

# Thank you for supporting King's



# Thank you

**Dear alumni, members of our King's community and friends,**

I am delighted to introduce my first Impact Report as President & Principal of King's College London. It is wonderful to be back at King's, amongst students, staff, and alumni I admire, having previously had the pleasure of serving as the Executive Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience. This report demonstrates the significant work King's has been able to achieve because of donors like you. And impact is precisely what you've made possible.

Many things have changed over the past year, but I'm proud to say that our mission to make a positive change in the world remains unflinching in these unprecedented times. The passion, dedication and remarkable resilience of our students, staff, alumni and friends is inspiring. I am humbled and proud to see how our commitment to knowledge with purpose, sense of one King's, made up of many diverse communities, and our dedication to students and their success is as strong as ever.

In the months since I have started, it has been my privilege to hear from and listen to so many valued members in our community – our dedicated academic and professional services staff, our world-leading researchers, and some of your fellow donors and members of our alumni community. Most importantly, I have heard from our students, who told me how the last 18 months during the pandemic have impacted them, their studies, prospects and relationships in ways that none of us could have imagined.

What I heard filled me with pride. I have been told how our diverse communities – staff, students, alumni and friends – have stepped up to the challenges posed and have taken those extra actions necessary to look after each other and offer help where it was needed. The report I am sending you today is exemplary of that and thanks you for your continued support and commitment.



It shows the breadth and variety of areas that you and your fellow donors have supported. Whether that is students who you have allowed to live up to their full potential; support for King's researchers working on treatments for life-changing illnesses; or ensuring that our facilities are fit to support King's as a world-leading institution.

I am particularly touched by the story of Patience, whose immigration status prevented her from attending university in the UK. Thanks to a Sanctuary Scholarship, she is able to come to King's and is now bringing the issues experienced by forced migrant children into the limelight. What a great example of how the commitment shown by so many of our supporters not only helps an individual in our King's community, but also seeds further positive actions to change our society for the better.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to you for the important part you are playing.

With my best wishes,

**Professor Shitij Kapur**  
President & Principal,  
King's College London

# Students at King's

**Over the last year, thousands of you have supported the heart of our community – our bright students. You have helped to clear the hurdles in their way – whether providing vital scholarships and bursaries to support those facing financial difficulties and at real risk of dropping out, giving teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds the confidence to apply to a world-leading university such as King's, or ensuring ambitious students are able to take up work experience so vital to their development and future careers. Hear from Graham, Patience, Fahima and Poppy what your generosity meant to them.**





## Thanks to K+, Graham is following his dream to become a doctor

**'I'm the first person in my family to go to university, which meant my parents had no idea what university involved and I couldn't go to them for help with my application.** My tutor at school knew that I wanted to study medicine and told me about the

K+ programme and said I had the GCSE grades that were required. I didn't really expect to get in, because there were a lot of applicants, but I was very fortunate.

The programme helped me with my application and gave me the skills you need when you start university. Thanks to K+, I was able to do a summer internship at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, as well as a week of work experience at a GP surgery and lots of academic workshops. Finding work experience is quite an important part of the application process for medicine, and as someone who doesn't have any family members in healthcare, it would have been really difficult to find that without the support of K+. I was able to talk about the work experience a lot in my university interviews,

it really strengthened the whole reason why I wanted to study medicine. In the end, I believe it's what got me my place in medical school.

The K+ programme and the financial support provided when you get to King's really helped me. It allowed me to fully focus on my studies with the peace of mind knowing that finances aren't going to restrict me. When a donor gives financial support to students at King's, they are really investing and showing faith in that person. I feel so grateful that someone believes in me and allows me to reach my full potential at university.'

