Imperial College London

Celebrating your support

Annual Fundraising Report 2018–19

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

↑ The Sir Michael Uren Biomedical Engineering Research Hub at Imperial's White City Campus is due to open in 2020. Work at the Hub will combine the latest medical research and engineering to improve the treatment and diagnosis of diverse medical conditions, from developing new ways to detect cancer, to musculoskeletal technology and even bionic limbs. The Hub was made possible through a £40 million donation from the late Sir Michael Uren and his Foundation.

Thank you for giving to Imperial College London.

On behalf of everyone at Imperial, thank you for your support this year. Your contributions are vital to advancing the College's mission to achieve excellence in research and education for the benefit of society, and it is thanks to you that we continue to push the boundaries of what a world class university can achieve.

In this report are just a few examples of how your gifts are making a difference to both the College and our wider community.

Every gift to Imperial, no matter how large or small, has an impact. Your support enables us to provide opportunities to the most talented and ambitious students, regardless of their background or financial situation. Your support broadens horizons, enabling students to take up summer placements or pursue extra-curricular activities, honing their teamwork and leadership skills through sport, music, or innovation programmes. Your support advances ground-breaking research, helping us draw teams of exceptional people together to tackle important challenges faced by people both at home and abroad.

When I look through the stories in this report, I cannot help but notice Imperial's spirit of collaboration and international partnership woven throughout the pages – from the travel fund set up by an alumnus in honour of the late Professor Milija Pavlovic, to the new scholarships established with the Beacon Trust to welcome exceptional students from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Our new School of Public Health in White City will connect researchers finding solutions to health challenges in London, the UK and throughout the world. We recently launched a major new initiative, the Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics (J-IDEA). J-IDEA brings brilliant academics and seasoned practitioners together to combat infectious as well as chronic disease threats in all parts of the world.

In this report we also celebrate the inspiring life and generous philanthropy of Sir Michael Uren OBE (Mechanical Engineering and Motive Power 1943), who passed away in August 2019. It was a great privilege to spend time with Sir Michael and to learn about his deep connection to Imperial. His love for this great institution and his visionary philanthropy are a beacon to us all. His generosity lives on through the Sir Michael Uren Biomedical Engineering Research Hub, a major research building that was made possible only through his remarkable £40M gift.

To everyone who gave to the College this year – thank you. It is wonderful to see such an inspiring community of alumni, friends, staff and students uniting behind the College's mission. We could not be more grateful for your support.

