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Annual Report

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Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor



This academic year has been another strong year for LSTM in the face of continued external challenges. As I reflect on progress towards our strategic ambitions I remain immensely proud of the work of our staff, partners, collaborators, alumni and students.

Professor David Laloo

There isn't space in an annual report to recognise all the achievements of a global organisation like LSTM, but across the following pages you will find some highlights of the groundbreaking work of our community – work which is changing lives, improving health outcomes, and delivering significant impact for the most disadvantaged communities around the world.

Responding to a challenging landscape

In my introduction to the annual report last year, I highlighted the impact of external factors on our core activities; including multiple conflicts and the resulting humanitarian crises; political and policy changes; and the climate crisis which is increasingly driving changes in disease patterns.

Those same external challenges continue but in the past year, significant new challenges and threats have emerged. Across the world, there have been substantial reductions in global health and development funding, which have particularly impacted our partners and our ability to achieve our desired impact. Coupled with attacks on equity, diversity, and inclusion, a very challenging market for international student recruitment and government policies which

are impacting the whole university sector, global health is under greater threat than it has been for many years.

But just as we have done before, LSTM is facing these challenges head on. We have remained responsive and agile, and we have renewed our focus on activities which support our core mission. We have used our influence and voice to argue the case for the importance of global health and development funding and to influence policy wherever possible, while prioritising support for our wider community. Despite the difficult environment, we continue to deliver against the objectives set out in our strategy and there is still much to celebrate.

A year of progress and impact

As we reach the mid-point in our five-year plan, there has been significant progress in all areas of our work.

The research portfolio remains very healthy with active grants of £738m, and our researchers are continuing to deliver impact across the translational spectrum, through partnerships with industry, health agencies, government, academia and communities. There are many areas where there have been significant achievements, many of which you can see in this annual report.

It was really pleasing to see that our commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive education environment was recognised by our student community when we were named first overall in the UK Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey, as well as being named the best for teaching, community, engagement, support,

online learning resources, and on-campus resources. Recognition for our work to support students is always welcome but it is even more meaningful when it comes from our student community. Despite the challenging external student recruitment landscape, we were also delighted to welcome more than 210 new alumni at our 2024 Graduation ceremony: with many making the trip back to Liverpool for the event.

There have been significant advances in our work on partnerships this year. The recent announcement of a new seven-year funding award from Wellcome to the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme (MLW) is recognition of the hard work of LSTM and other partners. This will be instrumental in strengthening MLW's research and training infrastructure and culture - expanding its impact as an international centre of excellence in interdisciplinary health research and training. We are proud of the almost thirty-year partnership between MLW and LSTM and look forward to continuing to play an active role in supporting MLW as a major international research programme. Development of our Regional Partnerships Framework in the Liverpool City Region is a much newer initiative, but the articulation of our local regional strategy is an important step in further developing our critical role as a strategic civic partner in infectious diseases R&D and innovation.

We have continued to see investment in our estate, our systems and our people; a key element in ensuring future success. Work is progressing on a pioneering new £20m High Containment Level 3, AI-robotic lab which will help accelerate new treatments for

highly transmissible infections. This will link up with our new inpatient Human Challenge Facility which will be formally opened early next year. The £6m project to redevelop our historic Mary Kingsley building also delivered a world-class new library, and education and teaching spaces this year which have transformed facilities for our staff and students and supports our future ambitions to establish LSTM as a campus which is accessible to our wider city and regional community.

At the heart of LSTM's success is its people. Our strategic senior recruitment programme continues with a number of new external academic appointments and senior professional services appointments over the last year alongside development of our existing staff which also continues; in January, we were able to celebrate the promotion of seven new professors in our annual promotions round. We were also delighted to install LSTM's first Chancellor, Elhadj As Sy, at our Graduation ceremony; an important step in LSTM's journey as an independent Higher Education institution.

At a time when attacks on equity, diversity and inclusion are coming from across the globe; we have reaffirmed our commitment to this important agenda. We have made substantive progress towards developing a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which will guide our work in the coming years and we are preparing to submit LSTM's first submission for the Race Equality Charter. This is a significant commitment and would not have been possible without the hard work of many across LSTM.

LSTM's many collective achievements over the past year are a testament to the hard work, dedication and passion of our staff, partners and collaborators; without such a talented, committed and collaborative team working across research, education and Professional Services, LSTM would not be able to deliver the impact it does. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work this year for their unwavering and ongoing commitment.

Looking ahead

As we consider our work in the next few years, we have a solid foundation and remain in a robust financial position. We are not complacent about the external environment, but we have clear plans, a long history of delivering impactful research in complex and difficult environments, and we will continue to be flexible and responsive to enable us to respond robustly to current and future challenges.

As a mission-led specialist institution, delivering excellent research and outstanding education through equitable partnerships will always be at the heart of what we do. Focusing on our core purpose and the progress made under our current framework will allow us to remain responsive to the changing external environment and ensure that LSTM is as relevant tomorrow as it was when we were first established over 125 years ago.

Professor David Lalloo CMG
Vice-Chancellor

Chair's welcome



As the reporting year draws to a close it is timely to take a step back and reflect on what has been another exceptionally busy year for Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Jim McKenna

2024-25 has once again seen external factors dominate the landscape for global health and research, and the wider university sector. Undoubtedly, global and domestic policy decisions have impacted some areas of LSTM's work and required close monitoring and agile responses. Despite that, LSTM has seen continued strong performance this year across many of its key measures.

As a specialist research institution LSTM has the benefit of a clear and focused strategy and David and his senior team have remained steadfast in their focus on delivering against that yet remained responsive to external challenges.

A year of impact

This year's performance is a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff, collaborators and partners across LSTM's community.

Beneath the big headlines and numbers there are many individual examples to note - as Chair of the Board I am lucky to see first-hand the

work of many people who contribute to LSTM's activities. This year I travelled to visit partners in Zimbabwe and Kenya, and it was inspiring to see the work which is being undertaken by LSTM staff and students, with a clear focus on delivering impact for the most disadvantaged populations. There are similar examples which demonstrate the same levels of expertise, inspiration and passion taking place across the LSTM community every day.