**K+ helped me with my application and gave me the skills you need when you start university.'**

## Three questions for Patience

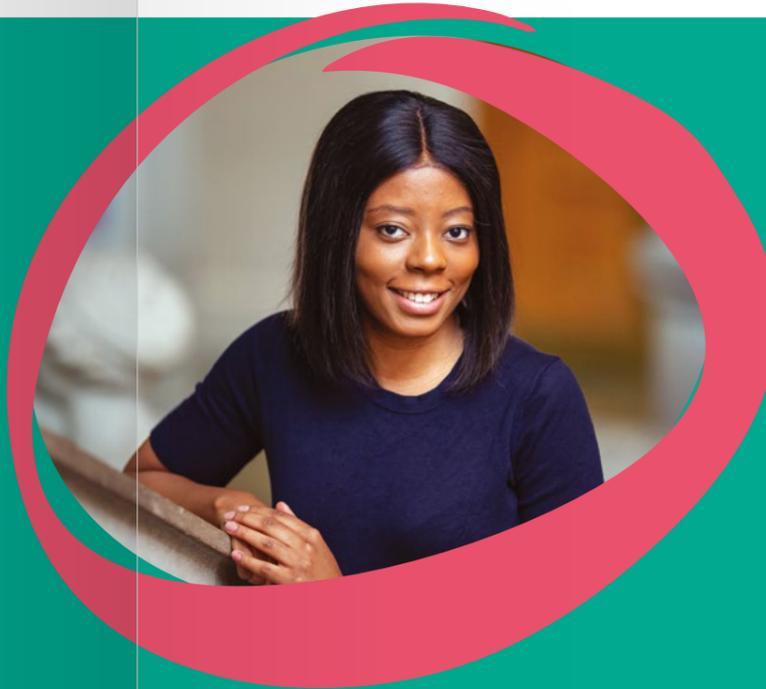
**One of the invisible barriers to attending university is immigration status.** Forced migrants, such as asylum seekers, refugees and other young people who did not have agency in their decision to come to the UK are often ineligible for student finance. For many, even including those that have lived in the UK for the majority of their lives, this means they would have to pay their university tuition fees outright – an insurmountable hurdle for most families. Every year, King's offers Sanctuary Scholarships with the help of alumni and supporter donations. They provide full tuition fee support, as well as helping with living costs for the duration of an undergraduate degree.

Hear from Patience, who received a Sanctuary Scholarship and is now curating an anthology on the experiences of young migrants like her within the UK.

**Can you remember the moment you realised that unlike many of your peers, you weren't able to access student finance?**

Patience: 'The first time I realised was when I was in sixth form. It got to the time when I needed to start applying for student finance. I came home and told my mum and she said you can't apply because you need to wait for the decision from the Home Office. It was just so heartbreaking. Eventually the Home Office replied and I wasn't successful. That's when it dawned on me that I couldn't go to university and I thought: "What am I going to do?"

At that time my friends were preparing to move away to university. I would spend time with them and I was just thinking, "I'm not going to have the same experience". It was hard.'



**Do you remember the news of receiving the Sanctuary Scholarship from King's?**

'I was at work and started crying. People were looking at me, asking if I was alright. I couldn't believe it. I was shaking. I called my mum and then we were both crying. It was one of the best moments. I was flying for that whole week. My mum was as emotional as me. It was a huge burden lifted for us.'

**Can you give a summary of what the book is and why you decided to create it?**

'The book is an anthology, and we want to create stories that show the difficulties that come with being an immigrant. It's not just about student finance.

For a long time, I didn't feel like my story was a big deal. The first time it dawned on me was when I was on a panel and we all had to tell our stories. People were just in shock about the stuff we went through. It made me feel that I do have a story to tell. There are many similar people to me going through this. The book will help others realise you're not the only one, others have overcome these circumstances. It'll give hope.'

**My friends were preparing to move away to university and I thought I wasn't going to have the same experience.'**

# Fahima received help when her living situation became unmanageable



'I'm from a small town miles away from London and had rented private student accommodation for my first year at King's, rather than staying in the university residences. But when I arrived at the accommodation, I found out we had a red ant infestation. It was really hard for me to actually live there, because the ants went into all my food and even into my closed water bottles. They told us we weren't allowed to unpack our belongings, or cook in the communal kitchen.

