

ANNUAL REPORT **2020**

Contents

4

People

6

Foreword

8

Tackling Covid-19

10

Amelia Amemate:
Confronting gender norms

12

Community news

16

Muhamad Hartono:
More effective cancer drugs

18

20 years of impact

20

Quick facts

22

Twenty years in numbers

24

Scholar reflections: Andy Robertson

26

Scholar reflections: Julia Fan Li

28

Remembering Bill Gates Sr.

29

Bill Gates Sr. Prize winners

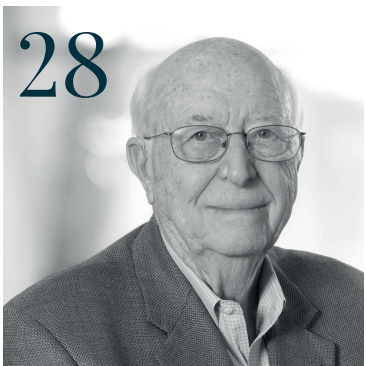
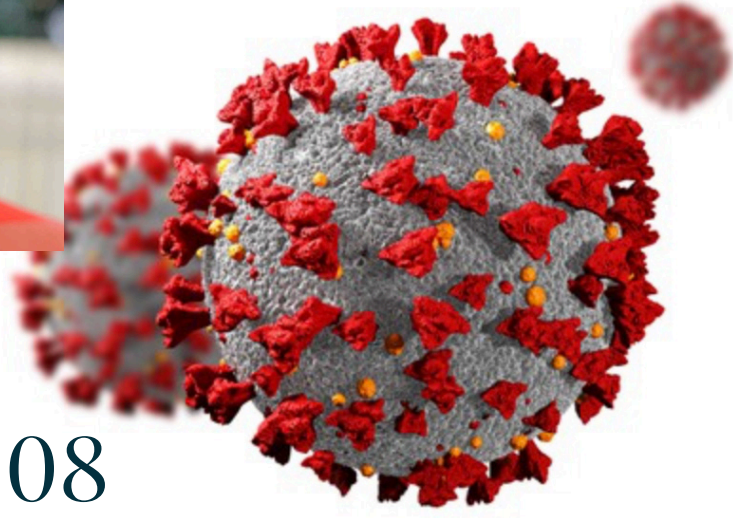
30

Financial summary

31

Financial statements

Editor: Jim Smith
Design: H2 Associates Cambridge
Image credit: William H. Gates Sr.,
courtesy of the Gates Foundation



People

PATRONS



Melinda French Gates
Co-Chair, Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation



Bill Gates
Co-Chair, Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation

TRUSTEES



**Professor Stephen Toope
OC, LL.D.**
Vice-Chancellor of the University
of Cambridge (Chair)



Timothy Harvey-Samuel
Bursar of Trinity Hall,
Cambridge (Honorary Treasurer)



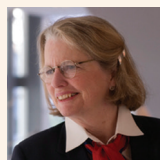
Amy K Carter
Deputy Director, Family Interest Grants
at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Professor Mary Sue Coleman
Former President of the Association
of American Universities and Former
President of the University of Michigan



**Dame Sally Davies GCB, DBE, FRS,
FMedSci**
Master of Trinity College, Cambridge,
UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial
Resistance and former Chief Medical
Officer for England



Dr Mimi Gates
Former Director of the Seattle
Art Museum and Yale University
Art Gallery



Dr Julia Li
Co-Founder & CEO, Micrographia
Bio and Gates Cambridge Alumna



Dame Barbara Stocking DBE
President of Murray Edwards College,
Cambridge and former Chief
Executive of Oxfam GB



Professor Bhaskar Vira
Professor of Political Economy and
Head of Department, Department of
Geography, University of Cambridge
and Fellow and Graduate Tutor at
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge

STAFF



**Professor Barry Everitt FRS FMedSci
Provost**
Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience at
the University of Cambridge, President of
the Society for Neuroscience and former
Master of Downing College, Cambridge



Dr Jade Tran
Director of Finance



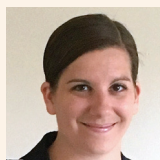
Dr Regina Sachers
Secretary
Head of Governance and Compliance
Division, University of Cambridge



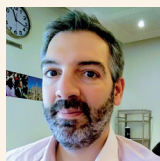
Jim Smith
Programme Director
Senior Member of Wolfson College,
Cambridge and Trustee of Jimmy's
Cambridge



Luisa Clarke
Programme Manager



Celine Ophelders
Alumni & Events Officer



Dr Carlos Podadera
Programme Officer



Usha Virdee
Accounts Officer



Mandy Garner
Communications Officer

Foreword

Professor Barry Everitt FRS FMedSci ScD, Provost

The 20th anniversary of the scholarship is a time to both reflect on what has been achieved and look to the future with hope and enthusiasm.

2020 was by any measure a difficult and challenging year. The COVID-19 pandemic burst on to the global scene early in the year, impacting all areas of life with a tragic toll in deaths and long-lasting incapacity for many; climate change became an even more urgent challenge to address, with scientists issuing yet starker warnings; discrimination reared its ugly head in numerous ways, most visibly through the Black Lives Matter movement in response to killings in the USA; and Brexit and its impact continues to consume the UK. All of these challenges – and many more – continue to pose serious threats.

But there are reasons to be hopeful and as Provost of the Gates Cambridge Trust I am constantly reminded of this. Whether reviewing applications for the scholarship in the Biomedical Sciences, engaging with our current scholars in Cambridge or reading about the impact of our alumni across the world, it is abundantly clear that members of the Gates Cambridge community are providing leadership and improving the lives of others in a multitude of ways, thereby fulfilling the key aims of the programme. The range and impact is impressive: from helping tackle COVID-19 from multiple angles, confronting gender discrimination and working to make anti-cancer drugs more effective to writing a best-selling book about LGBTQ+ history and creating a robotic arm moved by eye for those with disabilities – and, possibly, being the first woman on the Moon.

2020 also marked the start of the 20th anniversary of the Gates Cambridge programme. The original donation of US\$210m from the Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge on 10 October 2000 remains the largest single gift to a UK university. It has enabled the Trust to award almost 2,000 scholarships since the first class arrived in Cambridge in 2001. Although our plans for in-person events have been thwarted by pandemic travel and social distancing restrictions, we

have already [started celebrating](#) this milestone and have started a series of events on topics such as [climate change](#), [gender equality](#) (with Melinda Gates), access to education and more. This year's report includes a special 20th anniversary section and you can follow the celebrations via our website and social media channels.

Despite the pandemic, we successfully completed all our usual programmatic work during 2020. This is in no small part due to the Trust's small but exceptional team of staff, our supportive board of Trustees, the innovative Scholars' Council and Alumni Association, academic departments that take time to review and nominate applicants and our dedicated reviewers and interviewers who help select new scholars. I warmly thank them all for their energy and commitment, particularly in such demanding times.

I am delighted to report that, with some minor adjustments to our selection process, we were able to select 78 exceptional and diverse new scholars (from an application pool of 5,506) as the 20th class, who are now engaged in their studies and research at Cambridge. You can read more about them in our [announcement](#).

Our 250 current scholars, who are away from their usual support networks, faced a particularly challenging year. While the University responded to government guidelines and communicated plans to all students, the Trust continued to provide a generous financial package, a wide range of community building activities (by funding the exceptional work of the Scholars' Council) and for those whose research was negatively impacted by the pandemic, additional funding to ensure they were fully supported as they successfully completed their degrees. We have and continue to support our scholars in residence as they endure what should be a most exciting and fulfilling time as Gates Scholars while in relative social isolation.