Building resilience

A subject of much discussion in the UK university sector remains that of resilience and financial stability. This year has seen challenges for some universities which are heavily reliant on undergraduate and international students for their income. LSTM is a very different model which is not so dependent on student tuition fees, however further strengthening its financial resilience to help navigate external pressures in the years to come, rightly, remains a priority.

LSTM has the benefit of a strong balance sheet – in recent years we have been consistently prudent in our financial decisions which has enabled investment in the people and infrastructure which will deliver greater financial stability and resilience. One example of this is the ongoing programme of recruitment and promotion in senior roles which has continued this year – a key part of the wider strategic transformation of both the academic and Professional Services teams. Coupled with the arrival of LSTM’s first Chancellor, Elhadj As Sy, in December 2024, this has brought renewed energy and passion, and a strengthening of LSTM’s commitment to improving the lives of the most disadvantaged communities.

As we move to a new academic year, LSTM will continue to strategically invest in areas which will have the greatest impact or deliver sustainable financial returns. This managed investment will build on the work done to date, but neither the Executive team nor Board of Trustees are complacent about the need to keep a continued focus on financial resilience in an increasingly complex landscape.

Robust governance

As LSTM moves through the Strategy period, my role and that of the wider Board is to provide support, appropriate challenge and oversight to ensure that the university continues to make good progress towards achieving its strategic plans and targets. By working in partnership with the LSTM Executive, I believe we have fostered a culture of trust

and openness, but with the appropriate level of challenge and robust governance required. But, we are not complacent – continually seeking out ways in which we can better support LSTM in achieving its core mission. Collectively, we recognise the important role we have to play and I want to thank all of those who serve alongside me for their continued dedication.

At Board level, this year we have welcomed a new student representative, recognising the valuable role of student voices and experiences in our wider governance. Just as LSTM does at the senior leadership level, we will continue to review our membership with a focus on attracting a broad and diverse mix of people from across different disciplines, nationalities and professional backgrounds. This is critical if we are to continue to reflect the communities in which LSTM operates and ensure diverse representation and voices in our decision making. As a Board, we remain committed to increasing diversity at all levels within LSTM and the development of the new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and its first Race Equality Charter submission is welcomed as a clear demonstration of that commitment within the wider university strategy.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with David, his senior team and the whole of LSTM in the coming year to keep driving meaningful impact in the areas where it matters most.

Jim McKenna

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Our governance

Our governance is exercised through the Board of Trustees and its committees, which are accountable to the Members of LSTM, who in turn answer to the Charity Commission. Our Board includes LSTM staff members (including the Vice-Chancellor) and independent trustees from the fields of business, law, accountancy, politics, higher education, and the public sector, with local and international experience.

Officers

Patron

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

Chancellor

Elhadj As Sy

Vice-Chancellor

Professor David Lalloo – CMG, MB, BS, MD, FRCP
FFTM, RCPS (Glasg) FMedSci

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DTM&H, FFPH
Andy Wright - BSc, MSc

Highlights of the year



Marking 80 years of social history research

2025 saw the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day and the end of the Second World War. Researchers and veterans' families came together at LSTM in Liverpool for the annual Far East Prisoners of War (FEPOW) conference. LSTM treated thousands of men over many decades who returned home from the Far East with long-term infections and diseases after their time as prisoners of war and their experiences and stories were captured in the unique FEPOW social history project which launched in 2007.

Strengthening international collaborations

In September 2024, LSTM and the pan-African, non-profit Science for Africa Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance global health research and improve health outcomes in Africa.



Welcoming LSTM's first Chancellor

In December 2024, we were delighted to welcome esteemed global health leader Elhadj As Sy as LSTM's first ever Chancellor. As was formally installed in front of the Class of 2024 during our Graduation ceremony, where he said he was privileged to take on the role, seeking to prioritise "service to the most vulnerable, to the disadvantaged, the hardest to reach."



125th Anniversary Scientific Symposium

In November 2024, we marked the end of LSTM's 125th Anniversary celebrations with a three-day Scientific Symposium in Liverpool. We brought together leading experts and the next generation of researchers and scientists from around the world to explore the future needs of global health and advance solutions for the next generation.

Developing next generation laboratories

LSTM was awarded £10m of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Innovation Zone funding to develop new AI-powered robotic labs that will accelerate the development of new treatments for deadly diseases. This award builds on an earlier £10m from UKRI's Expanding Excellence in England fund, and the Wolfson Foundation. The new High Containment Level 3 facility, supported by the LSTM-led iiCON consortium, will handle a range of pathogens during development and validation of new treatments that could save millions of lives worldwide.



Strengthening Malawi-led research

The Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome-Programme (MLW), of which LSTM is a founding partner, enjoyed a fantastic year, announcing the renewal of its core grant from Wellcome for a further seven-years. The funding will allow it to continue advancing its world-class research platforms, training programmes and scientific strategy. This award comes on the back of the opening of MLW's CREATOR building in Blantyre last August. The new multi-million-pound medical research and training facility will power MLW's ambition to be the leading research institute based in a low-income country.

International recognition for malaria research leader

In June 2025, Professor Feiko ter Kuile was awarded the Søren and Sigurd Falch-Prize for Outstanding Leadership in Medical Research by the University of Bergen. Professor ter Kuile, who works in partnership with colleagues across LSTM and at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, gave the prestigious guest Falch Lecture as part of the award, an honour given to a scientist working at a very high international level.



Royal recognition

In June 2025 LSTM's Vice-Chancellor Professor David Lalloo was appointed Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George in The King's Birthday Honours List, in recognition for services to Global Health and International Development, and leadership in Higher Education. Professor Lalloo accepted the honour in recognition of the many colleagues and partners working in global health research and education and reflected that the award is a testament to the advice, support and collaboration of many inspirational colleagues.