I was alone in London, so I couldn't just go to someone's house to get food. Instead I had to spend a lot of money traveling to places around London where I could spend time

away from the accommodation. I also had to buy take-out food that I could eat without needing access to a kitchen. Because of the pandemic I hadn't been able to get many shifts in the retail job I was reliant on to earn money before coming to university, so I didn't have any savings to fall back on. At one point the ant infestation was so bad that I couldn't sleep in my bed, so I had to buy an expensive train ticket at short notice to go back home. Up until then I hadn't asked for help from the university, because I didn't want to dwell on my situation, but then a friend suggested applying for the Hardship Fund.

I was really, really happy when I found out I received the funding. I got it right before the second lockdown, so I could use the money to travel back home to spend lockdown with my family. But when I came back to London in December, the ant infestation was still there. They had shut off all the common areas in my accommodation, so I had physically nowhere to go. I was quite lonely in London and found myself walking around by myself a lot. The Hardship Fund allowed me to go into empty coffee shops to study whilst I couldn't go to the university libraries. I really ended up spending most of the funding on travel and food while my accommodation issues went on.

I just want to say a really big thank you. The Hardship Fund is such an amazing thing for those who really need it. It meant I was able to sleep at night without thinking about money all the time. Luckily next year I'll be living with coursemates in a shared house – and hopefully no more ants!



**'I found out about the Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) when I was looking for work opportunities.**

I really wanted to get experience working in the charity sector, but that is something that is not widely available, especially when it comes to paid work experience. What I love about the CLA is that it comes with a lot of support and a whole team looking out for us. **That's why I always say that if I could have designed any kind of programme at university, it would be the Civic Leadership Academy. It has everything – every aspect that students need.**

## The Civic Leadership Academy gave Poppy confidence and direction

After an inspiring week of training over the summer months I started work with my partner charity. You could tell that the organisation had put in so much work to prepare for our arrival. They made me the Research Captain of a project where I could incorporate my experience from my Geography degree. The organisation wanted our perspectives and opinions and valued me as a student, who they knew often worked in underpaid jobs.

Before starting the CLA, I didn't know how to communicate with people in a professional workspace and found public speaking or the idea of putting my hand up in a meeting absolutely terrifying. **My experience taught me that it was ok to use my voice and that my views were valid.** It meant my confidence grew massively and gave me the direction to try and be a changemaker in my community who lifts up other voices. Now I am applying for graduate jobs and thanks to the CLA, I now know the kind of company or organisation I want to work for.



### Focus on: The Kingsmaker Guild

The Kingsmaker Guild is a membership group for our most dedicated alumni, who are able to make more substantial gifts to student support every year. Together they form the backbone of many of the programmes that make studying at King's accessible to the brightest students from all backgrounds. In the last two years alone, they have touched the lives of hundreds of students and provided them with development opportunities. Kingsmaker Guild members also played a vital part in making last year's first ever King's Global Day of Giving a roaring success by providing a match funding gift and encouraging their fellow alumni to donate. Thank you to each and every one of you for your commitment and generosity.



### Focus on: Our Kingsmakers

Every September a new cohort starts at King's, many of whom will require support to ensure they can live up to their full potential at university – and the numbers are rising. With student support funding so reliably needed year after year, a special group of donors called the Kingsmakers ensures that all students are looked after. By making a regular gift – whether that is every month, every quarter or every year, they allow our teams at King's to plan ahead and recruit for programmes such as the Civic Leadership Academy or the K+ Scheme, knowing that funding will continue to be available. Thank you to all our Kingsmakers for the crucial part you play in making these programmes possible!