With the aim of creating a global network of alumni, the Trust funds and supports the work of the Gates Cambridge Alumni Association (GCAA). The GCAA



Board also had to respond to the pandemic and find new and innovative ways to engage our 1,600-strong alumni community. I take this opportunity to warmly thank the Co-Chairs: Alex Kong and Devinn Lambert, the latter who is stepping down from that role to have her second child, and also to welcome Hallike Voolma as incoming Co-Chair.

We undertook a range of outreach and communications work in 2020 with the aim of increasing the diversity of the applicant pool and scholarship body even further and raising the profile of the scholarship to new audiences. Our Scholars and Alumni are crucial to this work. Our Trustees are also in active discussions about diversity in terms of what we have already achieved and what we want to achieve. I am therefore particularly pleased to see that the University is progressing its strategies on International Postgraduate Recruitment and Widening Participation, with which the Trust is fully engaged.

Financially, the Trust, like many organisations, had a difficult 2020. While our financial resources are invested in the Cambridge University's Endowment Fund, there were several challenges to manage, not least increasing costs, reduced investment income and responding to external pressures such as the pandemic and Brexit. But despite a turbulent financial year the Trust is currently in a relatively healthy financial position. This means we have – just as this publication has gone to press – offered 73 new awards for 2021, with a further 10 deferred scholars joining them in Cambridge

in October. Our Director of Finance provides more details in her section of this report.

Sadly, 2020 saw the [passing of Bill Gates Sr.](#) As Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a founding Trustee of the Gates Cambridge Trust, Bill Sr. was instrumental in setting up the scholarship programme and was responsible for establishing its guiding principles of academic excellence, leadership and improving the lives of others. All of us at the Trust and the wider University community remain deeply saddened by this loss. We are taking time to reflect on and celebrate Bill Sr.'s life and impact, particularly in relation to the scholarship and how he has inspired generations of Gates Cambridge Scholars. You can read about Bill Sr. and the impressive recipients of the Bill Gates Sr. Prize in this report.

Finally, I am pleased to report that progress is being made on the new home for the Scholars' Room and the Trust's office. This is a major project that has been slowed a little due to the pandemic, but we hope that work on site will commence in late 2021, with the aim of moving into the new building in late 2022/early 2023. Subject to University approval, the new building will be named in honour of Bill Gates Sr.

Despite the many challenges we face, the Gates Cambridge programme and its scholars and alumni emphasize that there is much to be hopeful about as we move through and beyond the programme's 20th anniversary year.

1



Emily Jordan [2009] is co-founder of a start-up which has launched the Ancora.ai platform to connect patients to clinical trials for vaccines, diagnostic tests and therapeutic treatments in development for COVID-19. [Read more.](#)



2 Pradipta Biswas [2006], whose laboratory at the Indian Institute of Science has developed a new app which shows the rate of spread of COVID-19 across different regions. [Read more.](#)

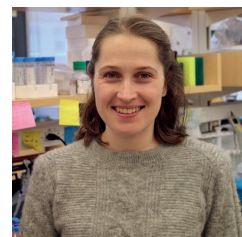
6



Dr John Clark [2019], a current Scholar pursuing a PhD in Paediatrics, is studying how the virus affects

children and how their responses to the virus seem to be different from adults. The study is part of a nationwide collaboration that is looking at how COVID-19 affects children. [Read more.](#)

7



Isabella Ferreira [2019], a current scholar undertaking a PhD in Medicine at the Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology & Infectious Diseases (CITIID) researching HIV drug resistance and HIV reservoirs. The Gupta Lab has now turned its efforts towards fighting the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus, the cause of COVID. In spring 2020, the team introduced the SAMBA II point-of-care test into clinical practice at Addenbrooke's Hospital for rapid diagnosis of illness. [Read more.](#)

TACKLING COVID-19

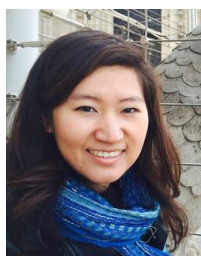
A number of Gates Cambridge Scholars and Alumni have been involved in efforts to combat COVID-19 and its impact across a wide range of areas. They include researchers looking at how the coronavirus impacts various populations, those working on potential vaccines, social entrepreneurs looking to speed up the process of finding treatments and vaccines as well as alumni working to fund raise for some of those worst affected by the pandemic. You can see a full list [here](#).

3

Matt Varilek [2001] is President of the Initiative Foundation, which has pivoted to address the impacts of the coronavirus crisis in rural Minnesota and has raised and then granted \$150,000 to childcare providers serving the children of emergency workers like medical and law enforcement personnel, so those parents can continue to provide essential services. [Read more.](#)



4



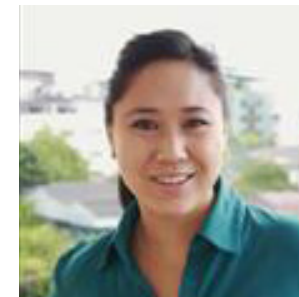
Julia Wang [2014], co-founder of the Immigrant History Initiative, which is raising awareness about the racism that has resurged during the pandemic, especially against Asian American communities.

5

Melisa Basol [2018] was part of a team which launched an online game that puts players in the shoes of a purveyor of fake pandemic news and is part of the UK Government's efforts to tackle the deluge of coronavirus misinformation that is misleading many and costing lives across the world. [Read more.](#)

8

Lucinda Lai [2012] helped to create an app to bridge the gap between emergency medicine and palliative care during the COVID-19 pandemic The PalliCOVID. app rapidly disseminates palliative care resources and support to doctors who are caring for COVID-19 patients at the end of life. [Read more.](#)



9



Stephen Kissler [2014], currently a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard, studies the spread of epidemics using statistics and mathematical models. In a recent article he projected the long-term transmission patterns of the COVID-19 pandemic and the amount of time we'll need to continue with periodic social distancing.

i

Many of our scholars and alumni have also undertaken activism and fundraising related to COVID19 – from organising comedy nights in Cambridge, fundraising for food packages for poor families in Uganda and Nigeria to supporting access to educational resources during lockdown in Dominica and much more.



Confronting gender norms

Amelia Amemate

Amelia Amemate [2020] has spent much of her life striving to challenge gender norms. Like many women in Ghana and elsewhere, she was expected to get married and focus on the home; at university, she faced sexism and hostility when she campaigned for women's rights; and in the workplace, she was told her Afro hair was unacceptable. Those experiences have fuelled her desire for greater ethnic and gender equality. Her PhD at Cambridge will further that alongside her continuing work to contribute to change in Ghana and beyond.

Amelia was born in Keta, a coastal town in southern Ghana. She describes her hometown as a land between the lagoon and the sea. Her father is a fisherman and her mother is a vegetable trader. She is the oldest of four children and was the first in her immediate family to go to university. All her siblings have since followed that path.

Amelia's awareness of gender discrimination grew over her time at the University of Ghana, Legon, with two experiences, in particular, having a powerful impact. The first involved sexual harassment. She says her thesis supervisor harassed her on numerous occasions and told her he would not supervise or pass her thesis if she did not have sex with him. She refused and ended up having to forego her thesis research. Fortunately, she was still able to amass enough credits to graduate because she had taken extra courses during her studies.

