

New name, gold-standard reputation

We welcome Siemens, one of the giants of the healthcare industry as a new **Publishing Partner**. Plus scholarships in Ethiopia and a huge vaccination development in Ghana

SIEMENS The **Siemens Healthcare Sector** is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, medical information technology, and hearing aids. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis, and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimising clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better, and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 51 000 employees worldwide and operates around the world. In fiscal year 2011 (to September 30), the Sector posted revenue of US\$16.5 billion and profit of around US\$1.7 billion

It is the level of support that underpins the company's commitment to advancing transformation, which in turn will present all with renewed opportunities for growth. Since Siemens first established itself in Africa over a century ago, its relationship has been characterised by growth. Nowhere is this more visible than in the opening of local and regional offices, branches, and facilities; in the number of people it employs, in the value of its company assets; and in the substantial contribution it continues to make to the development of the entire region.



The University of Liverpool has a long tradition of promoting public health through practice and re-

search. In April, three African health professionals who recently graduated from the University's online Master of Public Health (MPH) programme were invited to continue that tradition by presenting their research findings to the prestigious World Congress on Public Health in Ethiopia.

For the three graduates – all professionals working in their field – this is important recognition of their research. The three University of Liverpool graduates represented at this meeting were:-

- Innocent Ibegbunam, Associate Director, HIV/AIDS, Supply Chain Management System (SCMS), John Snow Inc., Nigeria, presenting '*Health commodities management system: Priorities and Challenges*'. Co-author Deborah McGill DrPH, University of Liverpool, MPH Online Programme, Liverpool UK.
- Emily Moonze, Zambia Integrated Systems Strengthening Programme (ZISSP), Lusaka, Zambia, presenting '*Factors associated with the implementation of a health services planning toolkit: a qualitative study of two districts in Zambia, central Africa*'. Co-author Deborah McGill DrPH
- Rose Apondi, Behavioral Scientist at the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention in Uganda, presenting '*HIV Knowledge is Associated with Risky Sexual Behavior: An Evaluation Study in Uganda*'. Co-authors Deborah McGill DrPH, John Ssenkusu,¹ Wilford Kirungi,² and Frank Kaharuza.¹

The three health professionals graduated from the University of Liverpool after studying the general track of the online MPH programme. The programme also has specialisations in epidemiology, international public health, and management of health systems.

'All three students showed perseverance and a commitment to excellence in their work,' said Deborah McGill, Lead Faculty, Research Support, for the online MPH. 'Their success illustrates that online studies can help students fulfill their goal for higher education while juggling work and home life. The quality of these presentations, which were based on their MPH research dissertations, is on par with any traditional university setting and contributes to our understanding of public health.'



GSK has launched its Rotarix vaccine into Ghana which becomes the first country to simultaneously introduce two new vaccines through funding from the GAVI Alliance. The agreement has been

finalised to supply up to 132 million doses of Rotarix at an affordable price over 5 years. GSK will now begin supplying the vaccine through UNICEF to countries in Africa enabling millions of children in the world's poorest countries to receive vaccination against rotavirus diarrhoeal disease.

Rotavirus-related diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of death in children under 5 worldwide. It kills almost half a million children each year and leads to hospitalisation of around 2 million more. While rotavirus infects virtually every child within the first 5 years of life, it is far less deadly in more developed countries, where hospitalisation and intravenous rehydration are readily available, and where vaccination is becoming more common. In developing countries, such as Ghana, the picture is very different and children die unnecessarily.

Christophe Weber, President of GSK Biologicals said, 'The introduction of an additional life-saving vaccine funded by the GAVI Alliance can help protect millions of children from yet another deadly infectious disease, hopefully giving them a healthier start to life. At GSK, we are determined to play our part in accelerating access to new medicines and vaccines to help improve the health and well-being of people around the world. We are proud to contribute to the efforts being made to protect children in Africa to reduce death and ill health from diarrhoea.'