**If you would like to find out more about how to become a Kingsmaker, or join the Kingsmaker Guild, please contact Anna Diehm via [giving@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:giving@kcl.ac.uk)**

**'One of the highlights was an event on top of City Hall that I got to attend together with two other CLA students.'**





# King's Global Day of Giving 2020

Last year's first ever King's Global Day of Giving was a fantastic example of the power our alumni and donor community has when we all come together. As you may remember, our Giving Day was a concerted effort to reach as many members of the university community as possible and raise funds for priority projects in a short, set time period. For us here at King's, it was a wonderful opportunity to bring together the entire King's community of staff, students, alumni and friends, wherever you are in the world, to support the two areas most crucial to

the university: supporting our wonderful students and our world-leading researchers. We shared stories with you from some of our students about how Covid has impacted their lives and studies. You also found out about some examples of the incredible research King's is doing with your support, such as finding treatments for Sickle Cell Disorder or looking into the impact of poor mental health on mothers and babies.

Thanks to you, the inaugural King's Global Day of Giving couldn't have gotten off to a better start. Together, you far exceeded all expectations – over 700 of you came together to raise more than £112,000. What was particularly fantastic to see was the wide variety of alumni and friends of the university that chose to take part and make a donation. With the youngest donor aged only

20 and the oldest aged 96, three full generations of King's students chose to give back to the university. In fact, one alumni who made a gift graduated in 1944, – we are very proud that the university has stayed close to their heart for 76 years! Thank you to all of you who made a donation or supported us during the day as a Global Day of Giving Champion – it's wonderful to see what we can achieve together.

**The next King's Global Day of Giving is just around the corner!**  
[Click here to find out how to get involved.](#)

## Here's the wonderful impact you had over the last year

3,123

Donors in total

£570,000

Raised for Student Support

460

Donors made their first ever gift

£160,000

Raised for research at King's

140

Kingsmaker Guild members

1,165

Kingsmakers

57

Alumni from 57 countries made a donation

99

Champions promoting the King's Global Day of Giving 2020



## Research at King's

**King's is proud to be the home of world-leading research undertaken in a range of fields – from our internationally renowned War Studies department analysing the conflicts of our time, our leading Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience researching mental health, to medical studies looking into life-changing treatments. Many of these projects would not be possible without additional philanthropic funding, such as that provided by you – our alumni and donors. In the next section you can read about some of the wonderful projects that have been realised with the help of donations from people like you.**

**Sickle Cell Disorder (SCD) is one of the most common genetic blood diseases in the world, affecting millions around the globe and causing excruciating pain, as well as a huge range of lifelong health issues.** Anyone can be a carrier of the gene mutation, but it is most common in people with African, Caribbean, Latin American or Middle Eastern heritage. In the UK alone, there are more than 14,000 people with SCD and a third of them receive care via services led by our partner hospitals King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital. Despite the huge numbers affected, SCD hasn't received the attention or funding of other, less common diseases. As a result, current treatment options are limited, many have unpleasant side effects and they don't work for everyone. Despite some progress



## Fighting health inequalities

in well-resourced countries, many patients only start receiving treatment once they encounter symptoms, by which point most will suffer significant organ damage.

King's researchers, together with clinicians at King's Health Partners who work directly with SCD patients, want to change this injustice. A team of King's experts is currently hoping to turn treatment for SCD on its head and find a lifesaving cure.

Using the latest gene and cell technologies, they aim to either correct the disorder-causing sickle mutation, or find a way of 'switching back on' the body's production of fetal haemoglobin, which is not affected by Sickle Cell Disorder. This cutting-edge research could truly change the lives of people with SCD. Finding treatments that can dramatically reduce the pain and life-threatening side effects of SCD would not only give patients longer life-expectancy – it would vastly improve their quality of life and their mental health.

Significantly, many people suffering from SCD either can't or choose not to have children because the currently available treatment can affect male fertility and cannot be taken during pregnancy. In couples where both partners carry the SCD gene, there is also a risk that their children will suffer from this disease. The gene therapies that King's researchers are developing will mean that patients could consider starting a family without worrying about the impact of the disorder.