Academy of Medical Sciences award for LSTM early-career researcher

Dr Rosie Steege was awarded £125,000 by the Academy of Medical Sciences' Springboard programme to investigate the impacts of climate change on sexual and reproductive health, focused on vulnerable young people in Bangladesh.



World-first test for Crimean Congo fever

LSTM researchers developed the world's first rapid, point of care Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever test, offering faster detection of this rare but deadly disease. The new lateral flow test enables healthcare workers to identify cases quickly, potentially saving lives by speeding up treatment and reducing the spread of outbreaks, which can have a mortality rate as high as 40%.

Lifetime Achievement Award



Professor Imelda Bates received the British Society for Haematology’s Lifetime Achievement Award in April, in recognition of her research on anaemia and blood transfusion systems in low- and middle-income countries. She was recognised for her work building medical capacity and innovation across continents; shaping clinical and scientific practice and having a profound impact on patients.



LSTM technicians score big in the Papin Prize

Research Associate Isabel Saldanha was awarded a prestigious Papin Prize, the only UK awards dedicated to celebrating technical excellence and innovation in higher education and research. She was recognised for the best Contribution to Knowledge Exchange – an award which is given to a technician who has made a significant contribution to delivering knowledge exchange and innovation activities in their institution. LSTM’s Zachary Stavrou-Dowd was also highly commended in the same category.

Leading snakebite scientist receives international award

In March 2024, Professor Nick Casewell was named as a finalist in the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists in the United Kingdom – an internationally renowned prize for exceptional early career scientists. Professor Casewell, Director of the Centre for Snakebite Research and Interventions, was one of just nine finalists in the awards, which recognise scientific advances across life sciences, chemistry, physical sciences and engineering.



LSTM epidemiologist selected as International Wellcome Fellow

LSTM and MLW lecturer Dr Patrick Musicha was selected for the Wellcome Sanger Institute’s prestigious International Fellows Programme. As one of six outstanding researchers based in low- and middle-income countries, Patrick will have the chance to deepen his research experience using Sanger’s cutting-edge genomic technologies, facilities and research environment.



LSTM project recognised at the Times Higher Education Awards 2024

REDRESS, an international research consortium tackling skin neglected tropical diseases in Liberia, won International Collaboration of the Year.



LSTM plays a leading role in the international Snakebite Task Force

LSTM’s Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor travelled to Geneva in May for the launch of the new Snakebite Task Force at the World Health Assembly. Elhadj As Sy, will co-chair the Taskforce which also includes Professor David Lalloo alongside fellow experts, policymakers, funders, researchers, health professionals, community advocates, and global leaders. It aims to increase visibility of the burden of snakebite on the global stage and catalyse resources for treatment and interventions.

Welcoming a cohort of new Professors

In January 2025, LSTM appointed seven new Professors as part of the annual promotions round; representing a diverse range of disciplines from across the university. They joined four new external professorial appointments this year.

Our research

A specialist research institution

At LSTM, our research philosophy – to move from evidence to innovation to impact – drives everything we do. It reflects our belief that world-class discovery science must lead to real-world change.

Working across the full translational spectrum; from fundamental discovery through to implementation; we unite laboratory breakthroughs, clinical trials, and policy engagement in one continuous process. This approach is made possible by an exceptional ecosystem of people, platforms, and partnerships that move ideas efficiently from concept to community. Our global partnerships ensure that this work happens where it matters most.

Through LSTM's six specialist research centres we bring together a critical mass of scientists and researchers working across disciplines and geographies and exemplify how discovery connects with delivery. While researchers in our dedicated Institute for Resilient Health Systems are focused on building a global network of health systems experts, working in partnership with policymakers, practitioners, and communities to support health systems anticipate and cope with uncertainties.

Our wider research ecosystem is completed with dedicated delivery units and specialist facilities:

The Global Health Trials Unit

designs, conducts, analyses, and publishes large multi-country global health studies that generate the evidence base for global health policy;

The Enterprise and Innovation Unit

supports the translation of discoveries into products, tools and technologies that reach those who need them most;

The Liverpool Insect Testing Establishment

supports the testing of insecticide-based products for commercial and

academic partners against a variety of mosquito colonies housed in its bespoke temperature- and humidity-controlled insectaries;

The Clinical Diagnostic Parasitology Laboratory

provides a specialist diagnostic service to hospitals, clinics and health professionals across the UK and internationally; offering specialist testing for a wide range of human parasitic infections;

Once operational, the Liverpool Robotic Infection Research Laboratory

will add complementary High Containment Level 3 automation to accelerate therapeutic testing safely and efficiently;

The state-of-the-art new 12-bed inpatient **Human Challenge Facility** and long-standing 18-bed outpatient **Accelerator Research Clinic** are a precise, fast, and cost-effective way of testing drugs

and treatments on human volunteers in a controlled environment, with appropriate healthcare support on hand;

The Well Travelled Clinic offers pre and post travel services by a team of specialist nurses and clinicians for the general public, commercial and NHS partners;

The Research Computing Unit underpins LSTM's research with advanced data science, AI and analytics, turning complex datasets into insights that drive discovery and decision-making;

Our new **Global Health Economics and Financing Unit** is focused on developing advanced translational health

economics methods and health financing analyses, that enable and facilitate rapid translation of effective health interventions into policy, practice and scale-up.



Addressing global health challenges

During 2024/25 we started to refresh our research offer, focusing around four major global health challenges that shape the wellbeing of people and communities worldwide. This provides the framework through which we translate evidence into innovation, and innovation into impact.

Tackling resistance

Antimicrobial and insecticide resistance threaten progress across global health, particularly affecting the most vulnerable communities in low- and middle-income countries.

LSTM's research tackles resistance from molecules to markets, bridging the gap between discovery and implementation. Our researchers are working across the full research lifecycle; including generating real-world data on antibiotic use and resistance trends to inform stewardship, surveillance and implementation in Africa and Asia; uncovering the genetic mechanisms of insecticide



resistance and evaluating new control products under realistic field conditions and, through the new Liverpool Robotic Infection Research Laboratory and BRITE programme, we will have enhanced capability to test resistant pathogens safely and enable rapid production of next-generation treatments and vaccines.

