

A flush of success

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



A point-of-care blood test? Impossible, they said.

Over 30 years ago, two men challenged the naysayers and said, 'It must be possible.' To do this easier. To do this better. To do this right. And that conviction has been the driving force behind HemoCue ever since.

They saw, of course, that overcoming these problems would not only make things easier and quicker for doctors, nurses, and labs, but could also save lives. There was no doubt. It had to be done. And it had to be done right. It took time and involved much effort. After all, they were working with an exact science inside a microworld. One that had to be repeatable, yielding the same value - the right value - time after time. It was difficult and often frustrating. Seemingly at every turn, they were told, 'It's impossible.'

Yet, they never gave up. Never compromised. And achieved something remarkable – a point-of-care blood test with tolerances never before thought possible, let alone repeatable with accuracy in tens of millions of cuvettes per year.

And that was only the beginning. Their problem-solving focus and drive has been instilled in the hearts and minds of everyone in the HemoCue family since then. With a positive, open-minded atmosphere, HemoCue continues to foster a belief in possibilities and a dedication to getting it right. Because every detail matters for our customers.

Today, the impossible has become the standard. In fact, four HemoCue tests are performed each second worldwide. That means by the time you finish reading this, another 330 people will have the answers they need at the point of care.

Yet, we won't rest. We always have another challenge in our sights. And we say, as they did, 'It must be possible.' Because when it comes to caring for people, we refuse to compromise.



Research and innovation in public health

Carrying on the University of Liverpool's long tradition in public health research, two Master of Public Health (MPH) graduates successfully presented their research at the prestigious 2012 annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in San Francisco.

Elizabeth Isimhen Williams and Mohammed Zurga, originally from Nigeria and Ethiopia respectively, both gained their masters degrees through 100% online study with the University. The research they presented was derived from the work they each did for their MPH dissertation.

Presenting at the prestigious conference was 'a very positive, unexpected reward,' said Elizabeth

who moved to the USA and is currently a nutrition programme manager at Helen Keller International in Bangladesh.

For her MPH dissertation, Elizabeth explored the effects of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) on beneficiaries' determinants of health in a semi-urban community in Gaza province Mozambique.

'I chose the topic because it was related to my work and I had always been intrigued by the possible effects PEPFAR was having on factors which determine participants' long-term health. It was also a topic on which very little or no research had been carried out,' said Elizabeth.

To read more about Elizabeth and Mohammed, visit the Research with Impact section on <http://www.liverpool-degrees.com/africahealth>

ClickClinica app for medical professionals

Scientists at the University of Liverpool have developed a free iPhone application to help health authorities monitor cases of major infectious diseases. ClickClinica allows researchers to track disease across the globe and collect valuable data on clinical practice.

Doctors with a meningitis patient, for example, can open the app to read guidelines on how to best manage the patient, such as which antibiotics to prescribe. The app simultaneously sends the doctor's grade, speciality, and hospital location to a central database.

Medical professionals can download the app to their iPhones by searching for ClickClinica.



Development of Inj AS for severe malaria

MMV is delighted to announce that a proposal from an MMV-led consortium has been accepted by UNITAID, making up to US\$34 million available to scale-up the use of injectable artesunate (Inj AS) for severe malaria in targeted malaria-endemic countries. The Consortium includes the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the Malaria Consortium, and the Partnership for Supply Chain Management. The UNITAID funding will not only allow the Consortium to accelerate the adoption of Inj AS, but also expand access and prepare healthcare workers to quickly integrate this drug into their standard of care. The project will also contribute towards the creation of a sustainable market for the medicine by stimulating supplier demand and pursuing favourable terms for the drug's pricing.

The funding will also accelerate the development of a WHO-prequalified intrarectal artesunate for pre-referral management of patients with severe malaria. The initial phase of development, including large-scale clinical studies, was conducted by WHO-TDR (tropical disease research). MMV hopes to build upon TDR's work to bring the drug through the approval process and to patients.

Severe malaria impacts an estimated 8.0 million people per year claiming more than 655 000 lives – mostly those of children in sub-Saharan Africa. It results from inadequately treated uncomplicated malaria and can quickly lead to death. In the event that recommended parenteral (injected) treatment options are not readily available, the administration of rectal artesunate (in suppository form) can buy critical time.