Crucially, research on SCD treatments and cures is severely underfunded, and in need of philanthropic support. It gives people with Sickle Cell Disorder, and their families, a real chance to a brighter future without pain. Thank you to all of you who have supported King's research in the last year – any amount helps to support life-changing progress.

[Watch our film to hear from patients and clinicians on Sickle Cell Disease.](#)



The new Pears Maudsley Centre for Children and Young People is set to open its doors in 2023.

## Transforming mental health care for the next generation

**On average, three children in every classroom have a diagnosable mental illness. Around half of adult mental health conditions begin by the time a child reaches 14, rising to 75% by the age of 24.** Sadly, only one in four young people with mental health disorders will receive the treatment they need. These statistics tell a story we don't want to hear.

King's Institute of Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience (IoPPN) is the home of leading experts in mental health care and research.

Our team of researchers and clinicians is determined to ensure that every child will have better mental health outcomes. A key milestone on this journey is the effort to provide a central location that will combine both research and holistic care: the new Pears Maudsley Centre for Children and Young People.

The Centre will bring the IoPPN together with our partners at the Maudsley Charity and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. It will house some of the world's leading mental health scientists and will transform our understanding and treatment of conditions such as obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), anxiety, depression, self harm and eating disorders. The Centre will also offer treatment to thousands of children a year, providing support on their journey from childhood to early adulthood, when prevention and intervention will make the most difference. Together, we will work to change the lives of children and young people,

not just in south London, but across the UK and around the world.

This Centre would not be able to be built without significant support from charitable foundations and individuals like you. **Earlier this year, we asked for support and many of you chose to make a donation – thank you.** Excitingly, this June we were able to hold the ground-breaking ceremony of the Pears Maudsley Centre. It marked a significant milestone in the building project, with the Centre set to open its doors in 2023. We were most honoured to invite some of the young people to the breaking-ground event who helped with the design of the Centre.

It will be fantastic to follow the progress of the Centre's construction over the next couple of years. Thank you for helping to bring it to life.

## Solving the puzzle around fatal diseases

**It was during his time as a King's student in the 90's that Dr Jemeen Sreedharan first decided he wanted to work in medical research.** Now he is back at King's, focusing on motor neurone disease (MND). The devastating illness, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) kills around 2,000 people each year in the UK alone, and still has no cure. People with MND develop muscle weakness, which eventually leads to difficulties swallowing and breathing, and many patients die within two to three years of developing symptoms. Dr Sreedharan and his team at King's are investigating the gene mutations that cause MND and are hoping to translate their findings into treatments for the disease.

**Three questions for Dr Sreedharan... If I were to receive a MND diagnosis today, what treatment options would be available to me?**

Dr Sreedharan: 'The only drug we have that can slow the disease is riluzole, a twice daily tablet, but the effect is modest at best. We have lots of treatment options that can control symptoms, such as cramps and excess saliva, and we ensure patients have great support from therapists. As patients deteriorate, we can support their breathing and feeding using non-invasive ventilators and feeding

**We think our research could benefit 97% of patients with MND.'**

tubes. However, we still lack a cure, which is why we need to do lots more research and ask our patients to volunteer in clinical trials.'

**What will your research on the gene mutation TDP-43 ultimately mean for patients?**

'Our research aims to find ways to control the levels of TDP-43 in the brain and spinal cord. We think this could benefit 97% of patients with MND, including those with no family history who constitute the vast majority of patients. By studying the mutations, we have made remarkable progress in understanding the complex ways in which TDP-43 regulates itself and how this goes wrong in disease. Our aim is to use these cells to find ways to reverse the disease-associated misregulation of TDP-43.'

