <i>Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices towards Schistosomiasis among Patients' Companions at New Halfa Teaching Hospital in New Halfa locality, Eastern Sudan.</i>
10:20 AM	<b>Michaela Bikárová</b> , London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, <i>Culture-dependent analysis of midgut microbiota of laboratory-reared An. stephensi.</i>
10:40 AM	<b>Luke Norris</b> , Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, University of Liverpool, <i>determining spatial-temporal trends of natural disasters and disease outbreaks in the Great Horn of Africa to improve surveillance and control strategies.</i>
11:00 AM	<b>Morning break and poster viewing</b>
11:25 AM	<b>How to get published Guidance session</b> <b>Thomas Pinfield</b> , Managing Editor, <i>Transactions of The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and International Health</i>
11:55 PM	<b>Session 2 presentations</b> , Chaired by <b>Thomas Pinfield</b> , Managing Editor, <i>Transactions of The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and International Health</i> <b>Olivia Andersen</b> , University of Oxford, <i>High prevalence of drug resistance mutations against current first-line antiretroviral therapy in treated, perinatally HIV-infected adolescents in Zambia and Zimbabwe</i>
12:15 PM	<b>Poster presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Rachel Healy</b>, London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine, <i>A situational analysis determining the status of cryptococcal meningitis management in Botswana.</i></li> <li><b>Guilleary Deles</b>, University of Liverpool/ Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, <i>Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS), Trichomonas vaginalis (Tv) and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV): Co-</i></li> </ul>

*infection dynamics within the HUGS sub-study cohort at three infection time points within Nsanje and Mangochi Districts, Malawi*

- **Fatima Ahmed**, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine/Newcastle University, *The dynamics of Male Genital Schistosomiasis (MGS) at Nsanje and Mangochi districts, Malawi over a 1-year sub-study period*

<b>12:40 PM</b>	<b>Lunch and poster viewing</b>
1:40 PM	<b>Guidance session</b> How to get funded <b>Greta Holmes</b> , Grants Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
2:10PM	<b>Session 3 presentations</b> , Chaired by <b>Greta Holmes</b> , Grants Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene <b>Maria Puthoor</b> , Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, <i>A Systematic Review of Management Strategies for Post-Tuberculosis Lung Disease in Adults</i>
2:30 PM	<b>Santhosh Moorthy</b> , Newcastle University, <i>Blood based biomarkers of neurodegeneration in older people living with HIV in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania</i>
2:50 PM	<b>Isabella Hubbard</b> , Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, <i>Is scorpionism one syndrome or many? A systematic literature review and meta-analysis</i>
<b>3:10 PM</b>	<b>Afternoon break and poster viewing</b>
3:35 PM	<b>Keynote</b> <b>Dr Sarah Rafferty</b> , International Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit, Health & International Directorate, Office for National Statistics <i>The Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit: building capacity in National Statistical Offices for infectious disease surveillance</i>
4:05 PM	<b>Session 4 presentations</b> , Chaired by <b>Alice Sharman</b> , Communications Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene <b>Parnor Madjitey</b> , McGill University, <i>Exploring the perspectives of Liberian frontline health workers on ethical tensions experienced during the Ebola epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic</i>
4:15 PM	<b>Olajumoke Olanrewaju</b> , Allied Medical Sciences, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria, <i>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Practices in Sites Proximal to Historical Cholera Outbreaks in Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria.</i>
4:30 PM	<b>Guidance session</b> How to communicate your research <b>Alice Sharman</b> , Communications Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
<b>5 PM</b>	<b>Close</b>

## Speakers

**Dr Sarah Rafferty**, International Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit, Health & International Directorate, Office for National Statistics