Earlier this year, the BBC did a documentary on sexual harassment in West African universities. Amelia's former supervisor was one of the professors captured on the tape trying to sexually harass journalists who posed as students. Amelia took the opportunity to write about her encounter in the media, describing her experience as a common occurrence in Ghanaian schools and workplaces. Even so, she says she was interrogated about her experience as if she had committed the abuse rather than the other way around. "That's why so many women don't come forward," she says. The professor was temporarily suspended, but Amelia says that he should have been banned from teaching, given she could have lost her whole university career as a result of the incident.

"I want to understand the systems and structures that support hostility to women and non-binary people and how technology is changing attitudes."

The second experience involved student politics. Having realised early on in her course that the Student Representative Council (SRC) was invariably led by men, Amelia decided to run for student president. She faced overwhelming hostility and was asked by university officials to stand down her campaign even though she satisfied all the eligibility requirements. She took the case to court on two different occasions. But in spite of winning the first case which gave her and her running mate a place in the elections, she was forced to drop the second due to the threats she received.

Those experiences made Amelia even more determined to do what she could to change the system so she applied to law school. While she was applying, she worked for a company where she was told she could not wear her hair in its natural Afro style and was stopped from attending a conference as a result. Amelia wrote an article about this which went viral, but she says the majority felt that her boss was right to enforce such a workplace hair policy. She says: "The standard of beauty for the corporate world is the opposite of what African women look like."

Since the article brought a lot of criticism, Amelia decided to do something about it. She deferred her law

course at the University of Ghana's School of Law to go to the US to do a two-year master's programme. Her master's dissertation focused on understanding how African women came to prefer relaxed hair and wear weaves over their hair. Amelia says: "I saw the need for our people to understand that their hair is good enough and that they don't have to change how they look."

She won a scholarship to Bowling Green State University in Ohio, having chosen the US because much work had already been done on natural hair there. "In the US it was an established topic, but in Ghana, it wasn't even up for discussion," she says. Amelia won two of the most prestigious awards during her master's education at Bowling Green State University as a result of her activism and research work in the area of gender studies: Outstanding International Graduate Student Award – 2019, and Best Paper and Presentation – Graduate Category – Embracing Global Perspectives Conference/Awards. During her time in the US, she was involved in several student leadership activities.

Amelia had been doing community work in Ghana before going to the US. That and her work for the Moremi Initiative for Young Women's Leadership in Africa enabled her to take part in the 2017 MILEAD fellowship for exceptional emerging African women leaders. Her gender equality activism work in Ghana and her involvement with Moremi exposed her to UN Women whose conferences she has been a part of for the past three years. In 2019, she presented a paper on Ghanaian women, technology and gender equality work at a side event during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

When her master's course came to an end, she decided to continue her studies by doing a PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies. She applied to the University of Cambridge and Gates Cambridge. Her PhD, under the supervision of Dr Holly Porter, focuses on how Ewe and Akan cultural norms contribute to gender inequality and how technology impacts on these gender relations in Ghana. She says: "I believe my PhD is essential for the policies Ghana will make in the future. I want to understand the systems and structures that support hostility to women and non-binary people and how technology is changing attitudes. I want to see a better world and to improve the chances for all people in my country."

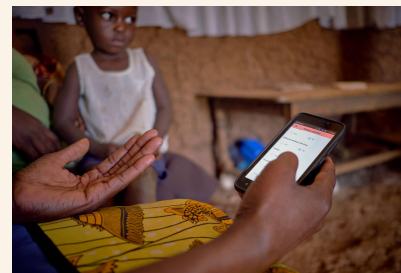


Rob Perrons [2001] has won a Fulbright Scholarship to work on ways to improve the supply chains for the technology minerals needed to make energy green. He will be working at the University of Delaware, the World Bank, and the U.S. Department of State, while also remaining in his role as Associate Professor in Technology Management and Strategy at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. [Read more.](#)

Kayla Barron [2010] recently graduated from NASA's astronaut training programme. One of the first class of women commissioned into the US Navy's submarine community, she finished her training on NASA's Artemis programme and is now one of a small but growing cadre of female astronauts – and could be the first woman to set foot on the Moon. [Read more.](#)



Sofia Singler [2016] has been collaborating with acclaimed film director Virpi Suutari on a feature film about Alvar Aalto, the greatest Nordic modern architect of the 20th century. [Read more.](#)



Medic Mobile, co-founded by **Dr Isaac Holeman [2013]** and which aims to advance good health for the

hardest-to-reach communities, announced the creation of a new global health technology accelerator. Medic Mobile's Medic Labs has \$3 million in seed funding from The Rockefeller Foundation and will pursue 'moonshot ideas' – ideas which address huge problems, such as climate change, and propose to create a radical solution to the problem using a disruptive technology. [Read more.](#)

Marcel Elias's [2013] first book, *Crusade Literature and the Interrogation of Self: Romance and History, 1291-1453*, is scheduled to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2021. Marcel has also recently taken up a tenure-track Assistant Professorship in the Department of English at Yale University. [Read more.](#)



Chandler Robinson's second company has recently been described as having the best first day for an IPO since the Chinese tech giant Baidu. The company, *Monopar Therapeutics Inc.* (NASDAQ: MNPR), is Chandler's second successful biotech exit since completing his studies at the University of Cambridge in 2010. [Read more.](#)

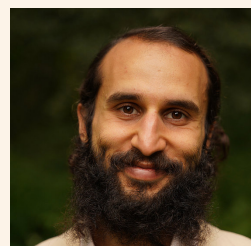
Jennifer Jia [2017] is the founder of *Emporsand*, an enterprise that aims to empower women through sanitation. Its first product, a sanitary pad made with the remnants of fast fashion, taps not only into concerns about waste and the environment, but also into period poverty – two of the biggest issues the world is facing today. [Read more.](#)



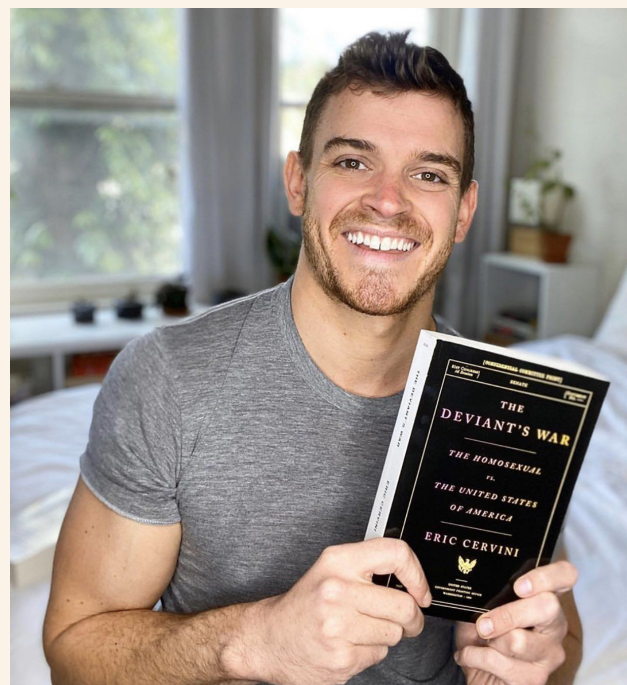
Gabriella Heller [2015] is one of 22 scientists selected as a 2020 Schmidt Science Fellow. The one-year postdoctoral programme, now in its third year, will enable her to explore new experimental techniques and provide training in leadership, policy and communication. [Read more.](#)