**How can donations support your research in the lab?**

'Donations of any size make a difference. They may allow a research assistant or PhD student to focus their time on researching MND in the lab, or to attend crucial conferences to further their knowledge. Donations also support us in accessing the equipment and materials we rely upon. For example, £500 will buy a couple of antibodies important for our studies, while £1,000 will buy a significant amount of time that we can spend on accessing state-of-the-art light microscopes.'



**Dr Anthony Kong is a Reader and Honorary Consultant Clinical Oncologist, with a particular interest in personalised medicine, translational research and clinical trials.**

He is one of King's leading researchers in Head and Neck cancer (HNC). Some of his current work focuses on growing mini three-dimensional cancer tumours derived from patients in the lab that could revolutionise the study and even treatment of HNC. In fact, he and his team are developing the UK's first biobank of these HNC tumour organoids.

combination – which harnesses the power of the immune system and turns it against the cancer. Researchers could even find them useful in predicting which tumours are most likely to recur after treatment – meaning any recurring cancers could be caught earlier.



## Changing the way we study and treat cancer

Currently, there is no easy way to know which tumours will respond to which treatment, meaning people with cancer often receive a range of treatments that might or might not be effective. Research in the lab can be helpful in understanding the reasons some cancers respond, while others don't, but until recently many cell-based lab models have been based on two-dimensional layers of cells. These have helped to drive life-changing research, but there are limitations in their ability to mimic complex tumours and understand things like drug resistance or how a cancer will progress.

Dr Kong's three-dimensional tumour organoids could signify a distinct shift in finding new and more personalised ways to treat HNC. Because these organoids are produced from samples from an individual's cancer and are grown in 3D, they better mimic how tumours behave in the human body and could help to predict someone's response to cancer treatment in real-time. They will also become a vital tool in testing new treatments, such as immunotherapy or hyperthermia (heat treatment) or their

Ultimately, Dr Kong and his team hope their HNC organoid biobank will fuel research and move us towards a day when these mini-tumours become part of routine care – helping clinicians to make informed, tailored and real-time treatment decisions for each patient. Giving every cancer patient the best chance of survival with the fewest possible side-effects.

This project could help transform the study of HNC and care of people with the disease and could also help inform work in other cancers. Like so many research projects across King's, ongoing funding is required to help them fully realise their potential. Thank you to all donors who have supported King's research in the past year – you are helping ensure projects like these can continue, driving life-changing impact for people all over the world.