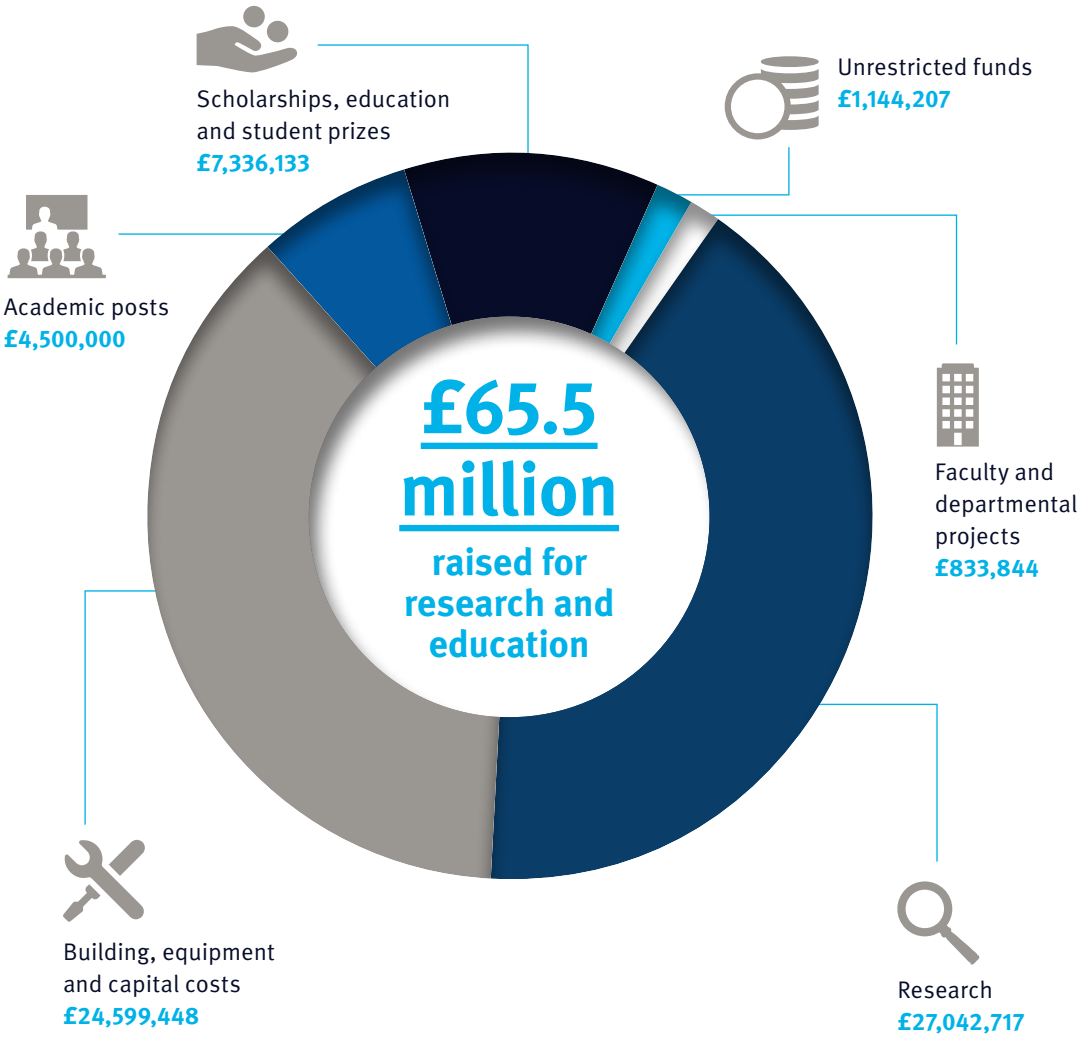
Alice P. Gast

Professor Alice P. Gast
President

The year in numbers

In 2018–19, 5,924 people gave a record-breaking £65.5 million to the College. This is an incredible achievement, realised through collaborative efforts between Imperial alumni, friends, students and staff. Your support touches all aspects of College life, from creating scholarships to fuelling research, to building new facilities and boosting extra-curricular programmes. However you chose to direct your donation – thank you.

2018–19 at a glance



A community making a difference

Far-reaching impact

A £5 million donation from the Dangoor family's Exilarch's Foundation will fund a number of priority projects in cancer research, community outreach and campus development.

Representatives from the Exilarch's Foundation visit The Invention Rooms.

The generous gift will fund the development of an interdisciplinary cancer research centre at the South Kensington Campus, which will drive advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. It will also transform the outdoor space at the South Kensington Campus through the development of a new plaza surrounding the iconic Queen's Tower, opening up the existing space to create a welcoming quadrangle which will enhance the Queen's Lawn. Over at the College's new White City Campus, the Foundation's gift will also provide critical support for new educational initiatives at The Invention Rooms, Imperial's pioneering community and innovation space.

Imperial's donor community spans the globe. This year, we received gifts from 69 countries.

Twenty years of global health partnership

Undertaking an international elective – a period of working overseas in a clinical setting – is one of the best ways for medical students to develop an understanding of global health. Imperial this year celebrated 20 years of partnership with the Enid Linder Foundation, which has donated £579,000 to support more than 700 Imperial students to do an international elective. One of the first recipients of a travel grant, Dr Nurhayati Lubis (Medicine 2003), reflected on the lasting impact of her time working in Namibia: "My interest in anaesthesia and global health was sparked in Namibia. Now, 15 years after graduating, I am a consultant anaesthetist in the National Health Service and have volunteered abroad with organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) and Operation Smile."

New travel fund to honour eminent civil engineer

A £100,000 gift from an Imperial alumnus will create an endowed fund for student travel awards in the Faculty of Engineering. The Professor Milija Pavlovic Research Travel Fund will enable postgraduate research students in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to undertake research opportunities abroad, such as presenting at an international conference, participating in a workshop or symposium, conducting field work or collaborating with an overseas laboratory or research group. The creation of the fund was made possible by a former student of the late Professor Pavlovic, who was an academic in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from 1978 to 2008. The generous donation was made on the tenth anniversary of Professor Pavlovic's passing and commemorates his legacy as an influential scholar and teacher who was passionate about engineering, travel and culture.

