About RSTMH

History

The Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene was founded in 1907 by Sir James Cantlie and Dr George Carmichael Low to study and discuss diseases of tropical countries. The first president was ‘the father of tropical medicine’, Sir Patrick Manson. The prefix Royal was granted by King George V in 1920, and the royal connection has been maintained ever since - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Patron, and HRH The Princess Royal is an Honorary Fellow. RSTMH has had, and continues to exert, a significant impact on research, good practice and advocacy for improved health worldwide.

Mission Statement

RSTMH promotes and advances the study, control and prevention of disease in humans and other animals in the tropics and plays a leading role in increasing awareness throughout the world of tropical medicine and international health issues. Through our international network of Fellows we facilitate training, education and exchange of information between clinicians, health-related scientists, to nongovernmental development organisations and students across all disciplines in the fields of tropical medicine and international health.

Who we are

There is hardly an area of global health and tropical medicine in which RSTMH Fellows have not made major contributions. The first president discovered the role of mosquitoes in the transmission of filarial worms, which revolutionised thinking about disease transmission and opened up the field of vector-borne diseases. Fellows have made significant discoveries in numerous areas, including malaria, African sleeping sickness, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, river blindness, cholera, leprosy, Burkitt’s lymphoma, kuru and kwashiorkor.

What we do

From its foundations over 100 years ago, in a time when tropical medicine was being established, RSTMH is now a multidisciplinary organisation that is constantly adapting to the changing patterns and interpretations of modern tropical medicine and international health.

Now, in the early decades of the 21st century, RSTMH exists in a world where health is core to foreign policy and development agendas, and when unprecedented funding is available to address many of the problems of the poor living in the developing world. Through the work and efforts of its 1,400 Fellows across the world, RSTMH is motivated and passionate about meeting the challenges presented by the next 100 years.

Central to its work is the dissemination of multidisciplinary research through its peer-reviewed journals Transactions (monthly publication, launched in 1907) and International Health (bimonthly publication, launched in September 2009).

RSTMH also runs a regular calendar of scientific meetings, including a five-day event every two years (next date Cambridge 10-16 September 2016) and an annual Research in Progress meeting for young scientists every December.
Finally, RSTMH is a modest grant-maker, currently focusing on the disbursement of travel scholarships and small grants for research both in the UK and overseas.

RSTMH has undergone a period of very significant change since 2007, including the appointment of a Chief Executive and subsequent comprehensive review of all areas of activity including its governance and staffing structures, its strategic focus, position, profile, and key relationships, as well as all operational systems and procedures.

**Governance**

RSTMH is governed by a board of twelve Trustees, nine of whom are RSTMH Fellows and three of whom are drawn from outside its natural constituency of clinicians and scientists in order to bring in additional skills such as finance, business development, policy-making or governance.

The statutory role of the Board of Trustees is to ensure RSTMH complies with its governing document and all legal and regulatory requirements, pursues its charitable objects and has a clear vision, mission and strategic direction and focus.

The Board meets four times a year, usually at the RSTMH offices in central London.

The current Trustees are:

Professor Simon Hay (President to 25 September 2015)
Dr Simon Cathcart (President from 25 September 2015)

Mr Simon Bush
Dr Patrick Cross
Mr John Dusabe
Mr Trevor Ellis (Treasurer)
Professor Alison Grant
Professor Kara Hanson
Professor John Horton
Professor Sarah Rowland-Jones
Professor Nynke van den Broek

**Board vacancies**

As three Trustees step down on 25 September 2015, RSTMH is now seeking three Fellows to join the Board of Trustees from September 2015 for a three-year term of office.

The time commitment for this role, including attendance at Board of Trustees meetings and reading time, is approximately one day a month.

These posts are unremunerated however economy travel expenses are reimbursed.

A role description, an application form and the Trustee Code of Conduct can be found at [www.rstmh.org](http://www.rstmh.org)

For further information please contact Gerri McHugh, Chief Executive, [gerri.mchugh@rstmh.org](mailto:gerri.mchugh@rstmh.org)