**Researchers could predict which cancer tumours are most likely to recur after treatment.'**



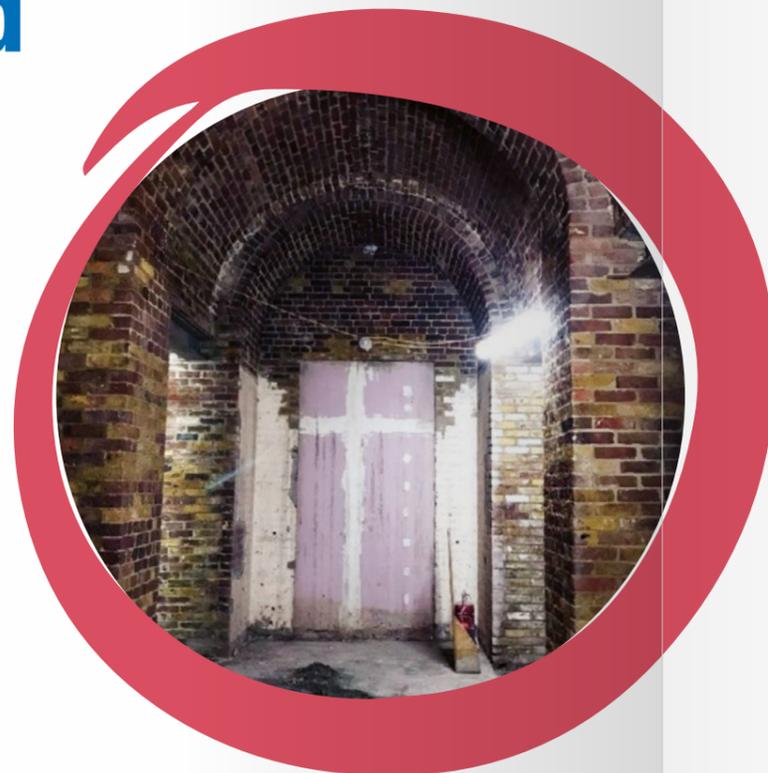
## Supporting King's

**Giving back to King's can take many shapes and forms. You could choose to give to a project further afield, such as the work that King's Global Health Partnerships is doing in partner countries including Zambia or Sierra Leone. Or you could choose to support King's much closer to home – such as ensuring that the Strand campus can be redeveloped for future generations of students by supporting our Quad appeal. Whichever way you choose to give, as a donor you ensure that King's continues to represent a university promoting excellence, with service to society at its heart.**

# Shaping the Quad

You might have heard about King's Shape the Quad appeal, which launched earlier this year to support the redevelopment of the Quad on the Strand campus, as well as the teaching spaces that sit underneath it. The Quad has been at the heart of King's since our existence, providing a home on campus for hundreds of thousands of students and forming a site of historical significance and scientific discovery.

With the help of so many of you, we are renovating the space, rebuilding historic elements and making sure it will be the new face of King's for coming generations of students. Together, you have raised over £130,000 to help towards the cost of the redevelopment – thank you for this fantastic effort.



Excitingly, the renovations are already well underway and you can see the new space taking shape. These images show the historic College vault, as well as the stairwell inspired by a helix shape – in honour of Rosalind Franklin's discovery of Photo 51, the first image of the shape of DNA.

To show our appreciation for the fantastic part alumni and donors have played in this project, we will install a donor wall in the Strand reception, showcasing key stages in King's proud history and the donors who have made this effort possible. We can't wait to see so many of your names on our wall from Summer 2022, and hope you will be able to visit the campus, once restrictions allow, to see the new Quad for yourself.



The new stairwell under construction

INSET: The historic College vault

# Enabling students to change the narrative

Studying in the university library or borrowing reading materials is one of the core parts of being a student. Therefore it is vital that we can ensure the library's offerings continue to grow and progress in line with our ever-changing student body.

The long-standing Buy a Book Fund, made possible thanks to alumni and supporter donations, helps us do just that. It provides the means and gives a voice to King's students in shaping and strengthening the library collection for current and future needs. Students are able to suggest and request books and library materials that can support their research and offer new perspectives. The Fund provides such an important tool, allowing students to shape the narratives being taught at King's and removing financial barriers to ensure every

student can access the materials they need for their individual studies.

In addition to key items required for research covering PhD studies and dissertations, students were encouraged to request resources to build a more inclusive and diverse library collection. Students were able to make suggestions for titles that would offer alternative narratives and perspectives that challenge colonial structures of knowledge.

To ensure the Covid pandemic wouldn't prevent students from accessing the resources they need, the libraries team focused on purchasing more eBook licenses, rather than physical titles. In the first half of 2021, they were able to purchase 188 titles requested by students, at an average cost of over £130 per license. These included topics



as varied as LGBTQ representation around the globe, the impact of colonialism on African countries, to narratives around black feminism and identities.

Thanks to your donations, the library collection can continue to reflect the concerns and interests of our diverse student population and allow everyone to broaden their horizon and explore new perspectives. Thank you.

**Students were encouraged to request resources to build a more inclusive and diverse library collection.**

You may remember hearing from the Director of the programme, Laura Hucks, in the past year about the incredible work the King's Global Health Partnerships is undertaking to support Sub-Saharan Africa in their fight against Covid-19. Read from Laura on how the situation has developed:

'At the beginning of the pandemic, a small team from our King's Global Health Partnerships worked with local partners in Sierra Leone's main hospital to prepare for the arrival of the virus. While the official numbers seen in Sierra Leone were luckily not as high as those experienced in Europe at the time, we were still faced with a number of unique challenges.

