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Over the past decade, India has emerged as a global economic power, as well as the world’s most populous democracy. Yet alongside this impressive development, the country faces critical health challenges both old and new.

Millions of people, particularly in poorer states, are suffering from treatable infectious diseases and various forms of malnutrition. Child and maternal mortality are still high, and with increasing urbanisation and an ageing population, we have seen the emergence of a new epidemic of non-communicable diseases including cancers, diabetes, heart disease and mental illness.

The scale of the challenge is immense, but the solutions are in our hands, if we have the imagination and determination to implement them. Working together, government agencies, researchers, health workers, activists, entrepreneurs and philanthropists can develop and deliver effective public health programmes.

Our School has been working with partners in India for many decades, and we understand that solutions can only emerge from working together, locally and globally. There are numerous wonderful examples of innovative projects that are transforming lives, but rather than reinvent the wheel at every turn, it is vital that we evaluate, learn and apply these lessons more widely to build effective health systems that provide universal access to diagnosis, treatment and care for all.

This is why we are working with the Public Health Foundation of India and numerous other partners including government agencies, universities, industry, NGOs and community groups, inspired by a common vision to improve health for all.

We hope that by reading about some of these projects, you will be inspired to support our work and to join us.

Baron Peter Piot
Director and Professor of Global Health
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Launching in 2006 by the Prime Minister of India, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) is a public-private initiative that is building institutional capacity in training, research and policy development in public health. One of our core aims is to establish up to eight schools of Public Health across India, and we have already been successful in setting up the first four of these, with the support of governments, NGOs, universities and individual supporters.

This would not have been possible without the PHFI-UK Consortium, a partnership between PHFI and sixteen UK institutions including the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Our partnership with the School is born of a common vision, and we have been able to foster strong, enduring and productive academic links, which have greatly improved the research and teaching skills of our PHFI faculty.

We look forward to continuing to develop this partnership to help build a nationwide network for public health.
The Bloomsbury Institute for Pathogen Research is a new joint venture of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and University College London (UCL), dedicated to understanding every aspect of pathogens, from their genetic makeup to how they spread among human populations in India, Africa, and other parts of the world.

The institute was established in 2011 to find new diagnostic tools, treatments and vaccines for the world’s “big three killers” (HIV, TB and malaria) as well as neglected but often deadly diseases, such as sleeping sickness, dengue fever and leishmaniasis, for which new treatments are urgently needed. It is also conducting research on hospital-acquired infections, a deadly and growing problem around the world.

The work of the institute has outgrown existing laboratory space. A dedicated facility is being planned that will bring together 200 researchers from both parent institutions under one roof.

He developed his expertise in antimicrobial chemotherapy while working with the Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, UK in the 1980s. Following his return to academia, Professor Croft focused his research on the identification and evaluation of novel drugs and formulations for the treatment of leishmaniasis, malaria, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) and American trypanosomiasis (Chagas disease). From 2004 to 2007 he was the first research and development director of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative in Geneva, Switzerland. His current research interests include drug-immune response interactions and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationships.

He is also a Consultant Medical Virologist at University College Hospital. He is past Director of the UCLH/UCL Biomedical Research Centre, and of the national Health Protection Agency HIV and Antiviral Reference Laboratory. His major research interests are in HIV transmission and biology, particularly the emergence of HIV drug resistance. He is Head of one of only 5 WHO Specialist Laboratories in HIV Drug Resistance and is a leading adviser to the WHO HIV Treatment Optimisation Guidelines on drug resistance.

In 2012, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh awarded the General President’s Gold Medal, one of India’s most prestigious academic prizes, to Professor Roy for her contributions to science.

Professor Polly Roy has unlocked the secrets of bluetongue (pictured), a virus which devastates sheep and cattle around the world. This includes India, where the southern states are particularly badly hit.

Her discoveries have also laid the foundation for new vaccines against serious human diseases, including influenza, human papilloma virus and SARS. She recently pioneered a technique which may one day lead to safe vaccines against viruses ranging from rotavirus to HIV.

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### Putting health on the map: project and partnership highlights

#### IDEAS for maternal and newborn health

Working with local partners Better Birth, Maternal, Newborn, and child Health Services and Communication & FMN, Whrefndl supported the Alliances (IDEA) to build the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve the health and survival of mothers and babies in Uttar Pradesh, Ethiopia and Nigeria. IDEAs grows measurement, learning and evaluation to discover what works, why and how to improve maternal and newborn health, generating evidence to inform policy and practice.

#### Tackling chronic disease

Co-founded in 1989, the Duke Global Health Institute, the South Asia Network for Chronic Disease provides laboratory, databases, training and other resources for researchers working to reduce the burden of chronic diseases throughout the region (see page 6 for names of grantees and partners). Researchers were recently awarded a large Welcome Affordable Technologies for India grant to develop an innovative low-cost mobile phone application to manage diabetes, hypertension, depression and harmful alcohol use.