Arazi Pinhas' new book is inspired by a profound process of spiritual development that he underwent at Cambridge which taught him about himself and his place in the world. *Wisdom of a Mystic: Spiritual Wisdom from a Kundalini Awakening* is described as an invitation "to look inward, to the depths of consciousness, as a way to connect with the richness of our own being". [Read more.](#)

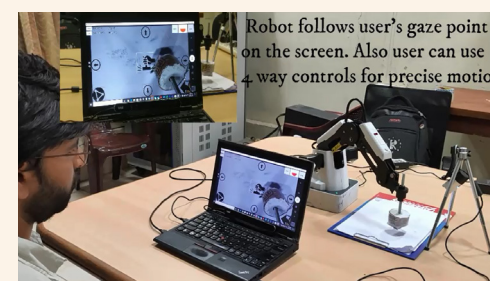


serving their communities". Geo is the Legislative Director for US Congressman Ro Khanna, who represents Silicon Valley, and previously was National Security Advisor to Khanna. [Read more.](#)



Eric Cervini's [2015] first book *The Deviant's War: the Homosexual vs the United States of America* was published during Gay Pride Month and has already won much praise and become a bestseller. George Chauncey in *The New York Times Book Review* said it was "exhaustively researched and vividly written" and was a "riveting account of Kameny's struggle will be eye-opening for anyone keen to have a crash course on LGBTQ politics". [Read more.](#)

A team at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) led by **Pradipta Biswas** has designed a robotic arm that can be manipulated by eye movement using a computer interface, aiding many people whose disabilities make it difficult to operate devices such as mice or joysticks. [Read more.](#) Pradipta and his colleague have also been awarded a prestigious \$75,000 grant from Facebook Reality Labs to investigate the barriers people with disabilities may face with regard to accessing augmented and virtual reality. [Read more.](#)



An education company founded by **Xiaohan Pan [2005]** which links Cambridge and Zhejiang universities made a successful move to online delivery over the summer, running a course in Algorithms for Machine Learning for 60 students from China. [Read more.](#)



Andrea Binder [2014] won the Körber Foundation's German Dissertation Award for her PhD dissertation on the relationship between offshore finance and state power. The prize, one of the most highly endowed for young researchers from Germany, honours excellent PhD research which has a broad relevance for society. The annual competition is held under the auspices of Bundestag President Wolfgang Schäuble. The award is endowed with EUR25,000. [Read more.](#)

Professor Barry Everitt, Gates Cambridge Provost, was awarded the Royal Society's Croonian Medal and Lecture for 2021 for his research on the application of his findings on brain mechanisms of motivation to important societal issues, such as drug addiction. Professor Everitt, a former Master of Downing College, Cambridge, is also President of the Society for Neuroscience. [Read more.](#)



“I want to find a way to diagnose and deliver drugs more effectively to tumours using nanotechnology.”



More effective cancer drugs

Muhamad Hartono

Muhamad Hartono's PhD aims to design and synthesise nanoparticles that can target pancreatic cancer and improve treatment outcomes.

There is a personal motivation to his work: two years ago his grandmother died from pancreatic cancer while he was studying in the Netherlands. Muhamad was unable to travel to Indonesia to attend her funeral.

Muhamad's university journey has seen him move from the desire to get a good engineering job to help himself and his family to understanding the wider impact research can have on local communities like the one he grew up in and the wider world.

Childhood and education

Muhamad grew up in a small village in Sumatra Island, Indonesia. His mother – a farmer – brought him up on her own as his father died before he was born. No-one in his village had a degree and many students did not graduate from high school. Muhamad was very academic as a child and, supported by a scholarship for academic excellence, he did his undergraduate degree studying Chemical Engineering.

Just as he had been helped by his teachers and his scholarship, Muhamad wanted to help others so he started a mentorship programme to help high school students to get into university and find the scholarships they needed to do so. He has recruited other mentors over the years and so far the programme has mentored around 35 college graduates, some of whom are now teachers in his province. "Higher education changed my life for the better. I want to help others," he says.

Over the course of his degree, Muhamad decided he wanted to be a researcher. This was in large part shaped by his experience in his third year on a project in a rural community in Bali which, like his own, had no access to electricity.

Postgraduate studies

A postgraduate degree seemed the next logical step. Before he embarked on the degree he worked for a year with a professor to gain valuable research experience, including with mechanical and chemical engineers on a biodiesel project to bring electricity to a rural village, similar to his own, using cooking oil. Muhamad worked with locals to show them how to make it work and says the experience strengthened his motivation to use his education to help people. The region now has a biodiesel pilot plant which produces electricity for lighting with the most important benefit being for education.

With another full scholarship, Muhamad was able to pursue a degree in chemical product engineering at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands the following year. There he became interested in the application of nanomaterials for medicine, working on the synthesis of nanoparticles for tumour diagnosis.

After finishing his study, Muhamad applied to Cambridge to do an MPhil in Biotechnology. He felt he needed to understand the biological side of his research in order to be able to design nanomaterials that are efficacious and not toxic. "I wanted to learn how we can direct their design from a biological perspective," he says. His MPhil looks into novel nanoparticles made from biocompatible materials that can potentially be used for diagnosis and treatment of many age-related diseases and cancers. "During my Gates Cambridge interview I did not promise to cure cancer. I want to find a way to diagnose and deliver drugs more effectively to tumours using nanotechnology," he says.

Muhamad says being a Gates Cambridge Scholar has been one of the best things about being at Cambridge. "It has inspired me to do better. Gates Cambridge Scholars are very passionate about the world. A lot of my Gates Cambridge friends study cancer and I have been able to pick their brains to design my own research," he says.

20 Years of Impact

October 2000

Donation of US\$210m to establish the programme



October 2001

First class of scholars arrive in Cambridge



December 2001

Bill and Melinda Gates first visit to Cambridge to meet Scholars



June 2005

HM The Queen visits Cambridge and meets Scholars



2007

Alumni Association inaugurated at British Embassy in Washington D.C.



June 2009

Bill and Melinda Gates' second visit to Cambridge to meet scholars and receive Honorary Degrees.



July 2010

10th anniversary celebrations



2012

Bill and Melinda Gates become Patrons of the Trust



2014

Inaugural Annual Lecture given by Dame Barbara Stocking



2015

Scholars from 100 countries



2020

20th anniversary



2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme, which runs from October 2000 to October 2021.

This year's anniversary celebrations will include a host of events, from Festival panel discussions to alumni gatherings and filmed discussions on topics ranging from climate change to human rights to a 20th anniversary lecture, extended interviews with one scholar from each of the 20 years, articles in University publications, a special edition of *The Scholar* magazine and more.

We will look back at the impact the scholarship programme has had – the year has launched with an article on that impact on the University's website – and look forward to what the next 20 years might hold, including the potential of those scholars currently in residence, including the 2020 cohort who have recently arrived in Cambridge.