In Sierra Leone there is no Universal Health Coverage that would provide all people with access to high quality healthcare. Relatives of Covid patients presenting at



## Fighting Covid-19 in Sierra Leone

hospital need to pay for every aspect of treatment upfront and out-of-pocket. This includes everything from life-saving drugs and equipment to diagnostic tests. It means that urgent treatment is often put on hold while family members scramble to find the necessary funds.

Another challenge we know of is that pandemic outbreaks have a severe impact on other health conditions. Tragically, during the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak more people died of untreated Malaria than of Ebola because they were scared to seek health care. One of our priorities was to help keep the hospital open and safe for these other patients.

Fast and flexible funding has allowed us to respond to a changing and uncertain situation. Thanks to donations provided at the beginning of the pandemic, we were able to ensure that Freetown's main treatment centre had a reliable oxygen supply for the sickest patients

and train over 250 staff at Connaught Hospital on how to manage patients with the disease. Sierra Leone is now managing a third wave of the disease and challenges remain.

With the vaccine roll-out progressing slowly, we expect it will be many, many months until the risk of further waves of Covid is eased. In the meantime, it remains important to do what we can to ensure the most destitute patients receive the treatment they deserve, and that we secure further funding to provide equipment and support, and train staff where they are most needed.'

**Laura Hucks,**  
Director of King's Global Health Partnerships

Thanks to donations provided at the beginning of the pandemic, we were able to ensure that we had a reliable oxygen supply for the sickest patients.'

## Enabling students to support the King's community

The King's Community Fund, made possible thanks to alumni and supporter donations, gives out grants to students who would like to improve their community or be part of something bigger. In the last year, it allowed the KCLSU Surgical Society to fund their annual conference.

Thanks to the funding, the society was able to expand their usual one-day event to a full weekend conference, fostering surgical exposure among medical students. The programme included keynote lectures from world-renowned speakers, ensuring students could hear from the best in their field, as well as practical and academic workshops and opportunities for students to present their own research. Crucially, one in six tickets went to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who were interested in applying to medical school. They were able to partake in separate workshops tailored to their skills and could attend free of charge.

The funding through the Community Fund allowed the society to halve the ticket price, opening up the conference to a wider student cohort and ensuring finances were not a barrier to attending. It also allowed them to purchase equipment for the practical workshops, such as surgical instruments. Student-run projects commonly face funding challenges, preventing students from exploring their creativity and turning inspiring projects into reality. The donors giving to the King's Community Fund allow students to create and run the projects they are passionate about. Thank you for your support.

The Community Fund is extremely important, as it provides much needed economic support to student-led projects. Thank you for your generosity.'

Priyanka,  
Former Vice-President



ABOVE: The KCLSU Surgical Society



**Supporting your university can take many shapes and forms – but all donations support our community’s goal of service to society. This booklet shows a variety of areas that have benefitted from donations. This is how your next gift could help:**



**£99.10**

could pay for a monthly student Oyster card, offering discounted travel to a student commuting to their Civic Leadership Academy work placement



**£130**

could support the purchase of more eBook licenses for the most requested academic titles in King’s libraries



**£350**

could buy ten blood monitors for the King’s Global Health Partnerships team supporting hospitals in Sierra Leone



**£625**

could pay for two weeks’ worth of rent and living costs for a student in sudden financial difficulties, giving them a vital safety net while they find a new source of income



**£1,000**

could pay for a set of antibodies needed in Dr Sreedharan’s effort to find treatments for Motor Neurone Disease

**If you would like to make a donation today, you can do so on [www.donate.kcl.ac.uk/p/ThankYou-21](http://www.donate.kcl.ac.uk/p/ThankYou-21)**

We would also love to speak to you if you are interested in making a major gift to a specific area of support – please contact Anna Diehm via [giving@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:giving@kcl.ac.uk) to find out more.