MICHAEL HEAD

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

GLOBAL HEALTH, INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

"the constantly evolving nature of research means it's hard to get bored!"

Academic profile

Degree
Biomedical Science, University of Portsmouth

Post grad
MSc Epidemiology, LSHTM
PhD University of Amsterdam

Qualification/achievement you are most proud of
My PhD - it 'completes the set'

Subjects you enjoyed at school
Biology, English Language

Career Summary

I did a BSc in Biomedical Sciences, graduating from Portsmouth in year 2000. I then spent four years in administrative and project management roles in medical insurance, and also in the NHS, before joining UCL in 2004 as a project manager and researcher.
At UCL, I spent 11 years there. I completed postgraduate study (Epidemiology, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), and started what was in effect a distance-learning PhD with the University of Amsterdam.
In 2015, I had enough experience to write my own research grants, and successfully won a pneumonia-focused grant and moved to University of Southampton. In 2016, I completed my PhD. Nowadays, I try to keep a varied working life, covering writing research grants, scientific papers, plus when there aren't pandemics around I go on outreach visits to schools, public engagement activities, and talk with the media.

What inspired you?

Some good teachers at school, and a natural curiosity around the human body and how it works (probably driven by some of the TV programmes I watched as a child, these days you can think of things like Operation Ouch on CBBC, or the David Attenborough documentaries about wildlife and the environment)

Describe your job

- Infectious diseases
- Epidemiology
- Scabies
- Tropical Diseases

Did you know .....

The coronavirus is about 0.001cm long, and something that tiny brought the entire world to a standstill

Watch the video:

Top tip

Take your time. Whether it be wondering what career to choose, or whether to go to university this year or the next (or not at all), there is plenty of time and probably more time than you think.

Best thing about my job

Meeting so many people across different jobs and backgrounds. The last 5 years or so, my global health work has taken me to Ghana, Togo, Ethiopia, and Brazil, as well as places like Geneva and Seattle.

Find out more

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- www.linkedin.com/in/michael-head-4a819a98
- www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/about/staff/mh1d14.page