



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health



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Chief Executive

Friday message

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Dear everyone

This week I want to reflect on our international work and am writing this message from India where I have been meeting our commercial and academic partners in Bengaluru, Puducherry, Chennai and Delhi. Each year we earn around one third of our budget through our scientific inventions and expertise and Asia, and India in particular, offers important and exciting opportunities for them and for us. Bilateral ties between our two countries run deep, underscored by a shared history, language, culture and heritage, existing and growing investment links and the presence of a vibrant Indian diaspora in the UK. We also share common health problems, different in scale and emphasis, and a desire to put prevention at the heart of our national and local strategies. We have jointly filed two patents with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research for the development of novel compounds to combat antimicrobial resistance and I had the honour of meeting C.N.R. Rao, FRS, who is the Head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, and holder of India's highest civilian honour for his contribution to science and humanity. In February 2014, our Permanent Secretary Dame Una O'Brien, was present at the exchanging of an MOU between PHE and the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), committing to work across seven areas of mutual concern and we have made early progress in three of these: biosafety, TB and the Ebola-like Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF). JIPMER is one of four health institutions of national importance in India and they wish to extend our collaboration to include reducing alcohol harm and on primary care. I had the privilege to inaugurate the PHE and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases Collaborative Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR), funded by the UK Department of International Development and the Tropical Health and Education Trust, UK. The Centre will, in partnership with JIPMER, strengthen the infectious diseases EPR capabilities in Chennai and Bengaluru metropolitan regions through classroom and laboratory training that we will deliver with our Indian partners.

Alongside the science, I also had the opportunity to join the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet in Chennai where the UK government was represented and where my contribution was about the inseparable connection between wealth and health, and again in Delhi at the UK India Business Council Convention. Finally, and again in Delhi, I met with India's National Centre for Disease Control and with Professor Srinath Reddy, President of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). PHE has patented the most advanced vaccine for CCHF and has established a partnership between JIPMER and PHFI to help understand the cost-effectiveness of potential vaccination strategies. Public health is everyone's business and it is a global concern. We are blessed in our UK science and our scientists and I gave witness to their exceptional contributions throughout the week and want to express my thanks and respect for what they do.

Keeping with the international theme, back in the UK last week we welcomed a delegation from the Health Promotion Board of Singapore and this week we are helping the Qatari government in reviewing their public health strategy. Next week we will be among those taking part in a people-to-people dialogue between the UK and Chinese governments.

Our international work is an inseparable part of our role as a national public health agency. It also generates income which is increasingly important as we seek to reduce our costs and maintain services and standards at home.

With best wishes