Follow our 20th anniversary celebrations via [#gatescambridge20](https://twitter.com/gatescambridge20)



Quick facts



250

Scholars studying
in Cambridge



1,931

scholarships
awarded
to date



5,069

applications
for 78
scholarships
for 2020 entry

More than

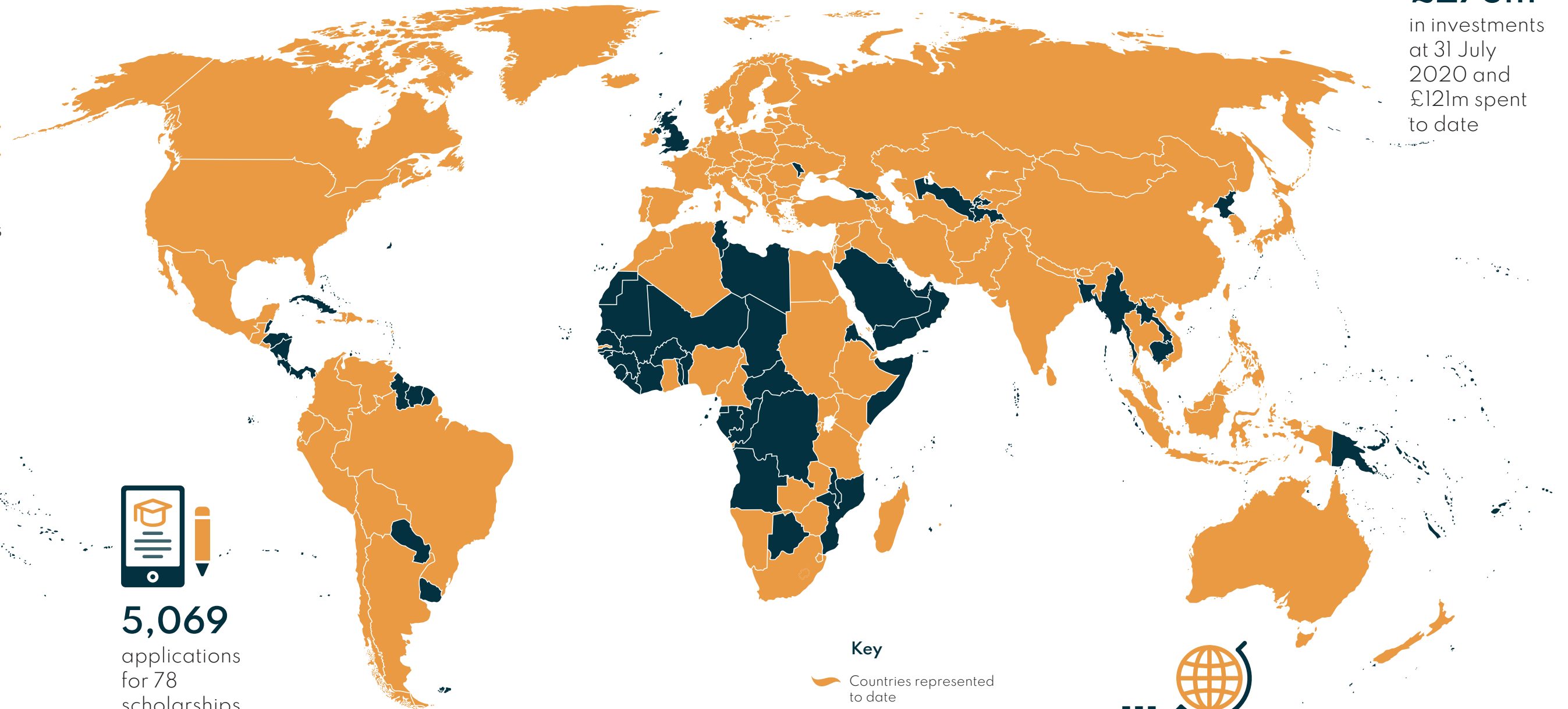
1,600

Alumni spread
across the world
improving the
lives of others



£276m

in investments
at 31 July
2020 and
£121m spent
to date



Key

 Countries represented
to date

 Countries not yet
represented

111

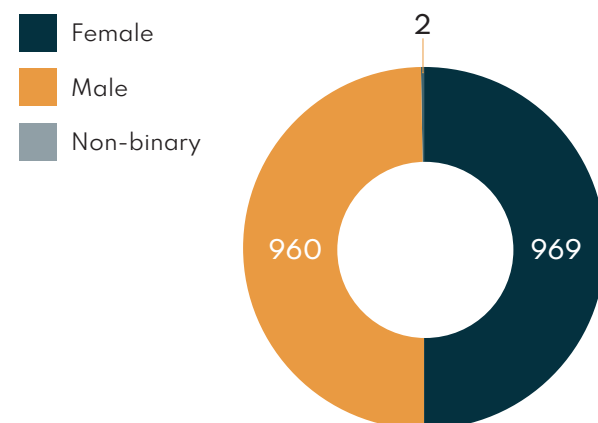
countries
and counting



TWENTY YEARS IN NUMBERS

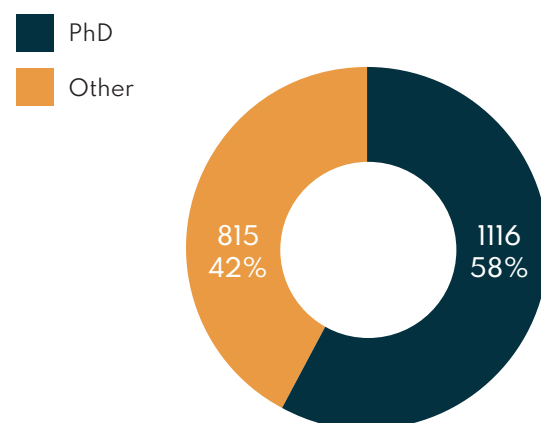
Since the first class of 2001 to the class of 2020, the Trust has awarded 1,931 scholarships to scholars from 111 countries to pursue postgraduate and research in all disciplines and as members of all Colleges at the University of Cambridge.

Scholarships awarded by gender



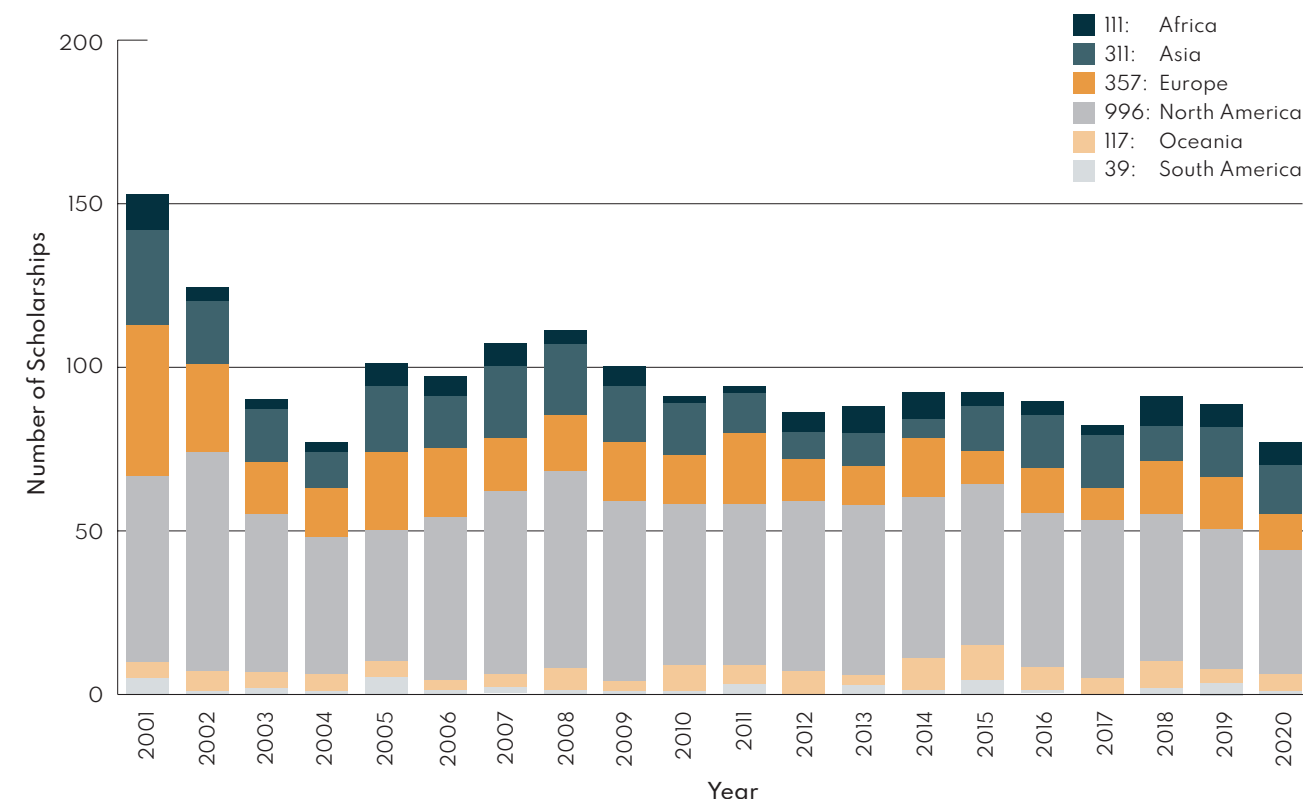
To date the University has recorded gender as binary (male and female). From 2021 onwards this will be recorded male, female and other. Although two scholars asked to be specifically listed as non-binary in the classes of 2018 and 2019, there could be more non-binary scholars from previous years.