RSTMH Vice President. Sarah was elected as RSTMH's first Early Careers Trustee in September 2018 and has been Vice President since September 2022. Sarah currently works for the UK Office for National Statistics in the Health and International Directorate. Her role as the International Stakeholder Engagement Lead on the Wellcome-funded project – the Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit – involves coordinating partnerships with colleagues in Argentina, Malawi and Nepal. Through these partnerships, the project aims to co-create a toolkit specifically designed for National Statistical Offices to advise on, and conduct, trusted infectious disease surveillance and work effectively with public health offices to implement evidence-based policies. Sarah has a PhD from the Geography Department at the University of Cambridge. Her thesis was titled 'New methods to answer old questions: a study of London infant and child mortality at the turn of the twentieth century', exploring historical health inequalities in an urban context. While undertaking her PhD, Sarah also assisted on a research project into the historical demography of Tanzania with colleagues at LSHTM. Prior to her doctoral studies, she completed an MSc in Demography & Health at LSHTM, during which time she volunteered at RSTMH, undertaking an archiving project and helping with small grants. Sarah plays an active role in the Meetings & Events, Education & Training, and Policy & Advocacy Committees at RSTMH and strives to represent the opinions of researchers in their early careers on the Board.

**Dr Wendy Harrison**, Joint RSTMH President, Chief Executive Officer of Unlimit Health (formerly the SCI Foundation)



RSTMH Joint President. Wendy is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Unlimit Health (formerly the SCI Foundation), a not-for-profit organisation focused on the control and elimination of NTDs, formally the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative within the School of Public Health at Imperial College London. She has a particular interest in integrated multi-disciplinary approaches to public health in low and middle-income countries with a focus on capitalising on potential synergies between human and animal health programmes. She has a Veterinary Degree from the Royal Veterinary College and worked in mixed animal practices prior to completing a PhD in Clinical Pharmacology at St Georges Hospital Medical School and a post doc in comparative vascular biology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University

of Georgia. She also has experience of working in the commercial sector having worked in the Comparative Medicine and Biology Unit at GlaxoSmithKline in an advisory role across a range of therapeutic drug development areas, including inflammation and infection.

Her passion for public health in low income countries started when she worked with an organisation donating farm animals to communities in Uganda and Rwanda and she saw firsthand the potential synergies between strengthening the veterinary public health and human public health systems. She holds a Masters in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Wendy has served as a Council member on the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons from 2000 to 2008, Chair of the Council of the Comparative Medicine Section, Royal Society of Medicine 2007, Chair of the UK Coalition against NTDs 2012-2014 and Chair of the NTD NGO Network from 2016 to 2017.

## Chairs and Guidance Session Speakers

### Alice Sharman, Communications Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



Alice Sharman joined RSTMH as Digital Communications Manager in November 2021. Prior to working for RSTMH, she worked for the Chartered Institute of Fundraising as their content manager, where she was responsible for managing their blogs and newsletters, as well as coordinating marketing activities. She has also worked as a charity sector journalist, writing about the charity sector and as a website editor. She has written for publications Charity Finance and Fundraising Magazine. She has a master's degree in journalism. In her role at RSTMH, she focuses on increasing RSTMH's reach and engagement through social media, the website and newsletters, as well as maximising the impact of events and journals

### Greta Holmes, Grants Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



Greta Holmes joined RSTMH as Grants Manager in August 2024. Prior to working at RSTMH she worked at The Listening Place, a London based charity which supports those who feel that life is no longer worth living, in their recruitment and visitor support teams. She has also worked at Prism the Gift Fund, a donor advised fund which aims to increase the flow of funds into the charitable sector, as well as taking part in two different volunteer projects based in Greek refugee camps. In her role at RSTMH, Greta hopes to utilise her experience in the charitable sector, as well as lessons from her geography- and humanitarian-focused studies, to strengthen the Grants Programme.

### Nell Dasso, Membership Manager, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



Nell joined RSTMH in August of 2024. They are responsible for developing and implementing member experience, engagement, and reach. Nell plans to cultivate strong relationships with members so that RSTMH can support them most effectively. Prior to joining the RSTMH, Nell was worked in Membership at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons in Chicago where they were first contact to all members and helped to guide membership strategy. Nell has a degree in Learning and Organizational Change from Northwestern University.

### Tom Pinfield, Managing Editor, *Transactions of The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* and *International Health*



Tom Pinfield joined the RSTMH as Managing Editor in November 2022. Tom has many years' experience working in academic publishing. Prior to joining the RSTMH, he was the Assistant Editor for Journal of Applied Ecology, a journal owned by the British Ecological Society, and before this, was an Editorial Officer at the British Society for Rheumatology.

At the RSTMH, he is responsible for the overall management and strategic development of the Society's two journals, Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and International Health.

