

# informing the health links network

e-bulletin No 17 - March 2009

Dear Friend

Welcome to THET's e-bulletin which includes news and information relevant to Health Links and THET activities. The e-bulletin will be circulated every month.

If you have any materials or news which you would like to publicise, please send the information to the editor of this e-bulletin, Sharon Horder, [sharon@thet.org](mailto:sharon@thet.org). Conference and workshop reviews are also welcome. Note that we are unable to distribute attachments so please ensure that your item can be pasted into an e-mail message.

Feel free to forward this e-bulletin to anyone who might be interested.

---

## FUNDING AND COMPETITIONS

**The Barbers' Company Presentation Prize in Disaster & Developing World Surgery** – Hosted by St George's Centre for Trauma, Conflict and Catastrophe, this prize is open to all undergraduates registered at UK medical schools in all years of study. Presentations must relate to an aspect of surgery in disasters anywhere in the world or surgery in a developing world context. This may include case studies from surgical electives, examinations of the surgical response to conflict, terrorism or disasters at home or abroad, considerations of disaster response planning or surgical education.

Abstracts of no more than 150 words should be submitted to Mrs Yvonne Forde ([yforde@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:yforde@sgul.ac.uk)) on or before 19 April 2009. The 5 best abstract submissions will be notified by 29 April and invited to present at St George's, University of London on 11 May 2009.

**Charity Flowers Direct** – Spoil your mum on Mother's Day (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March) by sending her flowers from Charity Flowers' new Spring brochure. Charity Flowers will give 15% of the total retail price of each order for flowers to THET. Don't forget to quote the Charity Source Code "THET" when you order. To find out more about this great scheme click on the link below.

[http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php#page/index/Charity\\_Flowers.html](http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php#page/index/Charity_Flowers.html)

**Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, Overseas Surgical Fellowships 2009** – These fellowships are in partnership with the British Journal of Surgery Society Limited, and aim to sponsor surgeons who wish to work in a developing country (primarily in the least developed countries), on a short term basis. The fellowships are to provide training and support for overseas medical schools in the development of their postgraduate training programmes, and through this, establishing links with those centres. Please contact Bhavnita Borkhatria at [Bhavnita@asgbi.org.uk](mailto:Bhavnita@asgbi.org.uk) for further information or visit their website.

[http://asgbi.org.uk/en/awards\\_fellowships/overseas\\_surgical\\_fellowship.cfm](http://asgbi.org.uk/en/awards_fellowships/overseas_surgical_fellowship.cfm)

## NEWS

**'Healthcare Information for All by 2015' 2009 Challenge** - In February the global campaign 'Healthcare Information for All by 2015' (HIFA2015) announced its Annual Challenge for 2009: addressing the information needs of nurses and

midwives in low-income settings. The 2009 Challenge will bring together thousands of nurses, midwives, publishers and librarians to work out ways to improve the quality and availability of information for nurses and midwives in developing countries. Their common goal is: by 2015, every nurse and midwife will have access to the information they need to learn, to diagnose, to provide appropriate care and treatment and to save lives. To learn more about the challenge and its supporters, visit the link below.

<http://www.hifa2015.org/2009-challenge/>

**Blind Optimism: Challenging the myths about private health care in poor countries** – A new report from Oxfam argues that the realization of the right to health for millions of people in poor countries depends upon a massive increase in health services to achieve universal and equitable access. Oxfam argues that governments and rich country donors must strengthen state capacities to regulate and focus on the rapid expansion of free publicly provided health care. To read the full report and the recommendations it makes, visit the Oxfam website.

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/health/bp125\\_blind\\_optimism.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/health/bp125_blind_optimism.html)

**Implementing Pro Equity Health Policies** – In its latest edition of *Health Systems Reporter*, Eldis explores the widespread evidence of major gaps between health policies as laid down on paper by governments or ministries of health and their implementation in practice. It argues that as a result, newly proposed and effective health interventions may fail to attain high coverage levels and fulfill their potential to reduce mortality and morbidity when implemented. The full feature is available in the February Edition of *Health Systems Reporter*.

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/health-systems/health-systems-reporter>

**Action for Global Health** - Action for Global Health is a cross-Europe network of NGOs and charities, calling for Europe to act now to enable developing countries to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The network is co-coordinated by ActionAid International, and their advocacy work in Brussels is coordinated by their Brussels partners, the European Public Health Association, the Stop AIDS Alliance and Plan International. In the UK, Action for Global Health is comprised of 3 UK-based international organisations: the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, TB Alert and Interact Worldwide. Visit the website to see their latest news and to sign up for regular news updates.

<http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/>

**The International Committee of the Institute of Health Management**, headed by Peter Ramrayka, is to take a particular interest in IHM's contribution to developing countries. If any Link would like to advertise a requirement for a manager to participate in Links work, please contact Peter by email and he will be happy to circulate it to IHM networks. You can contact Peter direct at [Peter.Ramrayka@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Peter.Ramrayka@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk). THET would like to apologise for printing an incorrect email address in the last edition of the e-bulletin.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THET International Health Links Conference, Cardiff University, Wales** – Book now to attend THET's Conference on Thursday 2nd April! The Conference will be a great opportunity to debate with top level speakers, network and learn with Links participants from across the UK and to help shape the Department of Health's New Framework of Guidance on involvement in international development. There will also be the chance to hear from Roda Ali, who is the head of a Nurse Tutor Training Course in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The registration fee for the day is £20.00, and you can find further details and download a copy of the booking form on our website.

**THET Report on Technical Assistance: Recent debate, important issues, and the role of THET** – On March 18<sup>th</sup> at a seminar to be jointly hosted by THET and the Development Studies Association in the House of Lords, THET will be

launching a new report on Technical Assistance. This report investigates current debate about the topic and looks at how it is relevant to the work of THET and Health Links. The report begins with a handy overview of the history of TA, followed by 11 brief sections that cover key issues in current TA discussion. Researched and written by former THET intern, Brede Eschliman, the Report will be available to download from our website at [www.thet.org.uk](http://www.thet.org.uk) from 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**The ASICS British 10k London Run** – It's that time of year again! Take part in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual British 10k London Run and **Get Fit for Healthcare!** Join Team THET and 35,000 other runners on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009 for a 10k run through the heart of the capital. It is THET's 5<sup>th</sup> year taking part and we have 10 more places available, so register now. For more information visit our website.

[www.thet.org.uk](http://www.thet.org.uk)

**Mental Health Links Meeting** – On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 11am-3pm a meeting for Health Links involved in Mental Health work will take place at the RSM. The meeting will allow different Links to gain an understanding of each others Mental Health programmes, and will promote discussion and the sharing of ideas and experiences arising from Mental Health Links work in various different countries. If you would like to find out more, please contact Pete Mills - [pete@thet.org](mailto:pete@thet.org).

**Visiting Delegation from Zambia** - A delegation from the Zambia Ministry of Health plus the directors of several hospitals will be in London from April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup>. The purpose will be to share experiences, address challenges and to encourage greater coordination. A representative from the Ministry of Health will also speak about the Ministry's priorities for Links in Zambia.

**THET/Royal College of Nursing Conference** – This will be taking place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the RCN and will be about the particular role and challenges of the nursing profession as part of the Links movement. Further information about the agenda for the conference will be available soon, but please put this date in your diary now!

**Royal Society of Medicine's Annual Medicine Overseas Conference** - This event at the RSM on 17 April 2009 puts those doctors, surgeons and students with an interest in humanitarian medicine overseas in touch with those organisations which will train, educate and employ them for work in the field. Featuring speakers from various fields and organisations the day provides an invaluable insight into how to get involved in this exciting field of work. See the RSM website for details.

<http://www.rsm.ac.uk/academ/ccg102.php>

International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) Training Programme – Details of INTRAC's training courses from March to July 2009 have now been published. Full details are available through the following link.

<http://www.intrac.org/pages/training.html>

## GOOD PRACTICE

**THET Toolkit on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for Health Links** - This is the first Toolkit on M&E written specifically for Health Links. The easy to use guide covers issues such as planning and designing M&E, practical tools for data collection, tips on analysis of data and report writing, and following up on evaluations. The Toolkit is designed to be of value both to Links that are new to M&E and to those with more experienced in this area. Until the end of March, THET registered Health Links can purchase one copy of the Toolkit and get a second copy free for their Health Link partner.

For more information please check out THET's website.

<http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php?/page/index/guidance.html>

**Coming Soon: Links Manual Revised Edition** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Links Manual, full of practical advice and guidance for both UK and overseas Links partners, is due to be published in the coming weeks. Further information about how to obtain your copy will be given on our website and through this e-bulletin following publication – watch this space!

**'Taking Photographs for Links: Some Ethical Considerations'** – This is THET's latest set of guidelines for Links, and it is now available on our website. In these guidelines, THET volunteer Harriet Hall looks at some of the ethical considerations that need to be made when planning to take photographs of your Links programmes. View the guidelines on the webpage below.

<http://www.thet.org.uk/index.php#page/index/guidance.html>

**Strategies for Hope (SFH) Trust** - The Strategies for Hope Trust produces books, films and training manuals on community-based approaches to HIV, gender and related issues, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. These are designed to promote informed, appropriate, effective, community-based approaches to the HIV epidemic, gender and sexual health. SFH materials can be ordered from Teaching-aids at Low Cost (TALC) either online ([www.talcuk.org](http://www.talcuk.org)) or by email ([info@talcuk.org](mailto:info@talcuk.org)). More information about the range of publications available can be found on the SFH website.

<http://www.stratshope.org/>

## CHANGES AT THET

Health Links Administrator **Aisha Latif** left THET last week, and on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March we will say goodbye to **Kemi Tesfazghi**, West Africa Programme Coordinator. We would like to thank Aisha and Kemi for all of their hard work during their time at THET and wish them both the very best in their future roles. We are pleased to welcome two new Fundraising Interns who have joined the THET office this week.

## WORKING OVERSEAS / VACANCIES

We have received several enquiries about the work of **Health Links in Kenya**, and would like to find out more about what type of work is going on and whereabouts it is taking place. If you are involved in Health Links work in Kenya, or are an individual who regularly volunteers at a public health institution in Kenya, and would like to tell us more about what you are doing, please contact Karen Peachey at [Karen@thet.org](mailto:Karen@thet.org).

The Edna Adan Maternity and Teaching Hospital in Hargeisa, Somaliland is currently advertising for a **Gynaecologist/Obstetrician** to join their staff team. Applicants must have a degree in Medicine from a recognized Medical School/University, specialization in Gynaecology and Obstetrics and at least 5 years post-specialization experience. Further information can be found on the Hospital website ([www.ednahospital.org](http://www.ednahospital.org)) and at the link below.

<http://somalilandhealth.blogspot.com/2009/02/vacancy-announcement-for-medical-doctor.html>

**The Royal College of Physicians** are seeking to recruit **International Associate Directors** to continue to develop the College's work on Africa and Global Health. The deadline for applications is 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Please click on the link below to find out more.

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/international/Pages/international.aspx>