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Dr. David Simons

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## Profile:

I am a qualified medical doctor with a background in natural sciences, specifically ecological sciences. I investigate associations between local environmental conditions on the emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases and human health.

## Qualifications

**2019-2023** - The Royal Veterinary College, University College London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: **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)

## Clinical

**2021-2022:** Senior analyst with the Outbreak Surveillance Team at the UK Health Security Agency, working on the COVID-19 and Monkeypox response as an epidemiologist.

**2016-ongoing:** Qualified medical doctor, primarily working in an infectious disease department in London.

## 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, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College London.

## First Author Publications

**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*.

**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*.

**Simons, D.**, Attfield, L. A., Jones, K. E., Watson-Jones, D., Kock, R. (2023). Rodent trapping studies as an overlooked information source for understanding endemic and novel zoonotic spillover. *PLOS NTD*.

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

### **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.

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.

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.

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/>

I currently work with the UK Health Security Agency in the Outbreak Surveillance Team where I was responsible for developing the pipeline to identify and record cases of the newly emergent Omicron variant. I have been involved in several studies (currently being submitted) investigating vaccine effectiveness, secondary attack rates and spatial analysis of variant emergence and establishment.

### **Programming**

I am competent at using the R programming language and use it for all of my research projects. I have produced an RShiny app to explore a dataset I collated for a project on rodent trapping (available here [https://diddrog11.shinyapps.io/scoping\\_review\\_app/](https://diddrog11.shinyapps.io/scoping_review_app/)).

### **Awards and Prizes**

1956 Jubilee Prize, King's College London

2015

2023-03-01

The Sir John McNee Prize, The Medical Society of London  
Mary Clark Travel Award, King's College London  
Bronze Achievement Award, GlaxoSmithKline

2015  
2013  
2009

## **References**

Available on request