In his role, he works closely with authors, editors and reviewers to ensure a fair and timely review process and collaborates with colleagues from OUP to ensure the journals remain competitive within the wider publishing landscape. He also assists with the promotion of the research published in our journals and works to ensure that the journals contribute to the wider RSTMH strategy.

## Abstract Presenters

### Charlotte Bestwick, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Dr Charlotte Bestwick is a medical doctor, having trained in London and worked in South-West England. She then worked as a Health Policy Advisor for a London strategic communications firm, before undertaking a master's at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in Tropical Medicine and International Health. Charlotte has a particular interest in international health policy.

### Isabella Hubbard, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine



Isabella Hubbard is a PhD student at the Liverpool school of tropical medicine. They are researching scorpionism (severe scorpion envenoming), a highly neglected disease which kills at least 3000 people annually. Their work is largely focused on developing antibodies recognising toxins that are unique to some medically important Moroccan scorpions. These antibodies could be used as diagnostic tools, and help determine what species are stinging people and causing severe disease in Morocco and beyond. Besides their PhD project, Isabella has a special interest in translational immunology and biotic interactions. Prior to their PhD Isabella completed a MRes in vaccine development for human whipworm infection at the Manchester Metropolitan University.

### Luke Norris, Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, University of Liverpool



Luke Norris is a recent first-class Masters of Biological Sciences Graduate from the University of Liverpool. Following graduation, he now works in the Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences (IVES) at the University, researching climate change. His work focuses on the Horn of Africa, a region particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. His research involves data analysis of disaster event databases and use of geographic information systems (GIS) to inform a climate-sensitive disease forecasting tool. Luke is particularly interested in identifying the relationships between key climate variables and disease outbreaks. Prior to IVES, his master's degree specialised in genetics where he conducted genomic analysis of *Achromobacter* bacteria. Luke has contributed to published research involving functionally annotating Pandoravirus hypothetical proteins using bioinformatic software.

### Maria Puthoor, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine



Maria Puthoor recently completed her MSc in Tropical and Infectious Diseases from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, where her MSc project focused on managing post-tuberculosis lung disease. Her research explored strategies examining both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions to improve lung health outcomes for pulmonary TB survivors.

Prior to her MSc, she completed her medical training and internship in the Czech Republic, undertook clinical attachments in India and has since worked in the UK as a resident doctor. Maria is passionate about improving TB and post-TB care, especially in lower- and lower-middle-income countries, where TB remains a significant challenge.

### Michaela Bikárová, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Michaela Bikarova recently finished her MSc in Medical Parasitology and Entomology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In her MSc dissertation, she investigated the microbiota of Anopheles midguts, as she recognises its significant potential for future advancements in malaria vector control. Michaela is currently employed at LSHTM as a student demonstrator, where she assists with teaching during the laboratory practicals while being open for future possibilities.

Prior to her postgraduate studies, she graduated with bachelor's degree from Swansea University and was employed at a biotechnology start-up. There she researched the potential utilisation of the entomopathogenic fungi as a biological control against mosquito larvae, aiming to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of conventional chemical methods such as insecticides.

### Olajumoke Olanrewaju, Allied Medical Sciences, University of Calabar



Olajumoke Olanrewaju is a PhD student at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile – Ife, Nigeria, where she is conducting research on “Geospatial Assessment of Vibrio Species and the Efficacy of Calcined Oyster Shell Powder for Treating Groundwater in Cholera-Endemic Community in Ile – Ife, Nigeria”. The focus of her work is to provide low-cost, environmentally friendly treatment to communities where cholera is endemic. Her research includes a combination of fieldwork, laboratory work, and geographic information systems. Olajumoke is particularly interested in preventing cholera and promoting community health. She worked on knowledge of cholera as part of her bachelor's project and investigated environmental risk factors towards cholera for her M.Sc. research. She is currently working as a lecturer at the Department of Public Health, University of Calabar, Nigeria.

