BACKGROUND

In 2011, Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) launched the MSD for Mothers initiative (MfM). The 10-year, $500 million programme aims to leverage the pharmaceutical company’s business and scientific expertise to reduce maternal mortality and improve access to maternal healthcare and family planning services around the world. MSD has contracted the Maternal Healthcare Markets Evaluation Team (MET) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as an independent external evaluator for several MfM-supported initiatives, including social franchises for maternal healthcare in India. Social franchises are commercial business aimed at achieving social benefits rather than profits.

MET is conducting an evaluation of the Sky social franchising model in Uttar Pradesh to provide rigorous evidence of its effect on health care utilisation and quality of care using a difference-in-difference approach. Embedded within the evaluation are several field experiments. The first of these examines whether feedback and public reporting on performance of social franchisees improves the coverage of maternal health interventions in the community. The second field experiment examines whether giving accurate information on the effectiveness of health care affects household perceptions and the demand for services and quality of care. The findings will be published in peer reviewed international medical and health economics journals.

THE SCHOOL

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is one of Europe’s leading schools of Public Health and a leading postgraduate institution worldwide for research and postgraduate education in global health.

Part of the University of London, the London School is the largest institution of its kind in Europe with a remarkable depth and breadth of expertise encompassing many disciplines. The School was ranked one of the top 3 research institutions in the country in the Times Higher Education’s ‘table of excellence’, which is based on the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). In 2009, the School became the first UK institution to win the Gates Award for Global Health.

The School’s environment is a rich multicultural one: there are almost 4000 students from 100+ countries following 22 taught masters courses delivered either in London (~650) or through distance learning (~2700), and undertaking research degree training (~400). Over 40% of these students are from non-European countries. The largest growth has been in distance learning students (>40% over 3 years), though the London-based student population (where accommodation limits growth) is at its highest level ever. Alumni are working in more than 180 countries. The School has about 1500 staff drawn from over 60 nationalities.

There are research collaborations with over 100 countries throughout the world, utilizing our critical mass of multidisciplinary expertise which includes clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, social scientists, economists, molecular biologists, immunologists, ophthalmologists, anthropologists, virologists, pharmacologists and nutritionists. At any one time around 100 School staff are based overseas, particularly in Africa and Asia. We have a strong commitment to partnership with institutions in low- and middle-income countries to support the development of teaching and research capacity.
The School has expanded greatly in recent years. Its research funding now exceeds £67M per annum, much of it from highly competitive national and international sources. The commitment of staff to methodological rigour, innovative thinking and policy relevance will ensure that the School continues to occupy a leadership position in national and global health, adapting quickly to new challenges and opportunities.

Mission
To improve health and health equity in the UK and worldwide; working in partnership to achieve excellence in public and global health research, education and translation of knowledge into policy and practice.

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLICY
The Faculty of Public Health and Policy is responsible for research and teaching in the policy, planning and evaluation of health promotion and services. Its interests are both national and international, encompassing industrialised and less developed countries. All staff are expected to play a role in promoting the wide range of work carried out in the Faculty. It is important that all staff are active in seeking new research grants and in earning funds to support the Faculty’s full range of activities. The Faculty currently has a staff of 10 professors, 5 readers, 26 senior lecturers, 46 lecturers, 63 research fellows and assistants, about 48 computing, administrative and secretarial staff, and a number of honorary staff. The Faculty has three departments: Global Health & Development; Health Services Research and Policy; Social and Environmental Health Research.

DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT
The Department of Global Health & Development is a multi-disciplinary department within the Faculty of Public Health & Policy. The Department seeks to inform the development of health policy, primarily in low- and middle-income countries, through collaborative research, teaching and other activities involving exchange of skills and knowledge. Disciplines represented within the Department include health economics, epidemiology, international relations, medicine, nursing, mathematics, social anthropology and sociology. Several staff members are based overseas. Administratively, the department is comprised of three groups: Health Economics and Systems Analysis; Social and Mathematical Epidemiology; Anthropology, Politics and Policy. Academically, there are strong links between these groups with individuals often belonging to more than one group. The post will be managed through the Health Economics and Systems Analysis Group (HESA) where staff are heavily engaged in economic evaluation studies.

