



# MICHAEL HEAD



**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW**  
GLOBAL HEALTH, INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH

"the constantly evolving nature of research means it's hard to get bored!"

## Academic profile

### Degree

Biomedical Science,  
University of Portsmouth

### Post grad

MSc Epidemiology, LSHTM  
PhD University of Amsterdam

### Qualification/achievement you are most proud of

My PhD - it 'completes the set'

### Subjects you enjoyed at school

Biology, English Language

## Career Summary

I did a BSc in Biomedical Sciences, graduating from Portsmouth in year 2000. I then spent four years in administrative and project management roles in medical insurance, and also in the NHS, before joining UCL in 2004 as a project manager and researcher.

At UCL, I spent 11 years there. I completed postgraduate study (Epidemiology, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), and started what was in effect a distance-learning PhD with the University of Amsterdam.

In 2015, I had enough experience to write my own research grants, and successfully won a pneumonia-focused grant and moved to University of Southampton. In 2016, I completed my PhD. Nowadays, I try to keep a varied working life, covering writing research grants, scientific papers, plus when there aren't pandemics around I go on outreach visits to schools, public engagement activities, and talk with the media.

## Describe your job



## What inspired you?

Some good teachers at school, and a natural curiosity around the human body and how it works (probably driven by some of the TV programmes I watched as a child, these days you can think of things like Operation Ouch on CBBC, or the David Attenborough documentaries about wildlife and the environment)

## Did you know .....

The coronavirus is about 0.001cm long, and something that tiny has brought the entire world to a standstill

## Top tip

Take your time. Whether it be wondering what career to choose, or whether to go to university this year or the next (or not at all), there is plenty of time and probably more time than you think. If you fail an exam or miss a deadline, it hurts at that moment but ultimately it won't define whether you succeed in life. And with every setback and disappointment, there will be things you learn and new opportunities that wouldn't otherwise have presented themselves

## Best thing about my job

Meeting so many people across different jobs and backgrounds. The last 5 years or so, my global health work has taken me to Ghana, Togo, Ethiopia, and Brazil, as well as places like Geneva and Seattle.

## Find out more

- @michaelhead
- [www.linkedin.com/in/michael-head-4a819a9e](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-head-4a819a9e)
- [www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/about/staff/mh1d14.page](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/about/staff/mh1d14.page)

## Watch the video:

