

Informing the Health Links Network

e-bulletin No 18 - April 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. 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

Scottish Government Funding for International Development - Guidance for all Scottish Government funded projects is available on <http://www.scotland.gov.uk>. You can also find more information about policy, programmes and funding guidance through the links below.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/internationaldevelopment/internationaldevelopmentp>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/internationaldevelopment/idffundingguidance>

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

NEWS

THET's National Conference for Health Links 2009, Cardiff University, Wales – 121 delegates joined THET in Cardiff for an excellent day of workshops, presentation and plenary sessions on information regarding Health Links in the UK. Many thanks to Roda Ali from the Institute of Health Sciences, Hargeisa, Somaliland; Tony Jewell, Chief Medical Officer, Wales and all other speakers on the day for their contributions. The full conference report will be available in a few weeks and can be viewed from our website www.thet.org.uk.

THET Report on Technical Assistance: Recent debate, important issues, and the role of THET – On 18th March at a seminar jointly hosted by THET and the Development Studies Association in the House of Lords, THET launched 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. Researched and written by former THET intern, Brede Eschliman, the Report is now available to download from our website at www.thet.org.uk

DFID White Paper Consultation – DFID is publishing a new White Paper on International Development in June 2009, and has launched a public consultation process running from 5th March and 27th May 2009. The White Paper will focus on four key themes - global economic growth, climate change, fragile and conflict affected countries and international institutional reform. THET will be contributing to the consultation process as a member of BOND network, and would like to encourage Links to get involved in the process too. More information on how you can do so, along with the consultation document and the consultation questions, is available through the BOND website.

<http://www.bond.org.uk/pages/white-paper-consultation.html>

Developing Mental Health Services in Ghana - The Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust led 'Kintampo Project' - Developing Mental Health Services in Ghana is well on the way to starting 2 new mental health training programmes in 2010 at Kintampo Rural Health Training School (KRHTS), Ghana. Tutors and the Director of KRHTS spent 4 weeks in Hampshire in January working on the curricula which will be circulated for first public consultation in spring 2009. The programmes will produce practitioners with 1 - 2 years dedicated mental health training to support the very depleted psychiatric workforce in the country. You can read more about the work on their website.

www.thekintampoproject.org.

'Healthcare Information for All by 2015' 2009 Challenge - 'Healthcare Information for All by 2015' (HIFA2015) has 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, visit the link below.

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

Tribal Newchurch - THET and VSO are working together with consultants Tribal Newchurch over the next few months on the Department of Health contract to revise the DH's official Framework of guidance to the UK health sector on getting involved in international development. This is a strategic opportunity to make sure the guidance is as encouraging as possible to Links. This was a major topic for discussion at THET's National Links Conference in Cardiff on 2nd April. If you would like to have a copy of the highlights of that discussion and contribute your own views on what the Framework needs to contain, please contact Sharon Horder at sharon@thet.org.

Scholarships for MSc International Primary Health Care – The University of London has announced that the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission have agreed to sponsor 10 students from developing Commonwealth Nations to study its long distance learning MSc in Public Health. The deadline for applications is 30th April and there's a list of priority countries on the website. Full more details on how to apply, click on the following link

<http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/iphc/scholarships/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get Fit for Healthcare! The ASICS British 10k London Run – Places still available – register now!!

Join Team THET and 35,000 other runners on Sunday 12th July for a 10k run through the heart of the capital for the 9th Annual British 10k London Run. For more information visit our website www.thet.org.uk

THET/Royal College of Nursing Conference – This will be taking place on Friday 17th 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>

Infectious Diseases Symposium – The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is holding this symposium on Friday 12 June at the Queen Mother Conference Centre. The event has been designed to provide information and stimulate discussion about a diverse range of areas that are of current interest in infectious diseases.

For more information on this event go to the following link:

<http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/education/events/infect-dis-jun-09.php>

GOOD PRACTICE

Coming Soon!: Links Manual Revised Edition – The 2nd 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!

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 available to buy from our online distributors CPI Anthony Rowe at www.cpibookdelivery.com, or can be downloaded in PDF format from our website www.thet.org.uk

‘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 Jones looks at some of the 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>

Risk and Security Guidelines for UK Links – THET has recently produced guidelines to help Links effectively address the issues of security, risk and liability related to the work that they do. The guidelines cover a broad range of topics from risk assessments and legal issues through to security planning and cultural differences and can now be downloaded from www.thet.org.uk

Travel Advice for Links – If you have an overseas trip coming up, we would encourage you to look at the advice on the website of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before you leave to ensure you are prepared for any eventuality. In particular, “LOCATE” is an FCO travel service which allows you to register your details with the FCO when you travel - <https://www.locate.fco.gov.uk/locateportal/>. The following travel advice

website is also recommended by the FCO and has lots of useful resources including special travel advice website for health professionals and a travel advice line:

<http://www.nathnac.org/pro/index.htm>

New BMA guidance on working in developing in countries - On Monday 23 March, the BMA launched new guidance for doctors wanting to work in developing countries. 'Broadening your horizons: a guide to taking time out and work and train in developing countries' outlines national policies as well as examples of best practice and is aimed at both doctors and those in medical education and employment. This document supports doctors at all stages of their careers to take time to work in developing countries. It includes information on issues such as GMC registration, revalidation, pensions and recognition of training. The guidance is available on the BMA website at the link below, and for further information you can contact Olivia Roberts in the BMA International Department (oroberts@bma.org.uk).

http://www.bma.org.uk/careers/working_abroad/broadeningyourhorizons.jsp

Learning from Malawi – *Human Resources for Health* Journal has recently published an article by Ron and Jemma Neville entitled 'What can health care professionals in the United Kingdom learn from Malawi?' Following a fact-finding visit to Malawi, the authors encourage debate and discussion on re-thinking relationships with colleagues in other health care environments and consider how we can work together on a theme of two-way shared learning rather than one-way aid. The full article is available through the link below.

<http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/7/1/26>

CHANGES AT THET

Most of you will already know that Andrew Purkis is leaving us this Easter. He has made an outstanding contribution to THET over the last three and a half years and will be greatly missed. The Trustee Board has asked Karen Peachey, International Director, to act as Chief Executive until a replacement found. Genevieve Hutchinson has joined the international team for three months, to be deployed flexibly on a succession of priority tasks, and Amy Cudmore is assisting on various administrative tasks (such as the Cardiff conference).

WORKING OVERSEAS / VACANCIES

International Associate Directors - 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 20th April 2009. Please click on the link below to find out more.

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

National Institute for Occupational Health, Johannesburg - The NIOH urgently seeks a specialist anatomical pathologist that is willing to work in SA for a year or more (long term), and has an interest in pulmonary pathology (or is, at least, willing to learn). For more information on this vacancy, please contact NIOH through their website.

www.nioh.ac.za.

Health Links in Kenya - 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.