

KING'S *College* LONDON

King's College London's winning entry centred on its partnership with Sierra Leone's College of Medicine and Allied Health Science, the country's Ministry of Health and Sanitation and its main referral hospital, the Connaught.

The collaboration was set up to help fill the development needs of the Sierra Leonean institutions and find ways to improve healthcare for the Sierra Leonean diaspora living in south-east London. Initial work included training support, a new medical curriculum based on King's expertise and the Sierra Leonean partners' knowledge of the country, a triage system for the Connaught's accident and emergency unit, pilots for free emergency drugs and improved surgical training.

It became especially important when Ebola spread across West Africa in 2014. King's Sierra Leone Partnership supported the construction of an isolation unit at the Connaught, trained surveillance and healthcare workers, established the Western African Command Centre and set up holding units in six other hospitals, allowing the treatment of 1,400 suspected and 900 confirmed Ebola cases.

KSLP is now working with the UK and Sierra Leonean governments and the World Health Organisation to provide technical advice. Team members Oliver Johnson and Will Pooley received honours from the Queen for their work, and more research is in the pipeline.

Judges said the collaboration "led to a step change in local expertise, capacity building and healthcare delivery in a country at the sharp end of the Ebola epidemic".