Case Study: Embedding new areas of research – Global Mental Health

Mental health, and the human rights and lived experiences of people living with the stigma of mental illness, are an increasingly important priority in global health. In 2024 LSTM expanded its research focus in this area - building on existing programmes such as REDRESS, the THE-Award-winning project which addresses the stigma of having skin Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Liberia.

Experienced public health psychiatrist and leader in international development, Professor Julian Eaton joined LSTM this year as our first Professor of Global Mental Health. His task is to identify and link the multiple projects in LSTM's existing research portfolio which have a mental health focus and ultimately expand that scope to establish global mental health research as a core research area, integrating mental wellbeing and human rights into global-health research and delivery.



Responding to climate change and environmental pressures

The climate crisis is reshaping where and how diseases emerge and spread. At LSTM, we combine environmental science, vector biology, digital innovation, and health-systems research to understand and mitigate these impacts, turning climate data into actionable health intelligence to ensure that communities and health systems can adapt, respond, and thrive in a changing environment.

The Harare Declaration on Climate and Health in Africa which was signed at the 2024 CESSHAR-led conference, sets a framework for coordinated action and is a demonstration of how to turn evidence into collective action and impact.

Managing and preparing for disease outbreaks

In an increasingly connected world, disease outbreaks can move quickly, cross borders invisibly and affect the most vulnerable communities the hardest. Outbreaks demand rapid, evidence-based response and action.

Our integrated research model links discovery, diagnostics, modelling, trials, and implementation to strengthen global preparedness for emerging and re-emerging diseases; bringing together leading researchers and partners across epidemiology, disease modelling, vaccine research, multi-country trials and human challenge models, humanitarian crises, and social sciences.

Our research is advancing understanding of diseases such as Lassa fever, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, and other emerging infections like SARS-CoV-2, and Zika, as well as supporting the development of new diagnostics and vaccine candidates, for onward implementation.

Protecting vulnerable populations

Across the globe inequalities exist, with the most vulnerable populations the most affected and least able to respond. We believe we have a role to play in changing that, and equity is at the heart of our mission to improve health outcomes for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

Whether in early scientific discovery or policy implementation, our research focuses on women, children, rural and poorer communities who often face systemic barriers to healthcare and are disproportionately affected by disease and disadvantage.

Researchers and partners are working to better understand, diagnose and treat infectious diseases which target the most vulnerable populations – including projects which seek to reduce malaria and other diseases in pregnancy in Africa; community-led, creative health projects in Liverpool which aim to reduce avoidable and unfair differences in health outcomes; research on climate health and disease outbreaks which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, or our emerging area of mental health research which is especially relevant for communities affected by conflict, displacement, or chronic disease.

As a specialist institution dedicated to world-leading translational research, this year we have continued to demonstrate how discovery science can be transformed into innovations that save lives and strengthen health systems around the world.

Even against a challenging global funding backdrop, LSTM's research portfolio has continued to expand, with multiple multi-million-pound awards demonstrating both the quality and the reach of our science, contributing to our overall research grant portfolio of

£738m



Strengthening our translational ecosystem

This year has seen significant investment in LSTM's infrastructure and ecosystem. Some highlights include:

In April 2025, LSTM was awarded £10 million funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Innovation Zone to develop new state-of-the-art AI-powered robotics laboratories to revolutionise infectious disease research. Supported by the LSTM-led consortia iiCON, the new labs will handle a range of pathogens during development and validation of new treatments

that could save millions of lives worldwide. You can read more about the work of iiCON on Page 32.

Work was completed this year on the new £7 million 12 bed in-patient Human Challenge Facility which builds on LSTM's decades of experience in this field. Challenge models use human volunteers to test vaccine and drug safety and efficacy in a controlled healthcare environment – they can potentially speed up product development and approval by 2-4 years. Alongside LSTM's existing outpatient clinic and the established Centre for Drugs and Diagnostics, this new facility will create a seamless route from drug discovery to validation.

Throughout 2024/25 LSTM researchers and partners have continued to deliver world-leading impacts in their fields – demonstrating why we are widely recognised as one of the UK's top institutions for research impact (REF 2021).

Around
600
researchers working across
70
countries

90%
of research outputs
co-authored with international
partners

Investment to impact

Across our expanding network, LSTM's translational model continues to deliver science that not only discovers but transforms, improving lives today and shaping a healthier, fairer tomorrow.

In September 2024, we improved on our already excellent performance in the national Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF 4), which measures the rich and diverse ways that universities benefit society and the economy. Achieving the highest rating for Local Growth and Regeneration and maintaining top scores for Research Partnerships and Public and Third-Sector Engagement, confirms the strength of LSTM's research environment in supporting translation from idea to impact.

LSTM researchers have taken a significant step towards transforming snakebite treatment with the completion of a Phase I clinical trial for a new oral drug. The study, conducted by researchers from the Centre for Snakebite Research and Interventions and the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) Wellcome Trust Research Programme, showed that the drug, Unithiol, is safe, well tolerated, and easy to administer in remote rural clinics. This paves the way for its development as a field-ready treatment, with Phase II clinical trials on patients who have been bitten and envenomed by snakes to follow.

Last year, LSTM's new Institute for Resilient Health Systems was officially launched to help countries prepare, adapt, and transform in the face of shocks and stressors and reduce avoidable and unfair differences in health worldwide. The Institute will co-ordinate and advance health systems research, initially at LSTM, the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme, the Kenya Medical Research Institute and the Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research Zimbabwe, and then through a phased geographic expansion.

In November 2024, researchers from the LSTM-led GEAR UP project were invited to present their work on gender and equity within antimicrobial resistance at the Fleming Fund International Symposium. GEAR UP aims to increase awareness, and contribute to the knowledge on structural inequities driving and shaping the AMR response; facilitating South-South exchange and inspiring further action and global knowledge sharing.