This has been supported by findings from a pioneering placebo-controlled trial conducted by WHO-TDR involving over 17 000 patients in Bangladesh, Ghana, and Tanzania. The trial demonstrated that ‘if patients with severe malaria cannot be treated orally and access to injections will take several hours, a single inexpensive artesunate suppository at the time of referral substantially reduces the risk of death or permanent disability.’¹

Moving forward, MMV will work with TDR and pharmaceutical partners to establish a manufacturing solution for large-scale production of intrarectal artesunate to satisfy Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements and be eligible for review by the WHO Prequalification programme and regulatory authorities.

MMV acknowledges the critical work of TDR in advancing intrarectal artesunate and looks forward to partnering with them on the development of a prequalified version of this treatment.



Gulf Medical University, Ajman, U.A.E.

A Global Leader in the field of medical education, research and healthcare.

The Gulf Medical University at Ajman in the United Arab Emirates is in the 15th year of its existence. Since its inception the university has excelled in leaps and bounds in the field of medical education, research, and healthcare.

Gulf Medical University, promoted by the Thumbay Group and headed by its Founder President, Mr Thumbay Moideen, is fully recognised as an institution of excellence imparting higher education by the Ministry of Higher Education, U.A.E. offering high quality healthcare and training. Bachelor and Master degrees and Residency Programmes in the fields of medicine include dentistry, pharmaceutical sciences, and physical therapy. The University has an infrastructure and facilities on a par with some of the established medical schools in the world.

Gulf Medical University is among the few universities in the world to have successfully implemented the organ system-based curriculum for its medicine programme. It has started a successful and unique summer training programme which enables senior



clinical students to get clinical exposure and internship in institutions around the globe. It has established a new Center for Continuing Education and Community Outreach offering 70 non-degree programmes (part-time, full-time and a few online), all of which are less than 1-year duration and there are 25 new short-term courses.

Gulf Medical University has a student cohort from 67 nationalities, the majority of whom are locals and Arabs from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); our medical professionals and staff are from 22 countries. Patients from over 175 nationalities receive treatment at the GMC Hospitals and Research Centre – a constituent private teaching university hospital with a capacity of 250 beds housed with ultra modern facilities.

The Gulf Medical University and GMC Hospitals is now undergoing a massive expansion phase and plans to open branches are nearing completion in Malaysia, South Africa, and Mauritius. The Gulf Medical University and Hospital is also looking to establish branches in Nigeria, Egypt, Syria, Iran, and India.

For more information on the Thumbay Group – Gulf Medical University and GMC Hospitals – please visit our websites at <http://www.gmu.ac.ae/> and <http://www.gmhospital.com/>.



Crown Agents awarded two new multi-donor-supported health projects.

Crown Agents, in consortium with the health consultancy firm HERA, was contracted by UNICEF in November 2012 to support the revitalisation of the Health Services Fund in Zimbabwe. As part of the multi-donor Health Transition Fund (HTF), the project will last for 28 months, providing regular funding to health facilities to meet non-salary recurrent costs, including utilities, fuel and outreach. The project is designed to contribute to the overall purpose of the HTF: ‘to improve maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) by strengthening health systems and scaling-up the implementation of high impact MNCH interventions through support to the health sector.’ Key services under the contract include:

- Fund management, including holding and disbursing HSF funds to individual facility accounts and undertaking systematic, sampled, independent verifications and financial assurance, through a team of data collection officers and M&E Coordinators.
- Targeted technical assistance and capacity building, including financial management, potential alignment with other results-based financing programmes, HSF expenditure analysis, and supportive supervision.

Crown Agents has also recently been awarded a contract by DFID to support the Joint Donor Technical Assistance Fund in Bangladesh. The objective of the fund is to deliver timely and cost-effective technical assistance to support the implementation of the national health sector programme in Bangladesh. It aims to enhance delivery of national health plans through more harmonised, higher quality, better planned, demand driven technical assistance in the health sector. Crown Agents will provide financial and contract management services, monitoring of performance and results, and secretariat and logistical support to this programme over 4 years.