The late Professor Milija Pavlovic

Mr Mark Richardson (left) with Professor Nilay Shah, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Support for frontier research and scholarships in chemical engineering

A gift from Mark Richardson (Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology 1976, MSc Management Science 1977) is advancing priority research and supporting students in need.

From improving the efficiency of hydrogen production and CO_2 capture, to developing innovative methods for removing pollutants from waste water, each of the seven research projects being funded aims to reduce the environmental footprint of industrial processes. The gift, which is the largest single donation ever made to the Department of Chemical Engineering, is being used to provide additional research capacity through support of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers and the acquisition of specialist research equipment. A portion of Mr Richardson's gift is also being used to provide scholarships for chemical engineering undergraduates, as part of a wider initiative by the department to encourage applications by students from under-represented groups.

3,349 of the gifts made this year were from College alumni.

Nobel recognition

An endowed gift from Professor Sir Fraser Stoddart establishes a flagship annual lecture series in the Department of Chemistry. Sir Fraser is an internationally renowned scientist who shared the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Ben Feringa and Jean-Pierre Sauvage for the design and synthesis of molecular machines. A collaboration between Sir Fraser and David Williams, Professor of Structural Chemistry at Imperial College London, which lasted over three decades, helped form the structural basis for the establishment of the mechanical bond in chemistry. These solid-state studies led to the creation of mechanically interlocked molecules, called catenanes and rotaxanes, on which the invention of molecular shuttles, switches and machines was based. After winning the Nobel Prize, Sir Fraser donated part of his prize money to the launching of a Stoddart-Williams Lecture Series in honour of the contribution that Professor Williams made to his prize-winning work.

Professor Sir J. Fraser Stoddart

Tackling premature birth

In 2018–19, more than 160 people raised nearly £359,000 for research into preterm birth, which is the leading cause of death among children under five. Money raised will help establish an academic chair to lead Imperial's renowned preterm birth research group, which is responsible for a number of breakthroughs that are helping doctors to better understand and reduce the risks associated with preterm labour. A special fundraising effort was made by 16-year-old Max Teoh (pictured right), who chose to support the work of his father, Professor TG Teoh, by taking part in a sponsored 10 kilometre run and raising over £4,000.

Dr Holger Auner, Professor Anastasios Karadimitris and Dr Aristeidis Chaidos, leaders of Imperial's myeloma research programme.

Revolutionising myeloma research

A £10 million gift from Hugh and Josseline Langmuir will drive breakthrough treatments for myeloma, an incurable blood cancer.

Hundreds of thousands of people globally are living with myeloma, a little-understood blood cancer that develops in plasma cells, affecting the bones, kidneys and immune system. While there are treatments for myeloma, there is currently no cure for the disease. The new Hugh & Josseline Langmuir Centre for Myeloma Research at Imperial's Hammersmith Campus will support pioneering research into the causes, mechanisms and treatment of myeloma and will accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into clinical solutions. Through its proximity to Imperial's White City Campus, which co-locates academics, global companies and emerging businesses, the centre will drive collaborations with researchers in fields such as genomics, bioinformatics and drug discovery, as well as with multidisciplinary groups, start-up companies and corporate partners.

Professor Jonathan Weber, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said: "Myeloma research is an area that holds incredible potential, and yet is not currently well funded. The Langmuirs' generosity will have an immediate and lasting impact – accelerating the translation of pioneering science into revolutionary treatments and therapies for myeloma patients."

The late Dr Douglas Longden

A lasting legacy

Research into early cancer detection will be greatly advanced by a generous legacy gift from the late Dr Douglas Longden (Medicine 1954).

Dr Longden's bequest will create The Douglas and Katherine Longden Chair in Early Cancer Detection, enabling the College to secure world-leading academic leadership to spearhead efforts aimed at enabling earlier detection of cancer, which is key to providing better patient outcomes. The donation will also fund research focused on understanding how cancer adapts and evolves over time to develop resistance to treatments, and will support histopathology work for all researchers in the Division of Cancer.

70 alumni and friends pledged a legacy gift to the College in 2018–19.