Scholarships awarded by degree type

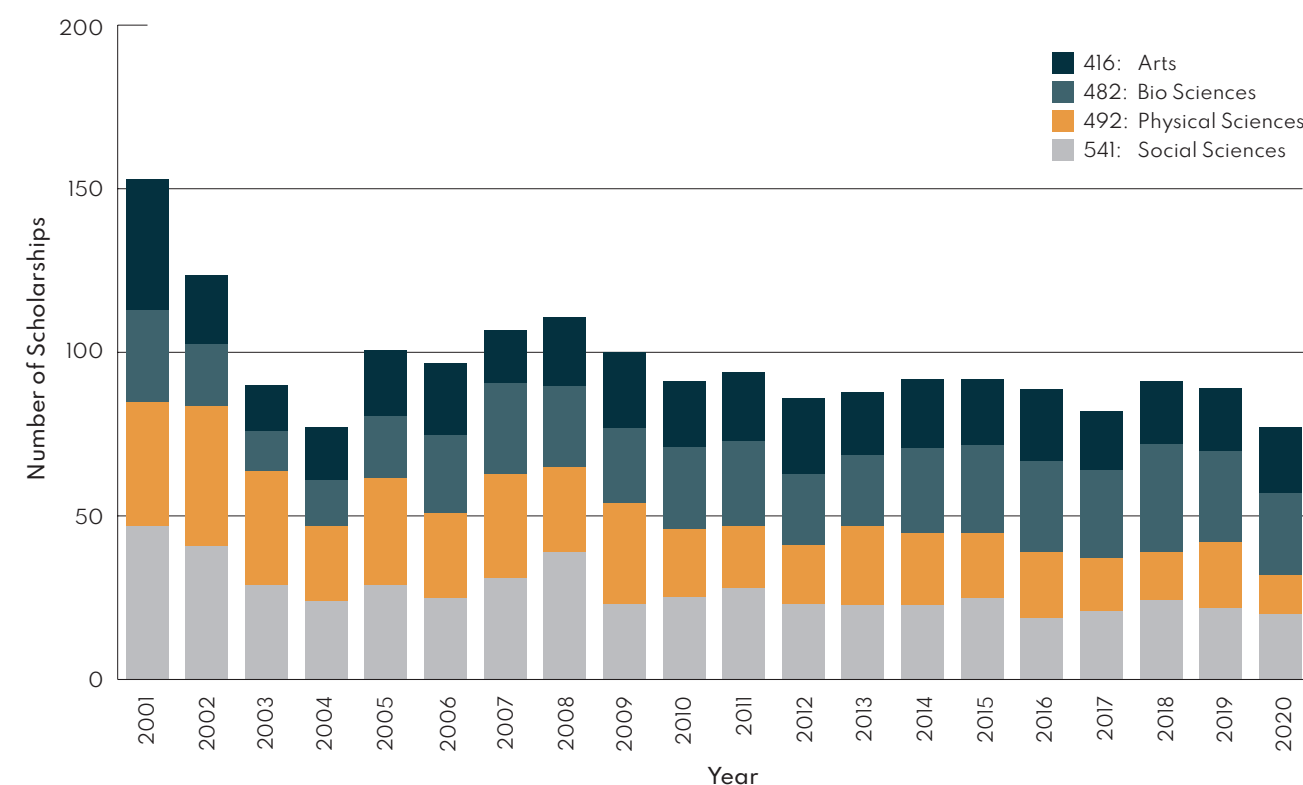


In 2018 the Trustees agreed that the ratio of PhD to Masters scholarships should be approximately 2:1.

Scholarships awarded by continent (primary nationality)



Scholarships awarded by selection panel



The above is indicative as not all historical data is available and interview panel arrangements have changed over 20 years. It uses departments as an approximator for selection panels (where candidates from some departments could have been interviewed under one of two panels).

SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS: Andrew Robertson

Twenty years ago, in a small office overlooking Trinity Lane, a much-younger Jim Smith was the first to congratulate a somewhat younger me on becoming a Gates Cambridge Scholar.

After my relief and excitement subsided, my curiosity set in. The Gates Cambridge Scholarship would fund my PhD in Genetics, but I didn't know much else about the programme – how many scholars there were, where we all came from, what we all were studying, or what the Trust expected of us. In hindsight, I think many of these questions were unanswerable in the first years of the scholarship. We were, all of us, starting with a near-blank slate.

Fast-forward 20 years, and the community is now one of the defining elements of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. From the ground up, the community has built long-lasting activities and traditions, hosted some of the world's most established leaders, been invited to speak at embassies and on global platforms and built a global alumni network boasting award-winning writers, respected scientists, elected leaders, transformational teachers and artists and our first astronaut. And modestly, the community has provided support to many incoming scholars who, like me, arrived with a litany of questions and ideas for the scholarship.

Of course, it could have developed in a very different way. While the Trust worked tirelessly to put in place the structural arrangements of the programme, it was its openness to involving scholars in the development of the scholarship that helped create Gates Cambridge as we know it today. From the very beginning, scholars were able to pitch ideas to the Trust with the aim of creating an international community of promising, bright and driven friends and colleagues that would augment the already-rich Cambridge experience. This continues today.

We founded the Scholars' Council at the end of the first year with a sense of urgency, as graduating Scholars were leaving Cambridge. Without being burdened by history and tradition like other notable scholarships, we could design our own modern community. We focused initially on the fundamentals, like defining Council positions, holding transparent elections, gathering email addresses for current and incoming Scholars and securing support from the Gates Cambridge community, Trustees and staff. We wanted the Scholars' Council to set the stage so that current and future scholars could put their ideas into practice faster, easier and with greater impact.