In June 2025, a landmark Lancet study led by LSTM confirmed that preventative malaria treatment in pregnancy continues to protect mothers and babies despite rising parasite resistance. Ongoing work is extending this evidence to the first trimester and evaluating complementary strategies such as post-discharge malaria chemoprevention (PDMC) and R21-PD vaccine studies in Kenya to reduce childhood mortality. In 2023, 12.4 million expectant mothers in Africa were infected with malaria; increasing the risk of miscarriage, severe maternal anaemia, and babies being born too small or too early.

In November 2024, we marked the end of LSTM's 125th Anniversary celebrations with a three-day Scientific Symposium in Liverpool. Bringing together leading experts and the next generation of researchers and scientists from around the world we explored the future needs of global health and how LSTM will continue to adapt to meet these needs.

Our Research: Case studies

Overcoming barriers to healthcare through storytelling and creativity

'At the heart of the ReCITE project lies a pressing concern: persistent health inequities in Merseyside's most deprived communities, where rates of cancer screening and childhood immunisation fall below national targets, and issues of trust and mental wellbeing run deep.



ReCITE stands for "Building Research by Communities to Address Inequities Through Expression", and our ambition is to embed storytelling in community and health-system engagement to foster trust, address misinformation, and promote equitable health outcomes.'

Professor Miriam Taegtmeyer
ReCITE project lead

Building on its early work which saw ReCITE establish 10 Community Intervention Teams (CITs) which are led and owned by communities; the project is already delivering visible impact. In Everton and Anfield, one CIT launched a creative

campaign encouraging breast cancer screening, using poetry, humour, music, and storytelling to engage in over 2,000 conversations; which led to a 25% drop in missed mammogram appointments. In Knowsley, school children



were invited to share their knowledge and experiences about health through interactive workshops. Their insights are now shaping vaccination strategies in their schools.

In March 2025, the £2.5m UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project, hosted the first-ever Creative Health Exchange in Liverpool, bringing together around 140 stakeholders from across the city region.

Artists, healthcare providers, commissioners, and community leaders gathered to support the project which aims to co-produce creative solutions to unfair and avoidable health disadvantages that reflect real lived experience in some of the region's most underserved areas.

By using local data to identify specific health issues ReCITE is developing targeted solutions that cater to the unique needs of each community.

Transforming the vaccines manufacturing pipeline

LSTM is leading a new £5m project which seeks to expand biologics manufacturing capability to enable the rapid



**UK Research
and Innovation**

translation of innovative vaccine and drug research into new medicines. Biologics are complex medical products derived from living organisms, designed to prevent or treat a diverse range of infections and diseases, including emerging infectious diseases, cancer and antimicrobial resistance.

The £5m UKRI-funded BRITE programme brings together universities, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and leading industry players including AstraZeneca and Unilever, to further strengthen the North West region as a global leader in biologics innovation and manufacturing.

BRITE will develop essential capacity and capability to grow the regional and national biologics ecosystem, addressing challenges in manufacturing and commercial scale-up, and building on existing projects and collaborations including the LSTM-led iiCON consortium.



Education

In line with our strategy for education, this year has seen significant progress in a number of areas: including enhancing our education partnerships, investing in our facilities and student experience, and supporting our student, alumni and applicant community.

In student recruitment, we have faced the same challenges as the wider university sector in a challenging international market, but we have continued to be responsive and support our very diverse global pool of applicants to realise their ambitions to study at LSTM.

Supporting talented students to thrive

At LSTM, we recognise that many of our students face barriers to accessing education, whether financial, geographic, or systemic. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we offer a number of scholarships each year to support exceptional students to reach their potential.

Dr Eldred Mabushe Chongwain, a paediatrician from Cameroon, received the Thomas Mark Scholarship in 2024 to study for an MSc in Tropical and Infectious Diseases.

Drawing on his clinical experience, Eldred's dissertation explored barriers to care for children with TB; a disease affecting over one million children every year. His research reflects both his frontline expertise and commitment to improving paediatric health outcomes.



'Being part of this remarkable institution has been nothing short of transformative. Learning and engaging with some of the world's leading clinicians and global health experts, especially in the field of tropical and infectious diseases, has profoundly enriched my personal and professional journey. The knowledge, mentorship, and experiences I've gained here have added real value to my growth, and I'm excited to carry these lessons forward as I continue to contribute to global health on my journey towards reducing health inequalities in underserved communities.'

Dr Eldred Mabushe Chongwain



Delivering an outstanding student experience

2024/25 saw LSTM's highest ever ranking in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey. We were delighted to rank first in the UK for overall satisfaction among our taught students, as well as achieving first place in a further six categories – teaching, community, engagement, support, online learning resources and on-campus resources. This is an incredible achievement and is a result of our focus on creating a nurturing and supportive learning environment that allows our students to thrive. We recognise that there is more

to do to understand and respond to the support needs of our diverse community of PhD students. We have plans to further enhance their experience in the coming year to ensure they have access to the resources, support and facilities to help them thrive, and develop as research leaders of the future whether they are based in Liverpool or further afield.

1st
in the UK for
postgraduate
student
satisfaction

Nurturing our alumni community

In October 2024, LSTM proudly hosted a special 125th Anniversary Celebration for alumni in Abuja, Nigeria. The event brought the LSTM community together for a day of connection and learning. Highlights included keynote addresses from distinguished representatives of the Nigerian Ministry of Health and LSTM's leadership team.

The event inspired the formation of LSTM's first official international alumni chapter, which will be co-chaired by three alumni who participated in the celebration. The chapter will be formally launched at an event in December 2025.

Building partnerships for impact

In support of LSTM's ambitions to widen our reach in health-related education, this year has seen a unique partnership with Edge Hill University. A pioneering new BSc focused on the study of global infectious diseases has been co-created to equip the next generation of scientists with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle some of the world's most pressing health challenges.

As disease-carrying vectors like mosquitoes expand beyond their traditional ranges due to global climate change, and increased international travel and trade, infectious diseases are a serious health problem across many parts of the globe and are now becoming a threat to human health in regions where they previously would never have been found. This unique partnership will see experts from LSTM and Edge Hill University offer students a truly unique and immersive learning experience. Recruitment to the course is underway with the first students expected from September 2026.