Scholarship support

The Lara & Biodun Olanrewaju Scholarship is a new scholarship programme established thanks to a £60,000 donation from Tunde Olanrewaju (Electrical and Electronic Engineering 2002), Jide Olanrewaju (Mechanical Engineering 2002) and Yemi Olanrewaju (Mechnical Engineering 2005).

The programme will support black undergraduate students of exceptional academic merit in the Department of Mechanical Engineering or Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The first recipient of the scholarship, Samuel Albert-Antwi, said: "Education to me is a master key that unlocks many doors in society that I would not have been privy to otherwise. This scholarship has alleviated financial pressures and allowed me to enter university with a new confidence and a clear strategy."

↑ Scholar Samuel Albert-Antwi (third left), with Jide, Roseanne, Inja, Tunde and Yemi Olanrewaju.

1,553 alumni and friends volunteered over 8,000 hours of their time, helping with events, student mentoring and alumni group committees.

Partnering on potential

Imperial has partnered with the Beacon Equity Trust to offer undergraduate students in financial need from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda the opportunity to study at the College. The Beacon Scholarship will enable students with a strong academic background and promising leadership potential to undertake any undergraduate course whilst also receiving a bespoke programme of leadership training, mentoring and guidance from the Trust itself. Through this partnership, the Trust aims to support young people who have the drive and ambition to contribute to their country's development and show potential to inspire others through their leadership.

Entrepreneurial journey

Students at Imperial College Business School were given another opportunity to flex their entrepreneurial muscles thanks to a new competition supported by Renal Services (UK) Limited and alumnus Stefano Ciampolini (MBA DIC 1994). The new Grand Challenge prize offers students taking the Entrepreneurial Journey module the chance to pitch their ideas for new products or services to a panel of investors, with the winning team taking away £3,000 to develop their business. The first winners, team Reef, developed a low-cost public transport app that leverages the smartphones of bus drivers and passengers to ensure both bus companies and passengers know where their bus is and when it will arrive.

Stefano Ciampolini (right) with team Reef. ↓

Pushing the boat out

Forty years after their victory at Henley Royal Regatta, Imperial's 1978 rowing crew came together to make a £15,000 gift to the Imperial College Boat Club.

The idea to make a gift came about when the winning crew reunited for a special 'row-over' at the 2018 Regatta. Together they donated £15,000 to enable the Boat Club to purchase two new boats, which will be named after coaches Neil James and Pete Summers, in recognition of their contributions to both the 1978 crew's successes, and to the Boat Club in general. Alumnus and crew member Sean Hackett (Physics 1978, MSc 1980) said: "The value of my time in the Blackett Laboratory and at the Imperial College Boat Club became increasingly apparent during the years after graduation, which evokes a feeling of pride when looking back to all those years ago. We were motivated to donate in order to recognise the contribution made by our coaches, as well as to acknowledge the benefits of the excellent boat club facilities at Imperial."

← Top: The presentation of the crew's trophy at Henley Royal Regatta in 1978.

Middle: The crew's win in the 1978 final against Yale University.

Bottom: Members of the winning crew reuniting for a special 'row-over' at the 2018 Regatta.

↑ William and Vivian Shek's generosity created the Meaningful Dragon PhD Scholarship.

Meaningful Dragon PhD scholarship in allergy research

A gift from William Shek (Mechanical Engineering 1987) and Vivian Shek (Management Science 1986) will create a new scholarship programme for postgraduate study in the Faculty of Medicine. The Meaningful Dragon Scholarship will be awarded to an exceptional candidate pursuing a PhD in the field of allergy research. The awardee will work under the supervision of Adnan Custovic, Professor of Paediatric Allergy, whose research programme focuses on the origins and natural history of asthma and allergy, with an emphasis on prevention and translation for patient benefit. The name 'Meaningful Dragon' refers to the dragon as both an auspicious symbol bestowing strength and luck, and as a metaphor for Hong Kong, where the Shek family comes from.

Recognising hard work and star potential

Edwina Rossi and Hadi Alagha are two of the 130 exceptional young people who received a prestigious President's Scholarship in 2018–19 – thanks to the 1,054 people who gave to the President's Scholarship Fund this year. Together, your support combines to create new opportunities.

A gift of self-belief

For Edwina Rossi, the award of a prestigious scholarship felt like a vote of confidence in her abilities, giving her faith in her academic potential and the boost she needed to excel in her studies.