The 2002 Scholar Orientation was the first major initiative to demonstrate the efficacy of the Scholars' Council platform. Hoping to catch the incoming scholars before they were absorbed into the Cambridge fabric, we gathered a class of 100 new scholars, many with severe jet lag, and sat them on a six-hour bus ride to a weekend in the remote, but picturesque, English Lake District. It was risky (we didn't have a rain contingency plan, for example) but it worked incredibly well, with a marked improvement in community identity and camaraderie. And just like that, one of the first Gates Cambridge traditions was created.

Like many of us, my time as a Scholar has lasted well beyond my time at Cambridge. Since graduating, I regularly interact with Gates Cambridge alumni on professional collaborations, personal and career mentorship, speaking engagements and many other projects. My appointment to the Gates Cambridge Board of Trustees in 2007, followed by Julia Fan Li's appointment to the Board in 2017, reflects the importance of the alumni community in the eyes of the Trust. The notion of this global network was formalised through the Gates Cambridge Alumni



“We wanted the Scholars' Council to set the stage so that current and future scholars could put their ideas into practice faster, easier and with greater impact.”

Association (GCAA), connecting the 20 classes of scholars, regardless of when we were at Cambridge. For me, and many like me, Gates Cambridge is a lifelong experience.

The next 20 years will undoubtedly be exciting for the programme, but it is difficult to say how those years will unfold. I am confident that the Gates Cambridge community will continue to grow and contribute to the Cambridge ecosystem and have even more positive impact on the wider world. I am certain the programme's growth will be scholar-driven – I hope we will have more alumni become Gates Cambridge Trustees and maybe eventually one of us may take the mantle of Provost (dare we dream?). Beyond that, the path of the scholarship will hinge on Gates Cambridge Scholars themselves.

Being a community of leaders, Gates Cambridge does its best when led from the ground up. Over the past 14 years I have interviewed and helped select almost 250 Scholars, every single one with the potential to do amazing things. The resources we build, like the Scholars' Council, Alumni Association and the community as a whole, are all here to help us along the way – a megaphone for our voice, a spotlight for our success, a catalyst for new ideas and a safety net to encourage risk taking and innovation. These also generate a sense of belonging and a reminder that – when we accepted the scholarship – we all signed up to making the world a better place, in our own distinct way. As we keep breaking new limits, it is moving to think that we all share this unique road through Cambridge, a road which started for each of us with a short note of congratulations on becoming a Gates Cambridge Scholar.

SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS:

Julia Fan Li



© SIR CAM

Arriving after a 10-hour Air Canada flight, my earliest memory of being a Gates Cambridge Scholar was the coach ride to the Lake District. In the grey, drizzle-soaked six-hour journey each way, foundational friendships were formed and an introduction to English cultural life was imprinted.

Coming from Vancouver, Canada, it was also my first time meeting other scholars who had different backgrounds than my own. They included graduates from Harvard and Stanford, from the University of Cape Town, the National Law School of India University and a scholar from rural Idaho who was mostly self-taught. If nothing else after Orientation weekend, you had learned a lot about the English weather and

which members of the Scholars' Council and the Gates Cambridge staff who you could turn to for help – as well as a sense of belonging to a community who shared your personal and professional adventure.

I initially arrived at Cambridge for a one-year MPhil to translate my passion for biotechnology into working for the life sciences industry either in Boston or Basel. Sitting

in the Scholars' Room one afternoon, a few of us talked about going to the annual Cambridge S.T. Lee Public Policy lecture presented by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. I had never seen a Head of State talk before, so we jumped on our bikes and off we went. Arriving late and nabbing a seat in the back row, that one hour lecture changed my life. By the end of my MPhil, I had traded in my dream pharma job in Basel and was living and working in Kigali, Rwanda leading a team of three researchers examining how we could apply management accounting principles to improve hospital efficiency in Rwanda's one and only kidney dialysis centre.

Fascinated by the idea of why a biomedical entrepreneur making a tuberculosis (TB) diagnostic could not access the same levels of financing and risk capital as the same entrepreneur using the same technology platform for an early cancer diagnostic, I returned to Cambridge to work on my PhD thesis on Innovative Financing for Global Health instead of returning to industry. The additional three years at Cambridge allowed me to serve as Graduate Representative on the University Council, witness Bill & Melinda's receipt of honorary doctorate degrees from Cambridge, participate in the 10-year Gates Cambridge Scholarship Reunion and spend fun moments with Bill Gates Sr. at the annual research symposium and dinner. The leadership of the Scholars' Council also grew tremendously over this time, with the additions of Learning for Purpose and greater community support for Gates Cambridge families. At the end of my PhD, I built on the research work and together with Lion's Head Global Partners in London, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle and JP Morgan & Chase in New York City, we launched (with Bill Gates and Jamie Dimon) the world's first \$108mm Global Health Investment Fund in 2013. The 2013 vintage Fund is a top-performing fund financially and helped double the world's cholera vaccine supply and helped commercialise the first new drug for onchocerciasis (river-blindness) in 30 years that can help WHO in disease elimination.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship community is truly unique. Drawing from an international base and without an age application limit, the scholarship is diverse. Whether you stay for a nine-month MPhil or 3+ years for a PhD, the community is accessible to your personal growth throughout. Over the years, the Gates Cambridge Alumni Association has also grown from strength-to-strength, hosting events not only

in Cambridge and Boston/SF, but in Shanghai, Delhi and across Europe (and online via Zoom!). I started serving as a Gates Cambridge Trustee in 2017 and was welcomed to my first Trustee meeting with my newborn in tow.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship community is truly unique. Drawing from an international base and without an age application limit, the scholarship is diverse.

In the next 20 years, in my mind's eye, I see large multi-year efforts in global health, global education and climate change led by Gates Cambridge alumni; Bill Gates interviewing additional alumni for his Gates Notes website (as had already happened once!) about their contributions; and further growth of the Alumni Association base to connect scholars personally and professionally beyond their time at Cambridge. Furthermore, I cannot wait for a Gates Cambridge alumna/nus to give the annual S. T. Lee Public Policy lecture at University of Cambridge as a Head of State!

In my time as an alumna, I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with Gates Cambridge friends all over the world, both in person over coffees/ice-creams and professionally on video calls for work related efforts. Just in this past lockdown, Andrew Robertson and I re-connected over machine learning for drug discovery!

Gates Cambridge Scholars are chosen for their commitment to improving the lives of others, but for the current scholars and growing alumni population the scholarship also leaves an incredible personal mark, improving the lives of scholars too.





Remembering Bill Gates Sr.

Everyone associated with the Gates Cambridge Trust was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Bill Gates Sr. on September 14th 2020.

As Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates Sr. played an absolutely key role in establishing the Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme at the University of Cambridge. He was a champion of the programme from its inception and served as a Founding Trustee for 12 years. During that time, he regularly met and inspired scholars in Cambridge and alumni around the world. His visits to Cambridge were the highlight of the year for scholars and Trust staff.

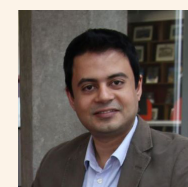
Bill Sr. had a major influence in defining the vision and aims of the scholarship, including ensuring the selection criteria included, in addition to academic excellence, a commitment by scholars to improve the lives of others and a capacity for leadership. His skills as a lawyer, alongside his natural warmth and humanity, set the programme on a path to success.