Enhancing our campus

LSTM's original Mary Kingsley building underwent significant redevelopment this year. Our new accessible Library, public engagement, and teaching spaces were opened in time for the start of the new academic year, thanks to £6m of funding from the Office for Students.



Providing opportunities for growth

LSTM's 125th Anniversary Scientific Symposium in November provided the platform for our students to engage with some of the world leading experts in their field. A number of PGR students and early career researchers presented their work, alongside highly-experienced researchers and scientists from across the globe.



Partnerships

As a mission-led organisation with a long-history working in partnership across the globe, our collaborations and work with organisations, communities, industry, and civil society remain core to our work. Those partnerships are critical to enabling LSTM to develop and implement world-leading scientific discoveries which deliver maximum impact for the communities most in need.

Overall, this year has seen good progress towards LSTM's partnership objectives, across both our global and regional partnership workstreams. But external factors such as reductions in research funding and attacks on equity, diversity and inclusion programmes have impacted a number of our partners and

wider networks. Throughout, we have remained focused on our core strategy and principles of equitable partnership and have continued to prioritise support for Global Hubs in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Kenya. There have been many successes this year among our partner group.

In Kenya, the **KEMRI–LSTM Research Centre** in Kisumu has grown into a regional hub for child and maternal health, vector control, surveillance, and health-systems strengthening through platforms such as CHAMPS, PRISMA, and a new Clinical Research Unit that is professionalising clinical-trial operations across East Africa. In March this year, we renewed our shared commitment to strengthen global health research and capacity strengthening by renewing the longstanding LSTM and KEMRI partnership with a refreshed Memorandum of Understanding, during a visit to LSTM Liverpool.



Working with over
2,000
organisations across
70
countries



In Zimbabwe, the **Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research (CeSHHAR)** convened the first Climate and Health Africa Conference in October 2024; bringing together over 400 health leaders and delegates from across 30 African nations, to discuss how to combat the detrimental health effects of climate change and improve the well-being of African populations. The landmark event led to the Harare Declaration on Climate and Health in Africa, a continent-wide framework for research and action.

The Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome-Programme, of which LSTM is a founding partner, enjoyed a fantastic year, announcing the renewal of its core grant from Wellcome for a further seven-years. The funding will allow it to continue advancing its world-class research platforms, training programmes and scientific strategy, building on over 30 years' of partnership working.

We have also seen significant progress in developing a new regional partnerships framework this year; building on LSTM’s position as a key strategic partner in the health and life sciences sector in the Liverpool City Region



infection innovation consortium

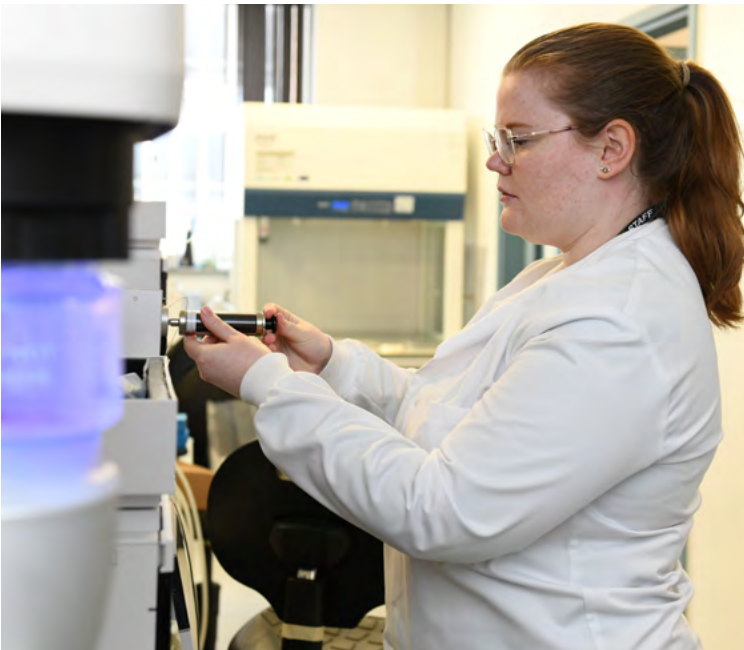
This year, the **LSTM-led Infection Innovation Consortium, iiCON**, marked five years since it was established. This pioneering global partnership brings together academia, industry, and the NHS to remove barriers to infection innovation. iiCON’s 11 specialist platforms, which support industry collaborators from concept to clinical adoption, have continued to accelerate pioneering infection R&D this year. As iiCON marks its fifth year of operations, it has leveraged over £250 million in public and private investment, accelerated over 36 new products and technologies to market and has more than 940 organisations within its global network. You can read more about iiCON’s work in its 2024/2025 Annual Report [here](#).

Building community-based innovation ecosystems

During Liverpool City Region’s Innovation Investment Fortnight in May, LSTM partnered with the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) to host a panel and round table event, bringing together over 60 partners and representatives from community groups, academia, NHS, regional government and industry, to highlight the region’s strengths in R&D and place-based

innovation, and explore opportunities for future collaboration. The event, introduced by Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, focused on building place-based ecosystems for health and prosperity, highlighting the critical importance of place in R&D and the need to build trust between communities and researchers for R&D to be equitable and productive. Attendees were

challenged to think differently about how organisations can work together to deliver greater impact for regional communities. The discussion formed the basis of a White Paper exploring how to build on the partnerships that are already delivering growth and wellbeing for the region and beyond.



Investing in our future

In an increasingly challenging external environment, this year has been a year of focused growth and investment.

We have made good progress on activities aimed at developing our community and enhancing our culture, prioritising those which support career development and progression and continuing with our transformation programme which has seen a number of strategic appointments across both the professional services and academic communities.

A number of capital projects committed to in recent years have also come to realisation this year which has strengthened our wider infrastructure to support LSTM's growth as a leading specialist research and teaching institution.