"Visiting Imperial as a high school student was like a eureka moment – I fell in love with the place. It seemed like somewhere with endless opportunities.

A few years later, and I'm here studying molecular bioengineering. It's a really interdisciplinary field that requires a wide skillset. The course is letting me explore a range of subjects, which I really enjoy.

"Thanks to your generosity, I've realised that working hard always pays off."

Knowing that I was chosen to receive such a prestigious scholarship was a great boost. It showed that Imperial believed in me. Now, whenever I doubt my academic potential amongst all the brilliant minds at Imperial, I remind myself of why I was awarded the President's Scholarship.

Thanks to your generosity, I've realised that working hard always pays off. Truly, thank you."

More than

£128,000

was donated to the President's Scholarship Fund in 2018–19, providing a vital source of support for undergraduate and PhD scholarships for exceptional students.

President's Scholar Edwina Rossi (Molecular Bioengineering).

Dr Hadi Alagha is a President's PhD Scholar working in the Musculoskeletal Lab.

The light of hope

A President's PhD Scholarship offered Dr Hadi Alagha the chance to study alongside some of the world's leading researchers in orthopaedics – and to develop the skills and knowledge to help shape care for orthopaedics and trauma patients worldwide.

"I joined Imperial as a President's PhD Scholar in 2018.

My research focuses on optimising orthopaedics surgical management. We are developing new technologies and tools to improve how surgery is planned and performed. Our findings could lead to improved outcomes for patients, such as lower risk of surgical complications and improved function in the replacement joint.

"I hope that the skills and knowledge I gain at Imperial will be a light of hope for the people of Syria."

It is a privilege to be at Imperial, working with Professor Justin Cobb and the team at the Musculoskeletal Lab. I wanted to study here because Imperial is a place where research can have global impact. The surgical technologies being developed here can be used to meet the needs of patients around the world.

As someone who fled the war in Syria, I'm incredibly grateful for your generous support for the President's PhD Scholarships. Without a scholarship, coming to Imperial would have been challenging. Once the situation permits, I hope that the skills and knowledge I gain at Imperial will be a light of hope for the people of Syria."

Enriching the Imperial experience

From assisting students in financial need, to providing travel bursaries for overseas research placements, every gift made to the Faculty Deans' Funds has an impact. Together, we are enabling students to make the most of their Imperial experience.

Broadening horizons through international travel bursaries

Through the Faculty of Natural Sciences Dean's Fund, chemistry student Felix de Courcy-Ireland was able to spend the summer on a research placement in Seoul, gaining a unique insight into life and research in a different culture.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity I had to visit Korea.

I spent eight weeks at Seoul National University, working on metallaphotoredox catalysis for making sulfones. It's a field that I've only recently been taught and it was really rewarding to be in the lab working on this material in such depth.

I'm thinking of applying to do a PhD in the future, so doing an overseas research placement was a great way to gain more research experience, as well as to see more of the world.

I've come away with improved lab skills, a deepened understanding of my subject, and a much clearer idea of what I want to do after my undergraduate course.

To everyone who donated to the Dean's Fund, I'd like to say a big thank you. Your support gave me the chance to spend time in a country that I'd never visited before, to experience working life abroad, and to take up a placement in a laboratory that I would never have been able to get for myself."

More than

£38,000

was donated to the Faculty of Natural Sciences Dean's Fund, enabling students like Felix to take up an overseas research placement.

Felix de Courcy-Ireland (Chemistry) was able to take up a summer research placement in Korea, thanks to a bursary from the Faculty of Natural Sciences Dean's Fund.

Genevieve Hirsz, shown here on a general medical placement in haematology, is one of many medical students to receive financial assistance during the final years of their degree. ↑

Lifting the burden of financial stress for medical students

London is an expensive place to live, and even with careful budgeting, it can be difficult to make ends meet. For medical students like Genevieve Hirsz, a bursary from the Faculty of Medicine Dean's Fund is a lifeline, lifting the burden of financial worry and enabling them to focus fully on their studies.

"One of the most enjoyable things about my course is the clinical attachments. I enjoy talking to patients and being able to help them. I've developed an interest in perinatal psychiatry this year and will be doing a specialist placement at St Mary's Hospital in this area, to see if it's an area that I'd like to specialise in.

I've had to work to support myself financially since the second year of my degree. I've done babysitting and tutoring, but the hours are long, and I noticed that I was feeling tired during lectures and while on hospital placements.

