

2023-01-27

Dr. David Simons

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Profile:

I am a qualified medical doctor with a background in natural sciences, specifically ecological sciences. In my ongoing PhD I investigate the impact of the environment on the emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases on human health.

Qualifications:

2019-Ongoing - The Royal Veterinary College, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College London: **PhD in Emerging Zoonotic Disease Epidemiology**

2018-2019 - The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine:

MSc Tropical Medicine and International Health (distinction)

2018 - The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine:

Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H)

2017 - Royal College of Physicians, London:

Membership of the Royal College of Physicians exam part 1

2012-2016 - King's College London:

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (merit)

2010-2011 - University of Leeds:

MSc Natural Sciences (Biodiversity and Conservation) (merit)

2006-2010 - University of Leeds:

BSc Natural Sciences (with Industrial Placement) (2:1)

Current research grants:

2019-2023 - PhD studentship awarded through the London Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. 48 month funding of £300,000 based at the Royal Veterinary College, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College London.

Public Health/Epidemiology Work:

September 2021 - September 2022: United Kingdom Health Security Agency - Senior Scientist/Analyst. In this role I was responsible for providing epidemiological intelligence to guide the initial public health response to the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 and the Monkeypox outbreak beginning in March 2021. My responsibilities included data management, development of a novel workstream, providing technical advice to stakeholders, professionals and other members of the team alongside supervising and training others.

May 2020 - July 2020: University College London Hospital - Medically Qualified Health Needs Assessor.

February 2020 - May 2020: United Kingdom Health Security Agency - Contact Tracer.

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Clinical Work:

September 2018 - May 2022: University College London Hospital - Infectious Diseases Senior House Officer (equivalent to PGY3-6).

August 2017 - August 2018: Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow - Rotational Senior House Officer (equivalent to PGY2).

August 2016 - August 2017: The Royal London Hospital - Junior House Officer (equivalent to PGY1).

Teaching and Supervision:

2020-2022: Royal Veterinary College - MSc Thesis Supervision. Supervising Masters degree students on the Royal Veterinary College Masters course in One Health and Veterinary Epidemiology.

2019-2022: University College London - Ad-hoc Lecturer: Delivered lectures on the Infectious Diseases in Resource Poor Settings on the MSc in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology and on the undergraduate Medical Degree programme at University College London.

2019-2022: The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - Ad-hoc Lecturer: Delivering lectures on zoonotic infectious diseases on the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene course.

Other Roles and Internships:

May 2021 - August 2021: EcoHealth Alliance - EcoHealthNet Internship.

September 2019 - September 2020: Planetary Health Alliance - Campus Ambassador.

August 2008 - August 2009: GlaxoSmithKline - Clinical Research Scientist.

Skills and Competencies:

Proficient at building and maintaining effective relationships with co-workers and stakeholders. Proponent of good information governance including data protection and confidentiality. Excellent oral and written communication skills, evidenced by invited presentations and scientific writing.

Proficient in the R statistical programming language, Geographic Information System (GIS) software and interrogating SQL databases. Experience with other tools including STATA and SPSS. Excellent problem solving skills and ability to learn new programming techniques.

Data analysis, statistical and reporting skills as applied to epidemiology, ecology and infectious diseases. Experience translating findings into actionable public health interventions and developing tools to assess impact.

First Author Publications:

Simons, D. (2022) Lassa fever cases suffer from severe under-reporting based on reported fatalities. *International Health*.

Simons, D., Attfield, L. A., Jones, K. E., Watson-Jones, D., Kock, R. (2022). Rodent trapping studies as an overlooked information source for understanding endemic and novel zoonotic spillover. *PLOS NTD*.

Simons, D., Perski, O., Shahab, L., Brown, J., & Bailey, R. (2021). The association of smoking status with hospitalisation for COVID-19 compared with other respiratory viruses a year previous: A case-control study at a single UK National Health Service trust. *F1000Research*.

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Simons, D., Shahab, L., Brown, J., & Perski, O. (2020). The association of smoking status with SARS-CoV-2 infection, hospitalization and mortality from COVID-19: a living rapid evidence review with Bayesian meta-analyses (version 7). *Addiction*.

Simons, D., Brown, J., Shahab, L., & Perski, O. (2020). Smoking and COVID-19: Rapid evidence review for the Royal College of Physicians, London (UK). *Qeios*.

Selected Other Publications:

Andrews, N., Stowe, J., ... **Simons, D.**, ... Lopez Bernal, J., (2022) Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron (B. 1.1. 529) variant, *New England Journal of Medicine* - responsible for the development and maintenance of the Omicron variant linelist for UKHSA.

Vivancos, R., Anderson, C., ... **Simons, D.**, ... Susan Hopkins, (2022) Community transmission of monkeypox in the United Kingdom, April to May 2022. *Eurosurveillance* - responsible for the development and maintenance of the Monkeypox outbreak linelist for UKHSA including additional analyses.

Arruda, L. B., Haider, N., ... **Simons, D.**, ... Kock, R. (2021) The niche of One Health approaches in Lassa fever surveillance and control. *Annals of Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobials*. - responsible section on Lassa mammarenavirus reservoirs and analysis of geographic location of cases.

Haider, N., Yavlinsky, A., **Simons, D.**, Osman, A. Y., Ntoumi, F., Zumla, A., Kock R., (2020) Passengers' destinations from China: low risk of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) transmission into Africa and South America. *Epidemiology and Infection* - responsible for model development, interpretation and additional analyses.

Additional publications are available via my [Google Scholar profile](#) or above ORCID.

COVID-19 research:

I have been a member of the Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases COVID-19 working group and have made substantial contributions to a number of projects that are recognised with group authorship. The list is available here: <https://cmmid.github.io/topics/covid19/>

Awards and Prizes

In-Year Award, UKHSA	2022
1956 Jubilee Prize, King's College London	2015
The Sir John McNee Prize, The Medical Society of London	2015
Mary Clark Travel Award, King's College London	2013
Bronze Achievement Award, GlaxoSmithKline	2009

References

Available on request