During [an interview at the Commonwealth Club of California](#), Bill Gates Sr. was asked "What makes you speechless?" He replied: "My trips to Cambridge to meet Gates Cambridge Scholars". He described the programme as "awesome" and said the time he spends with Gates Scholars in Cambridge "is a week that I cherish greatly".

In 2012, the Trustees established the Bill Gates Sr. Prize, an annual recognition of his contribution to the scholarship programme. The Prize is awarded to one or two outstanding current Scholars who, during their time at Cambridge, have fulfilled the programme's selection criteria to an especially high level. You can read about them on the following page.

BILL GATES SR. PRIZE WINNERS

The Bill Gates Sr. Prize was established by the Gates Cambridge Trustees in June 2012 in recognition of Bill Gates Sr.'s role in establishing the Gates Cambridge Scholarships, over a decade of service as a Trustee, and his engagement with, and inspiration to, many generations of Gates Cambridge Scholars.



2013: Rajiv Chowdhury in recognition of his outstanding work in public health, including a large number of high impact journal publications and large scale research project in Bangladesh. [Read more.](#)



2014: Tara Cookson for her outstanding research on poverty in Latin America, her dedication to improving the lives of others and her work to promote the professional development of Gates Cambridge Scholars. [Read more.](#)



2015: Raphael Lefevre on the basis of his visiting scholarship at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, his book, *Ashes of Hama*, his ongoing field work in Beirut and his role as a commentator on Middle Eastern politics. [Read more.](#)



2016: Njoki Wamai in recognition of her work in promoting greater diversity in Cambridge and her research on the politics of justice in Kenya; and **Rebekah Scheuerle** in recognition of her work as President of the Gates Cambridge Scholars Council and for co-founding the award-winning company JustMilk Ltd. [Read more.](#)



2017: Fabrice Langronet for his innovative research on migration history and leadership and impact on migration issues at Cambridge and beyond; and **Victoria Herrmann** for her outstanding work in the field of climate change, in particular as Managing Director at The Arctic Institute. [Read more.](#)



2018: Jerelle Joseph in recognition of her academic abilities, her work as Social Officer for the Scholars' Council and her commitment to her country and to the wider Caribbean community; and **Arif Naveed** for his exceptional work in and wide-ranging impact on poverty alleviation and education reform in Pakistan. [Read more.](#)



2019: Carol Nkechi Ibe for her award-winning research on food insecurity in Africa and as founder of the non-profit organisation JR Biotek Foundation; and **Cansu Karabiyik** for her activism and fundraising for refugees and her energetic commitment to Gates Cambridge Scholars' professional development. [Read more.](#)



2020: Alice Musabende in recognition her outstanding research on rebuilding countries which have suffered mass atrocities, her social leadership and contribution to Scholar engagement – all while raising two young children in Cambridge. [Read more.](#)

Financial Summary 2019/20

Jade Tran, Director of Finance



The Trust was founded with an endowment of \$210m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000. Since that time the Trust has awarded 1,931 Scholars from over 111 counties, with the net value of the Trust as at 31 July 2020 standing at £276m.

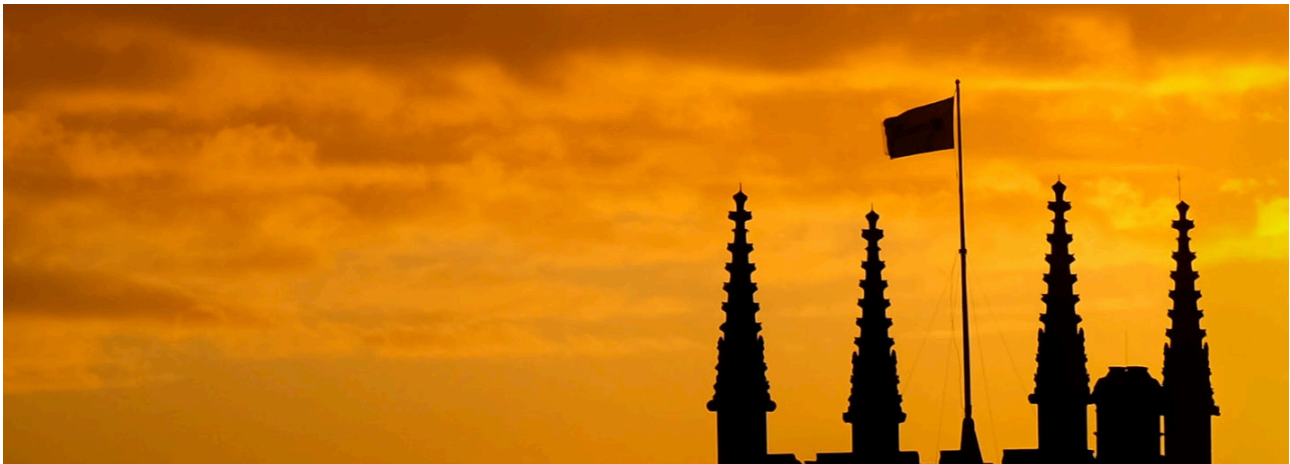
Costs have continued to rise in the financial year 2019/20 primarily as a result of increased in maintenance, fourth year PhD funding and University fees. Maintenance and fees are the Trust's biggest expenses. An increase of £0.7m in student liability was accrued for scholar maintenance.

Support and Governance costs have decreased this year in absolute terms to approx. 5.6% of total reported expenditure. There have been changes in operations of the Trust in the second half of the year due to COVID-19 impact. All staff were working from home from 18th March 2020 and continued to do so.

The Trust funds a variety of activities to support the Scholar community, including the provision of a Scholars' Room, and funding for the activities organised by the Scholars' Council. Due to COVID-19 majority of the activities moved to on-line in the second half of the year. The Trust greatly values the work of the Gates Cambridge Alumni Association in promoting the Trust and facilitating an effective network of Scholars past and present, and supports their activities financially.

The Trust is entirely reliant on the income from and long-term growth of its investments, and continues to use the Cambridge University Endowment Fund (CUEF) as its primary investment vehicle. The CUEF declares a monthly dividend at the start of each year and these distributions result in predictable cash flows for the Trust. In the year to 31 July 2020, investment income totalled £10.45m, and the market value of the Trust's investments decreased by £13.3m (4.7%), with the CUEF performing reasonably against benchmarks.

In order to maintain expenditure within reasonably limits, whilst preserving the real value of the Trust's assets, the Trustees have decided to admit 73 new scholars in October 2021.



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 July 2020

Summary Statement of Financial Activity

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Income		
Income from Investments	10,454	10,038
Expenditure		
Charitable activities	10,219	13,432
Total expenditure	10,219	13,432
Net (expenditure)/income before gains and losses on investments	235	(3,394)
Net gains on investments	(13,338)	7,124
Net income and net movement in funds	(13,103)	3,730
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	289,214	285,484
Total funds carried forward	276,111	289,214

Summary Balance Sheet

	2020 £'000	2019 £'000
Fixed assets (Including fixed asset investments)	277,664	291,458
Current assets	9,511	8,104
Liabilities (creditors falling due within one year)	(6,116)	(5,590)
Net current assets	3,395	2,514
Total assets less current liabilities	281,059	293,972
Creditors falling due after more than one year	(4,948)	(4,758)
Net assets	276,111	289,214
The funds of the Trust (unrestricted income funds)	276,111	289,214



T 44 (0) 1223 338467
E info@gatescambridge.org

Ground Floor, The Warehouse,
33 Bridge Street, Cambridge CB2 1UW
United Kingdom
www.gatescambridge.org