That's why I'm so grateful for the support I received through the Faculty of Medicine Dean's Fund. I've been able to reduce the amount of work I need to take on, especially when I need to focus on exam revision.

My experience of Imperial would be very different if I had been left to struggle with my finances. I would likely have isolated myself by spending all my time on earning money, which would have had an impact on my mental wellbeing and my academic performance."

Thank you for supporting the Dean's Fund. Your generosity ensures that medical students – who are already dealing with the stresses of a demanding course – don't have to stress themselves further by worrying about money.

A total of

£45,574

was donated to the Faculty of Medicine Dean's Fund in 2018–19, allowing the Faculty to continue to offer financial support to students at risk of financial hardship.

← Anita Asiedu completed an MSc in Strategic Marketing in 2019.

"My bursary from the Imperial College Business School Dean's Fund meant that I could focus fully on my studies, without having to take on part-time work. Receiving the bursary made me feel really proud. However much you gave, I'd just like to say thanks. Even a small gift can make a big difference to a student like me."

Anita Asiedu (MSc Strategic Marketing)

A beacon for global health

The world's most advanced institute for disease analytics opened at Imperial this autumn, thanks to the philanthropic partnership of Community Jameel.

The Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics (J-IDEA) was launched in October 2019 to harness cutting-edge data science to combat global health emergencies.

Through real-time analysis and modelling, researchers at J-IDEA will shape interventions to control infectious diseases such as Ebola and Zika virus, and to counter the rise of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease around the world. Their work will also help to improve the resilience of healthcare systems when faced with emergencies such as epidemic outbreaks or natural disasters.

Although great advances have been made in global health over the past decades, significant health threats remain. Infectious diseases, epidemics and rising levels of chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease put the health of hundreds of millions at risk. Governments around the world are investing in better health – but with budgets constrained, it is critical that resources are used in the most effective way.

By bringing together the world's foremost epidemiologists, biostatisticians and data statisticians with medics, policymakers and aid workers, the institute will accelerate the development of effective and affordable health programmes, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Data analysis from J-IDEA will provide the evidence that governments and international organisations need to target health interventions – and limited healthcare budgets – for the maximum impact. For example, J-IDEA researchers are providing real-time analysis on the current Ebola outbreak, predicting future numbers of cases and advising partners in international organisations and governments on how to bring it under control.

Professor Nicholas Grassly (left) works on infectious disease and vaccine epidemiology. He and colleagues from the World Health Organization are shown testing sewage for poliovirus in Nigeria. This is a more sensitive means for detecting local circulation of the virus than identifying cases of paralysis, which is a rare outcome of polio infection.

J-IDEA is cofounded by Community Jameel, the global philanthropy established in 2003 to promote global social and economic development. Fady Jameel, President, International, of Community Jameel, said: "J-IDEA will serve as a beacon for the power of health data analytics, transforming lives locally and across the world. We are proud to support such important and urgent work."

Professor Neil Ferguson, Director of J-IDEA, said: "Over the last 20 years, we have seen an explosive growth in data, covering almost every dimension of human life and activity. For global health researchers, this represents an unprecedented opportunity. At J-IDEA we will cut through the noise, drawing out actionable information and driving effective and affordable policy responses that will transform the health of communities around the world."

The Community Jameel gift to establish J-IDEA is part of Imperial College's £100 million Transforming Health and Wellbeing campaign to support a new School of Public Health at the College's White City Campus.

Dr Katharina Hauck, an expert in health economics and policy evaluation, is one of the lead academics at J-IDEA.

J-IDEA Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics

Professor Neil Ferguson is the Director of J-IDEA.

Major donation establishes academic chair in community health

Prevention is better than cure, as the saying goes. The more researchers understand about the complex interaction of genetic, environment and lifestyle factors in the development of ill-health, the better they can advise on what people – and even whole communities – can do to stay healthier for longer.

Now, thanks to an exceptional gift of £2.5 million from philanthropist Humphrey Battcock, Imperial is bringing new leadership to this field of research through the creation of the Battcock Chair in Community Health and Policy.

Based in the School of Public Health, the post-holder will lead new research into some of the major threats to community health in the UK and around the world. One important aim for the post will be to translate research findings into policy recommendations that can help to shape government health policy and local health promotion initiatives.