Investing in our people

Recruitment to key strategic roles also continued at pace this year with a number of senior external appointments across both academic and Professional Services teams. We were delighted to welcome four new Professors; Julian Eaton, Tanya Parish, Jeremy Burrows and Tansy Edwards, alongside new senior appointments in our Legal and Governance, Research Services and Health and Safety teams.

Seven LSTM staff were promoted to Professor this year, acknowledging their outstanding work in infectious diseases and global health. Professors Tom Fletcher, Grant Hughes, Kondwani Jambo, Joanna Raven, Adam Roberts, Rachel Tolhurst and Eve Worrall were recognised for their expertise, commitment to advancing their field, and supporting the careers of others. Professor Euphemia Sibanda was also awarded a prestigious NIHR Global Research Professorship recognising her role in improving the health and care of people around the world. Three new readers were also appointed from within LSTM during the same round of academic promotions; Dr Martha Chinouya, Dr Marc Henrion and Dr Brenda Kwambana.

Supporting the next generation of researchers

Recognising the systemic barriers to retention and progression for BAME researchers and staff, LSTM launched a new dedicated early/mid-career researcher development programme this year.

The BAME ECR Accelerating Career Opportunities Network (BEACON) Investment Fund is a programme which has been developed in collaboration with early career researchers who identify as BAME, as well as those involved in research management and development processes in LSTM.

External data and research show that systemic barriers exist for racially minoritised researchers who are less likely to receive competitive funding, which can limit their career progression in an environment where regular funding awards are a key driver in career advancement.

In line with our ambitions for racial equity at LSTM, our aim is to reduce systemic barriers and contribute towards establishing a robust pipeline of researchers who identify as Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic groups on the path to Professorship.

An inclusive and diverse culture

Throughout 2024/25 we have maintained our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion – in the face of attacks on this agenda internationally. We have undertaken significant work, in consultation and collaboration with our community, to develop a new Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, which will be launched in the coming months.

In parallel, colleagues across the University have worked tirelessly preparing LSTM's first submission to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter. The Charter aims to help universities and research institutes in their work to improve the representation, progression and success of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in higher education and is a key step

forward in our commitment to becoming an actively anti-racist organisation.

As part of LSTM's journey to decolonise its archives, this year saw a focus on recruiting to key roles in support of LSTM's Decolonial History Research Project. We welcomed Professor Rob Burroughs to lead the LSTM-funded project, supported by Post Doctoral Research Associate, Dr David Damtar.



Professor Rob Burroughs



Dr David Damtar

Investing in our infrastructure

A key part of our Strategy includes transforming our infrastructure through focused and strategic investment in our systems, facilities and processes.

At the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme, the new CREATOR building was opened in August 2024 by the country's President Lazarus Chakwera, and Wellcome Chair Julia Gillard. The five-storey building, which has been years in the planning, almost doubles MLW's physical capacity, enabling it to scale up its research capacity by 30% over the next decade.

This year has also seen significant investment to deliver **the first phase of our new end-to-end Research Information System**, a key part of our digital transformation. The new system brings together all activities in a single digital platform and is a critical tool in managing LSTM's complex research portfolio and showcasing the work of LSTM's researchers. The first phase saw the Research Portal go live



in summer 2025, with further phases due to launch next year.

Comprehensive changes to UK higher education regulations which came into force on the 1 August saw a significant focus on the development of new policies and processes to support Freedom of Speech and Safeguarding this year. The Office for Students regulations introduced greater responsibilities on universities to protect students from harassment and sexual misconduct, and secure freedom of speech on campuses.

In January 2025, LSTM affirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability, signing up to the Concordat for Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice. Climate change is a driver of poor health outcomes and LSTM is fully committed to addressing environmental sustainability in our operations, to minimise our environmental impact across our teaching and research. In making this commitment we recognise the need to take shared action now and into the future to reduce and eliminate our own environmental impacts and emissions and achieve the transition to sustainable practices.

Further strengthening our commitment to environmental sustainability, in April we introduced mandatory carbon offsetting for all staff air travel. While international travel is an important of our work at LSTM, we remain committed to reducing the environmental impact from travel wherever possible.



Shaping the future

As one of a small number of specialist research institutions we recognise the important role we have to play in contributing to policy discussions which affect global health research and development.

In December 2024, LSTM hosted MPs from the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee as they toured our cutting-edge research and clinical facilities; hearing first-hand about LSTM and iiCON's role in supporting regional innovation and economic growth in the Liverpool City Region.

We also welcomed the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Pat McFadden MP, to tour the new Human Challenge Facility, during a visit to Liverpool in January 2025 which coincided with the Government's announcement of new measures to strengthen the UK against future pandemics.



In September 2024, LSTM Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Laloo was part of an expert roundtable discussion at the Labour party conference in Liverpool, emphasising the need for targeted and strategic investment in disease prevention and the role of Britain's life sciences expertise in helping to tackle global health threats.

Demonstrating the value of Global Health R&D

To mark World Malaria Day in April, LSTM joined forces with not-for-profit research and policy organisation Impact Global Health, to launch a new report in Parliament which revealed the staggering return on investment offered by UK research and development into neglected diseases.

The report, which demonstrated how sustaining UK's spending would produce a societal return across the world of £1.39 trillion

by 2040, including saving nearly 1.5 million lives, was part of a wider engagement programme with All Party Parliamentary Group members in Westminster.

The foreword co-authored by Professor David Laloo, outlined the UK's important role in delivering impactful Global Health research and development: "Behind each one of the numbers is a person, a family, a community whose lives have been saved or changed for the better. We believe that as one of the richest nations in the world, the UK has an ethical responsibility to take a lead on breakthroughs in neglected diseases."

