

Teamwork and partnership

An update on activities from our **Publishing Partners**



ONLINE
PROGRAMMES

Making a difference

Putting theory into practice—that's the focus of the University of Liverpool's fully online Master of Public Health (MPH) programme. Connecting working professionals from all over the world, the programme takes a practical approach from day one.

"One of the important things we start from the very beginning, from the very first introductory module to public health, is to make sure that people are taking away some of the theory and the practical tools and are applying them to their own setting," said Sue Jones, Academic Director for the University of Liverpool online Health and Psychology programmes.

Students are encouraged to exchange best practice, try out different approaches in their own work and share their real-world experiences. The international nature of the programme makes this process all the more rewarding. "One of the exciting things about our Master of Public Health is the variety of students that come to learn within the online classroom," said Sue.

Enhanced research skills are one of the practical benefits that students gain from the MPH programme. "Going out, finding data about the country or community that they're working in, looking at that, applying it, sharing it with other people—that's a very practical skill. Employers that we worked with in designing the Masters in Public Health felt that it was really very important."

It's an approach that clearly works. "It made all the difference to me... It gave me a fresh perspective," said Yashua Hamza, an online MPH graduate and Nigerian paediatrician.

Online MPH graduate Dr Ibrahim Bello, who works in Ife, Nigeria, has also been putting his MPH learning to good use in establishing malaria eradication programmes.

To learn more about the programme and watch a video of Dr Bello, please visit:

<http://www.university-liverpool-online.com/programmes/health/master-of-public-health/outline>



GlaxoSmithKline

GSK steps up its collaboration in Africa

GSK has announced a series of new investments in sub-Saharan Africa designed to address pressing health needs and contribute to long-term business growth. Speaking at the 5th EU-Africa Business Forum in Brussels, GSK CEO Sir Andrew Witty set out the company's intent to partner with governments of African countries to help stimulate more research into chronic diseases, increase capacity by localising medicines supply and strengthen healthcare infrastructure.

This will see GSK make targeted investments of up to

£130 million in Africa over the next five years, creating at least 500 jobs and contributing to the development of home-grown capabilities and skills in Africa. This builds on GSK's existing business base in sub-Saharan Africa, which currently employs around 1,500 people in over 40 countries, including at three existing local manufacturing sites in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

The company will invest £25 million to create the world's first R&D Open Lab for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Africa. This builds on the success of GSK's Open Lab in Tres Cantos, Spain which gives independent researchers access to GSK facilities, resources and knowledge to help them advance their own research projects into diseases of the developing world such as malaria, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis.

The new R&D Open Lab for NCDs in Africa will see GSK scientists collaborate with research and scientific centres across Africa from its hub at GSK's Stevenage R&D facility in the UK to conduct high quality epidemiological, genetic and interventional research to increase understanding of NCDs in Africa. An independent governing board of leading scientists and clinicians will oversee the implementation of NCD research projects within a dynamic and networked open innovation environment.

The open lab aims to improve understanding of NCD variations seen in the Africa setting, which could include for example the apparent higher prevalence of treatment-resistant hypertension and aggressive breast cancers in younger women. It is hoped that these insights will inform prevention and treatment strategies and will enable researchers across academia and industry to discover and develop new medicines to address the specific needs of African patients.

The open lab will directly support the training and education of African scientific researchers who will participate in a portfolio of projects, building local expertise, creating a new generation of African NCD experts while instilling a deep vein of 'African thinking' within GSK's own R&D organisation.

Forming innovative partnerships to transform medicines supply in Africa

Over the next five years, GSK will look to partner with a number of African countries to develop domestic manufacturing capacity and capability. This will see GSK invest up to £100m to expand its existing manufacturing capability in Nigeria and Kenya and build up to five new factories in Africa. The company is currently reviewing possible locations in countries including Rwanda, Ghana and Ethiopia and the selected sites will be announced in due course and subject to Government agreement. To support the scale-up of domestic manufacturing and supply, GSK will establish up to 25 academic Chairs at local African universities in related areas such as pharmaceutical sciences, public health, engineering and logistics.