



# NIHR Global Health Research Group in Surgical Technologies

Newsletter September 2018

Volume 1, Number 2

## In This Issue

- Summer Internships
- Forging Local Collaborations
- Meeting with AP Chief Minister
- Dr Tim Nunn Seminar
- Delft University of Technology Visit to Leeds

## Contact Us

<http://ghrgst.nihr.ac.uk>

Dr William Bolton, Clinical  
Research Fellow  
[w.s.bolton@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:w.s.bolton@leeds.ac.uk)

Mr Noel Aruparayil, Clinical  
Research Fellow  
[n.k.aruparayil@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:n.k.aruparayil@leeds.ac.uk)

Cheryl Harris, Programme  
Manager  
[c.a.harris@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.harris@leeds.ac.uk)

Professor David Jayne,  
Clinical Director  
[d.g.jayne@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.g.jayne@leeds.ac.uk)

Global Health Research  
Group in Surgical  
Technologies  
Level 7  
Clinical Sciences Building  
St James's University  
Hospital  
Leeds  
LS9 7TF

## Welcome to the Global Health Research Group

Welcome to the second quarterly newsletter from the Global Health Research Group in Surgical Technologies. Our newsletters will keep you up to date on the developments of the projects in Sierra Leone and Rural India.

### Summer Internship Students



From June for 8 weeks we had 3 summer internship students based in Engineering. The students were supervised by Peter Culmer, William Bolton, Noel Aruparayil and Manish Chauhan.

Over the 8 weeks the students focused on 2 projects, the first was to create a mechanical force sensor for the gasless lift laparoscopic device and for the second project the interns looked at the current training device for the gasless laparoscopic kit and were tasked to create a new box trainer for the device.

[Click here to find out more via their blogs](#)

### Forging local collaborations for GHRG research

The GHRG group is partnering with in-country research centres in India and Sierra Leone to conduct formative research to assess local surgical needs and health system capacities. As part of this project, Professor Tim Ensor and Dr Amrit Virk, from the Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development visited The Kohima Institute in Nagaland state (India) in February 2018. The Kohima Institute focuses on community development, research and knowledge diffusion in the highland areas of Northeast India and is located in Nagaland state, which borders the state of Arunachal Pradesh where GHRG activities are planned.

Held at the Institute's premises in Kohima town, the two-day discussions with the Institute's director, Dr Michael Heneise and his research team involved presentations on planned GHRG activities as well as logistical issues to do with obtaining necessary clearances from the Arunachal Pradesh state government. The Leeds team also had the opportunity to meet with the in-country research team and observe The Kohima Institute's library and office facilities. An important outcome of the meeting was that The Kohima Institute offered to arrange a meeting with the Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister to ensure that GHRG work ties in with the state government's priorities.

## Upcoming Events

Annual Stakeholder meeting  
– 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018,  
venue TBC, India

## Seminars –

---

### Meeting with the Chief Minister in Arunachal Pradesh



The Kohima Institute board member Ms Catriona Child and Dr Amrit Virk from GHRG ST met Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and a senior state legislator in Delhi to formally introduce them to the Global Health Research Group (GHRG) on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The Chief Minister appreciated the importance of GHRG's research on developing low-cost surgical innovations, offering his full cooperation for planned research activities in his state. Demonstrating his support, Chief Minister Khandu put us in contact with senior administrators in the state government and the health directorate. He further called upon his secretary and the state health commissioner to assist GHRG activities particularly with facilitating meeting with local stakeholders and arranging special visit permits for the research team. Chief Minister Pema Khandu later [tweeted](#) about the meeting.

---

### Dr Tim Nunn Seminar - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

On the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Dr Tim Nunn from Cure International presented a seminar on his research experience in the management of clubfoot in Ethiopia

[Click here](#) to find out more.

---

### Delft University of Technology visit to Leeds 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June 2018



Senior academics and PhD students from Delft University of Technology BioMechanical Engineering Department visited the University of Leeds on 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018. A series of talks and a workshop were held to formulate research collaborations in surgical engineering for low resources settings.

[Find out more](#) about the visit

This research was commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research using Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding.

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.