Mr Battcock said: "Researchers at Imperial's world-leading School of Public Health are finding solutions to some of the greatest public health threats – from child obesity to air pollution. I am pleased to be able to contribute to this important and impactful work."

Thank you

To all of you who gave to Imperial in 2018–19, please let me offer my most sincere thanks.

Since joining Imperial in May 2019 it has been my pleasure to meet with members of Imperial's community and witness the generosity and vision that our alumni, friends, staff and students share.

In my role, I have the privilege to be with people when they do amazing things together – things that would not be possible alone. Seeing Imperial's community come together to raise £65.5 million to support the next generation of thinkers, innovators and leaders is truly inspiring. Your support helps us provide the very best university experience to our students and enables our researchers to work together on pressing societal challenges. Thank you.

This report highlights just a few ways in which your support is benefiting the College and its people. I hope, like me, you are inspired by these stories, and that I have the chance to thank you in person soon.

Michael Murphy
Vice President (Advancement)

Donors giving in 2018–19

£5,000,000 +

Mr Hugh Langmuir† and Mrs Josseline Langmuir†

Ms Marit Mohn (MSc Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology 1973)†

Mr Mark J. Richardson (Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology 1976, MSc Management Science 1977)†

Plus two anonymous donors

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Mr Humphrey W. Battcock†

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Plus two anonymous donors and one donor to the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

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Plus five anonymous donors and three donors to the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

The donor list recognises individuals and organisations who have donated or pledged new gifts in the 2018–19 academic year.

Donor list key

* Given every year for the last five financial years (cash income)

† Given to an endowed fund in either 2018–19 or a previous year

£10,000–£49,999

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Miss Jane Hewitt, in memory of Dr William Hewitt (St Mary's Hospital Medical School 1945)

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Plus one anonymous donor and 20 donors to the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative

£5,000–£9,999

Allen & Overy LLP, in memory of Mr Steve Roberts

Mr Clive C. Bannister

Dr Vik Bansal (MEng Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology 1996, PhD 1999)

The Benevity Community Impact Fund, in memory of Mr Luan Gerveshi (Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology 1975)

Bluecastle Partners Ltd

Mr Charles E. Bowyer (Mathematics 1972)*

Dr Richard J. Burkett (Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology 1970, PhD 1973)*† and Ms Marilyn Burkett*†

Mr Stefano Ciampolini (MBA 1994)

Dr Stephen Norton Memorial Prize Fund

Mr Max R. Duckworth (Physics 1992)* and Mrs Sarah Godlewski

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The Queen's Tower Society brings together the 350 people who have made the very special decision to remember Imperial in their will.

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Remembering Sir Michael Uren: 1923–2019

Distinguished engineer, philanthropist and businessman Sir Michael Uren passed away peacefully on Friday 9 August 2019, aged 95.

A proud Imperial alumnus (Mechanical Engineering and Motive Power 1943), Sir Michael is the most generous benefactor in the College's history. His philanthropy includes a £40 million gift to create the Sir Michael Uren Biomedical Engineering Research Hub at Imperial's White City Campus, where over 500 engineers, clinicians and scientists will come together to develop new and affordable medical technologies.

Having graduated from Imperial in 1943, Sir Michael joined the Royal Navy, where he served in various squadrons until the end of the Second World War. After leaving the Navy in 1946, he held various civilian engineering roles, before going on to found Civil and Marine Ltd and building it into one of the UK's foremost innovators in cement manufacture.

The Sir Michael Uren Biomedical Engineering Research Hub, which is due to open in 2020, will combine the latest medical research and engineering to improve the treatment and diagnosis of diverse medical conditions, from finding ways to cure dementia to creating bionic limbs.

Speaking in 2014, Sir Michael said: "It is an honour for me to be able to help this great university. Medical teaching and research didn't exist at Imperial in my day, but it has evolved into an institution where the work between engineering and medicine is today one of its outstanding strengths. Imperial has always applied academic excellence for the greater good, and I am thrilled by the prospect of this Biomedical Engineering Hub doing exactly that."

Professor Alice Gast, President, said: "Sir Michael was an extraordinary man and an instrumental partner in the College's mission of excellence in research and education. I know that he would be very proud of what we have accomplished together, and all that will be achieved in his name in the future."

We are Imperial College London.

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