Financial highlights

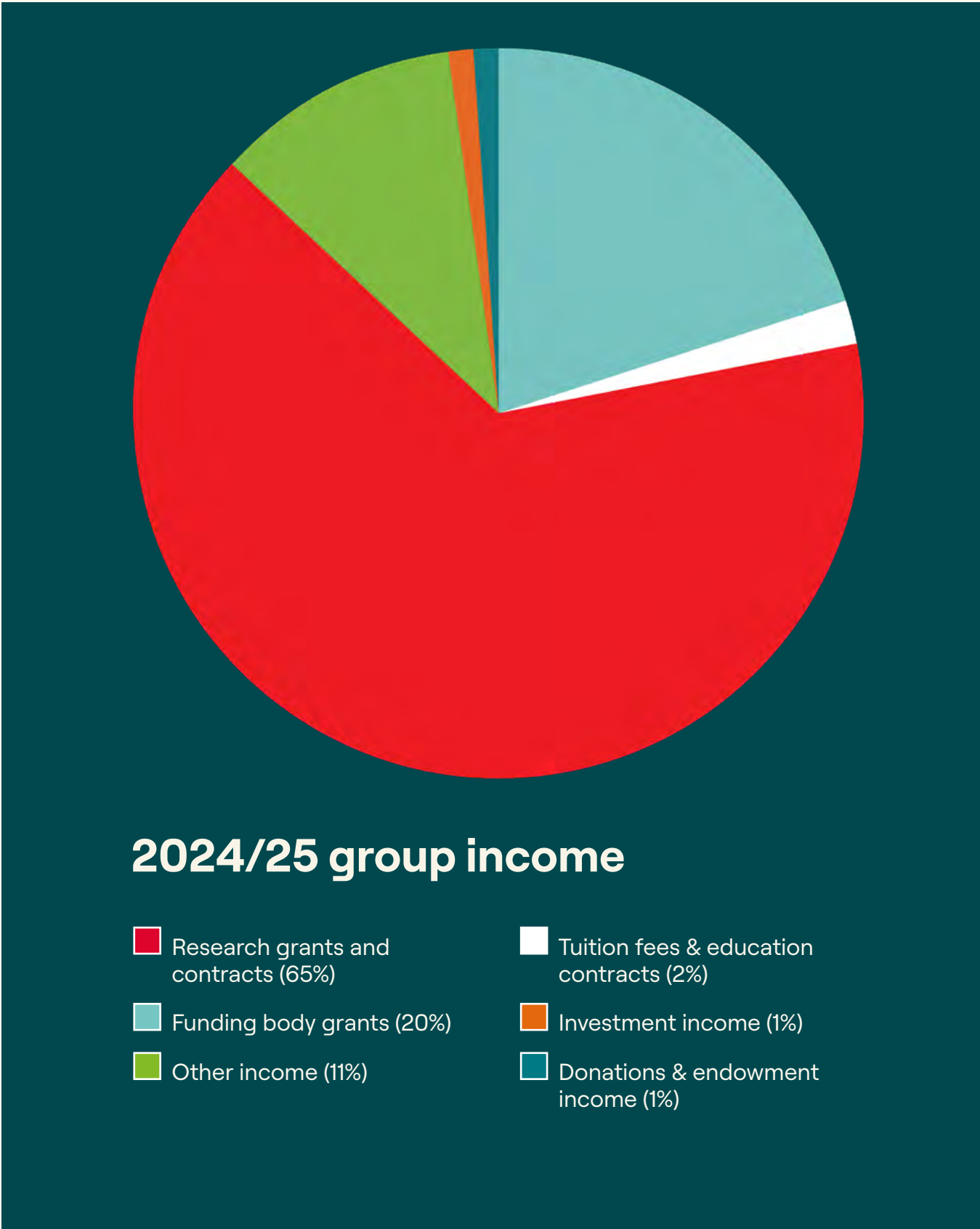
The LSTM Group has had another successful year with a reported group surplus of £2.8m, which reflects the capital investment programmes underway to support LSTM’s Strategy.

Research income increased by 5% excluding gifts in kind, and the research portfolio remains very healthy, with active grants at £738m (compared to £749m last year) and grant applications at their highest level in 5 years.

Operational funding from the Office for Students and Research England has grown 1% with £9.4m of cash capital funding received in the year. Overall income stands at £129m.

Net assets at 31 July 2025 were £82.5m and cash and investment balances remain very healthy.

This has been achieved against a backdrop of continuing financial turbulence in the HE sector, with rising staffing and infrastructure costs, increasing competition in the research environment and an uncertain international student market. LSTM has continued its significant investment in buildings and the IT infrastructure as part of its ambitious growth plan.



Group financial position

The LSTM Group has reported total surplus income of £2.8m (2024: £25.0m surplus) with research income remaining at similar levels in the last year, and a further increase in Research England funding, particularly for capital projects. Excluding gains and losses in investments and endowments, an underlying group operational surplus of £2.5m (2024: £2.8m) has been achieved.

The financial budget for 2025/26 is for a small deficit as the organisation continues to invest in growing and improving its infrastructure, transforming its professional services functions and growing its academic base. By the end of the 5-year strategic plan, LSTM aims to achieve a minimum surplus of 3% of turnover as part of its drive towards continued long term financial sustainability.

Group net assets at the year-end totalled

£82m

(£2024 : £81m). Combined group cash and investments have increased slightly to a healthy £87.2m.

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Public Benefit Statement

The charity trustees of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine are its Board of Trustees who have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and particularly to its supplementary public benefit guidance on purpose, which primarily for LSTM, is the advancement of education and research, and advancing health and saving lives.

Although primarily concerned with teaching, learning, research, knowledge transfer, and the development of the potential of its students, both for their own sake and to serve the needs of society and the economy, LSTM also plays a major role in shaping a democratic, sustainable, and inclusive society by striving for its research to impact policies and implementing practices. These distinct purposes inevitably impact on its governance structures and practices, including in the need to engage both staff and students in the governance of their institution and a clear recognition of the importance of public benefit. Public benefit reporting is also an increasingly important aspect of LSTM's transparency and accountability, and this helps the staff, students, and the wider public appreciate what activities LSTM delivers in return for both public funding and tax exemptions. A representative record of those activities is published throughout this Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Company registration number: 83405

VAT registration number: 887125885

Registered charity number: 222655

Accessibility

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