### Olivia Andersen, University of Oxford



Olivia Andersen is a Research Assistant in the lab of Professor Sarah Rowland-Jones at the University of Oxford, where she is focused on investigating drug resistance mutations in adolescents living with HIV in Zambia and Zimbabwe as a part of the VITALITY trial. Her research centers on the characterization of these mutations in the current era of large-scale implementation of integrase inhibitor-based antiretroviral regimens in the region. She is particularly interested in understanding the mechanisms that drive the emergence of these mutations within individuals and populations, as well as the development of new antiretroviral therapies aimed at mitigating their impact. Before joining the University of Oxford, Olivia completed her MSc in Immunology at Imperial College London, where she completed her thesis under Professor David Thomas.

### Parnor Madjitey, McGill University



Parnor Madjitey is a biochemist and a bioethicist trained at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, the Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto, Canada and at the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Law, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium. He has eighteen years of research experience working with a team of scientists on a multidisciplinary case-control study of malaria pathogenesis and immunity in a Ghanaian fishing community. He has also taught public health ethics courses at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. Currently, Parnor Madjitey is completing his PhD studies in the Department of Family Medicine at McGill University and his research is exploring how to promote health equity at the intersection of primary health care, global health and public health ethics.

### Rawa Badri, End the Neglect Initiative



Dr. Rawa Badri is a passionate medical doctor from Sudan, dedicated to tackling neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). With over five years of clinical experience, she is currently pursuing an MPH at Imperial College London while actively conducting research as a Research Assistant at the Mycetoma Research Centre in Sudan. Dr. Badri is the Founder and Executive Director of the "End the Neglect Initiative," which demonstrates her commitment to raising awareness and mobilizing resources to combat NTDs. She is a Chevening Scholar for the 2024-2025 academic year and a Young African Leaders Initiative Alumna, recognizing her impactful contributions to the field. Dr. Badri has authored several scientific publications on NTDs and infectious diseases, furthering knowledge and contributing to improved health outcomes for vulnerable populations globally.

## Santhosh Moorthy, Newcastle University



Santhosh Moorthy is a third-year medical student at Newcastle University, currently based at Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Alongside his medical studies, he was awarded a research scholarship from the Alzheimer's Research UK North East Network Centre. During an eight-week summer placement at Newcastle's Campus for Ageing and Vitality, he investigated potential biomarkers for HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND) in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. His research combined statistical analysis of a comprehensive patient data set from Tanzania with hands-on lab experience. He used ELISA techniques on plasma samples to test for key biomarkers, including neurofilament light chain (NFL) and glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP).

## Poster Presenters

### Fatima Ahmed, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine/Newcastle University



Fatima Ahmed recently completed a MSc in Tropical Disease Biology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. As part of this, Fatima participated in the HUGS (Hybridisation in UroGenital Schistosomiasis) study, a multi-year longitudinal cohort study into the implications of the zoonotic hybridisation of *Schistosoma haematobium*. Fatima's dissertation focused upon Male Genital Schistosomiasis and changes in disease over time in the context of biannual mass drug administration. This involved a period of fieldwork in Malawi, and molecular techniques at the Liverpool Centre for Tropical and Infectious Diseases. Fatima is in their final year of Medicine at Newcastle University and hopes to continue with clinical research in their career.

### Guilleary Deles, University of Liverpool/ Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine



Guilleary Deles is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Liverpool, with a recently completed MSc in Tropical Disease Biology from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). During her master's program, she conducted research in Malawi on female genital schistosomiasis, focusing on its co-infection dynamics with *Trichomonas vaginalis* and HPV. This research was part of the HUGS investigation, a three-year longitudinal study aimed at understanding the transmission biology, epidemiological impact, and clinical significance of *Schistosoma haematobium* hybrids in Malawi. Her work involved both fieldwork, employing simple laboratory techniques in Malawi, and advanced molecular analyses at LSTM. Guilleary has a strong interest in tropical medicine and aims to pursue further research within the field.

**Rachel Healy**, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



Rachel Healy recently completed an MSc in Tropical Medicine and International Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her MSc research, conducted in Botswana between 2023 and 2024, focused on the management of cryptococcal meningitis in hospitals of varying care levels across the country and evaluating any changes following the WHO guideline updates after the AMBITION trial. Before pursuing her MSc, Rachel completed her internal medicine training in Dublin, Ireland, where she also obtained her medical degree. She has a keen interest in parasitology and mycology, with plans to continue working in these fields.