

Spotlight

The NDM Newsletter

Issue 06: July 2015

Spotlight

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Spotlight*, the newsletter for NDM staff and students. We publish news items and updates from the Department four times a year.

If you have any comments or news items for the newsletter, please get in touch at public@ndm.ox.ac.uk.

2015 Staff and Student Survey

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the 2015 staff and student survey, which received a fantastic 725 responses.

We value your continued engagement with the survey process, which provides us with essential information on which to base Departmental changes. The information gathered is vital in highlighting where positive changes have been made, the strengths of our Department, and in identifying areas that require improvement. The results of the survey will underpin our decisions on any new and existing initiatives.

For example, 78% of respondents had benefitted from their personal development review, and all employees should have an annual personal development review meeting.

As with the 2013 survey, we will publish the results of the 2015 survey on the NDM website, and on table-top displays throughout NDM. An email will notify you of when the results are available to view.

Preparing for Disaster



The Collaborating Centre for Oxford University and CUHK for Disaster and Medical Humanitarian Relief ([CCOUC](#)) aims to build resilience within disaster-affected communities from the bottom up. In June this year, CCOUC and NDM's Professor Emily Chan travelled to some of the worst-hit quake regions in Nepal, to find out what local communities needed from humanitarian relief agencies – and what they can do to prepare for the next big quake.

'Many relief agencies have left at this point, having dealt with the many deaths that a major disaster creates. We instead concentrate on empowering communities who are affected by the disaster, to build emergency health risk resilience', said Professor Chan.

The CCOUC's unique multidisciplinary public health team aims to gather evidence from such field trips to provide evidence-based practical guidelines for disaster preparedness, as well as future relief and response efforts. Building on their previous experience assessing disaster and humanitarian relief in China, the Centre also develops multi-national education and capacity building resources for humanitarian medicine.

Joel Tarning wins prize

Professor [Joel Tarning](#) has been awarded the biennial [Giorgio Segré prize](#) for 2015, for his scientific research work on the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of antimalarial drugs in vulnerable populations, such as pregnant women and young children.



The Giorgio Segré Prize is a special biennial award for investigators in the field of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. The award is given out by the European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences ([EUFEPS](#)), which noted that Professor Tarning's work has informed revised World Health Organization guidelines for the treatment of malaria.

Based in Bangkok, Thailand, Professor Tarning leads a diverse team of 30 scientists studying clinical pharmacology at the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit ([MORU](#)), a research collaboration between Mahidol University in Thailand Oxford University and the Wellcome Trust. His team uses methods such as pharmacometric data analysis, bioanalytical method development, drug quantification of clinical samples and omics-based research. Professor Tarning is also the Head of the Pharmacometric Modelling Group at the Worldwide Antimalarial Resistance Network ([WWARN](#)).

NDM achieves Silver Award



We are delighted to announce that we have successfully achieved the [Silver Athena SWAN award](#). The award was formally presented to the Department by Professor Dame Julia Higgins on 15th June 2015. Many thanks to all of you who took part in the process for all your hard work. This is a great result for the Department and demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement and the success of our staff and students.

We welcome feedback from our staff, either through your local Athena SWAN self-assessment committee, or email the NDM Athena SWAN coordinator: athena.swan@ndm.ox.ac.uk.

Public Engagement at NDM

NDM researchers have helped children build [‘viruses’ out of marshmallows](#), perfected [a recipe for fake sputum](#), and had visitors jump into ball pools filled with ‘blood cells’ – all to promote public engagement with the cutting-edge science that happens at the department.



If you'd like support or training to help develop your own public engagement ideas, please do [get in touch](#) with us.

We're currently looking for activities and volunteers in September 2015, for [the Oxford Open Doors](#) science fair and tours: this is an excellent introduction to public engagement, as we provide lots of activity ideas and training.

Further to the NDM Public Engagement team being highly commended in the Public Engagement and Advocacy category at the [ARMA awards](#), we will also shortly be publishing our new public engagement strategy and a public engagement calendar, so watch this space!