#### Research to improve treatment of leprosy

Diana Lakshmi has worked for over 20 years in partnership with Lepra India, the Bonding Project and the UN/IHMC, to research and improve the treatment of leprosy, treatment damage and reactions. The team is currently studying factors and mechanisms of neuropathic pain.

#### Task sharing for mental health

School researchers led by Maya Patel, working with Sangath and other partners in Goa, have found that lay health workers, with appropriate training and supervision, can effectively treat anxiety and depression in primary care settings. They are now extending this model to other areas and countries where it has been found that lay health workers, with appropriate training and supervision, can effectively treat anxiety and depression in primary care settings.

#### Effective HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment

School researchers are working with partners in Karnataka’s Health Promotion Project (KPHP) and the Bhopal Research Institute to monitor and evaluate the impact and cost-effectiveness of the Karnataka AIDS Initiatives, launched in 1997 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. School researchers are also working closely with the National AIDS Research Institute in Pune to find the most effective treatment for people with HIV in resource-poor areas of India, part of the International Evidence for Action on HIV Treatment and Care Systems Collaboration.

#### Improving infant nutrition & health

Providing food supplements to undernourished pregnant women and nursing mothers to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and Leishmaniasis. School researchers are working with partners in the Leishmaniasis project, funded by the European Community to develop an effective vaccine.

#### Yoga and health

School researchers have found that yoga effectively reduces anxiety and depression in patients, and are now working with partners to discover what works, why and how to improve mental health and quality of life in India and the UK.

#### Health systems responding to change

School researchers Lucy Lennon and Sara Hennings are working with the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai on the Department for International Development-funded Resilient and Responsive Health Systems (R4HS) research programme evaluating health policy and systems, human resources and health care financing.

#### Towards a DNA vaccine for leishmaniasis

Leishmaniasis is caused by a parasite transmitted to humans by sand flies. It is endemic in India, which accounts for around 80% of the world’s cases. School researchers have been studying the Leishmania parasite for over 30 years. They are currently working with the Indian Council of Medical Research and Aravind Eye Care, Tamil Nadu, with Aravind Eye Care, Tamil Nadu, to develop a LeishDNA vaccine, funded by the European Community to develop an effective vaccine.

#### How sanitation reduces diarrhoea and worm infections

School researchers Thomas Clasen and Sophie Boisson are working with the Indian Institute of Tropical Diseases in the Indian Institute of Tropical Diseases (IITD) and School researchers are working with partners in rural sanitation and hygiene in India.

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**Non-communicable diseases: the emerging epidemic**

**Diseases such as cancers, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and mental illness are reaching epidemic levels worldwide, and have become a major cause of death across India.**

In 2012, the School established the Centre for Global Non-Communicable Diseases as a multi-disciplinary collaborative network. In India, the centre builds on the work of Shah Ebrahim (pictured left), Sanjay Kinra and colleagues over many years with a range of partners, including the Public Health Building of India, Centre for Chronic Disease Control, and the South Asia Network for Chronic Disease. Supported by a Wellcome Trust Strategic award for research and capacity building, this has led to a new integrated system for the prevention and care of chronic diseases. The School is also active in health services research and the provision of universal access to care.

**Migration, obesity and diabetes**

What are the factors behind India’s growing obesity and diabetes epidemic? The Indian Migration Study compares the health of migrant urban factory workers with their siblings in rural areas, revealing how migrant workers are at risk, and revealing patterns of diabetes and other lifestyle-related diseases.

**Mental disorders, ranging from alcoholism through depression to dementia, are rapidly increasing globally, yet receive less than 1% of health funding. In India, suicide is now one of the main causes of death among young men and women.**

Vikram Patel, Professor of International Mental Health and Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow, is a founder of Sangath, a pioneering health NGO in Goa. He is leading research, capacity development and policy on these critical issues, and helping to develop the government of India’s District Mental Health Programme and Mental Health Policy. He also leads the Public Health Foundation of India’s Centre for Mental Health.

He works on a wide range of partnership projects aimed at improving mental health care in the region including the Wellcome Trust funded PREMIUM programme, the National Institute for Mental Health funded South Asia hub for advocacy, research and education on mental health (SHARE), and the UK funded Programme for Implementing Mental Health Care (PRIME) in five countries in Africa and South Asia.
Support our work in India

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine’s work with numerous partners in India is only possible thanks to the generous support of funders who share our commitment to improving health in this fast-growing country. These include the Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Department for International Development, and the US National Institutes of Health, all of which have been instrumental in launching urgent projects.

But these projects need additional funding to ensure research discoveries are put to practical use and fledgling programmes grow and become self-sustaining.

Gifts from individuals and institutions make all the difference in making sure good ideas become good policy and practice. We hope you will join us in ensuring a healthy future for India.

Group activities help young people build nurturing relationships

Sangath is a non-governmental non-profit organisation based in Goa, which focuses on child development, adolescent and youth health, and mental health. Co-founded by Vikram Patel, Professor of International Mental Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Sangath is one of many partners the School works with across India.

For more information about supporting our work, please contact:

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