HEALTH ECONOMICS & SYSTEMS ANALYSIS GROUP
The Health Economics and Systems Analysis Group is the largest group of health economists working on developing countries and is funded by a range of donors including the UK Department for International Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the EU. The current funding portfolio is approximately £21 million.

HESA’s overall aim is to seek to improve the equity, efficiency and quality of health services in developing countries through the application of health economics and encouraging the appropriate use of economic information and techniques in decision-making. The Group constitutes a critical mass of expertise, works to strengthen capacity both in-country and internationally, develops policy relevant research, and publishes and disseminates widely the results of its research. Members are internationally recognised as leaders in the field of applied health economics research and health sector reform, and work closely with collaborators overseas as well as those in the UK. The team has a substantial portfolio of research on diverse health problems and has an established wide range of collaborative partnerships with institutions and bilateral organisations.
Duties and responsibilities

Core activities

Research
The post holder will be expected
- To contribute to the development of data collection tools and oversight of primary data collection, in close coordination with the Indian collaborator
- To review the literature on the effect of giving feedback and public reporting on the performance of health providers
- To refine the study protocol for the assessment of the impact of performance feedback
- To lead the analysis of baseline and endline data for the main evaluation of the social franchising model and the two sub-studies
- To lead on the preparation and submission of several manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals
- To draft key points for recommendations for a policy brief
- To provide regular updates to the PI of the project and incorporate feedback into the on-going work

Teaching
- The post-holder will be expected to contribute up to 15% of their time to teaching in the Faculty to be negotiated with their line manager and the Faculty Taught Course Director.

Citizenship
- To present work to School staff at Departmental seminars, and to other audiences at conferences, as requested.

Person Specifications

Essential criteria
- A completed PhD, or close to completed PhD, in health economics or a related discipline
- Expertise in the application of econometric or statistical methods appropriate for impact evaluation
- Proven ability, as evidenced by existing or potential publications, to publish in leading medical and / or health economics journals
- Evidence of ability to work independently and meet tight deadlines
- Willingness to travel to India

Desirable criteria
- Experience in working on projects related to social franchising in health
- Experience in working on randomised controlled trials and quasi-experimental evaluations
- Experience in working in low- and middle-income settings
- Evidence of ability to work productively in a multi-disciplinary team
Accountability
The post-holder will be accountable to Timothy Powell-Jackson, and through her to the Head of the Health Economics and Systems Analysis Group, the Head of the Department of Global Health & Development, the Head of the Faculty of Public Health & Policy, and ultimately to the Director of the School.

Salary and conditions of employment
The appointment will be made on the School’s Research Fellow scale (£37,106-£42,139 per annum inclusive as at 1 August 2014). The post is full time and available immediately, it is currently funded for two years; the post holder will be based in London. The post will be subject to the LSHTM terms and conditions of service. Membership of the USS Pension Scheme is available.

Asylum and Immigration
The School will comply with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, which requires all employees to provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in this country prior to commencing employment. Please be aware that you will be required to bring your passport (and visa if applicable) to interview so that it can be copied and verified. For posts requiring a recognised degree level or equivalent qualification, and where there is no suitable UK or European Economic Area candidate, the School will take the necessary steps to secure UK Border Agency permission for a foreign national to take up employment.

Should a candidate require a Certificate of Sponsorship in order to take up a post they will need to meet the UK Border Agency Tier 2 Points Based Criteria. A self assessment tool can be found on the UK Border Agency website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator

A candidate may also be required to undertake an English Language test prior to commencing work at the School. Details of Home Office approved tests can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/pbsapprovedenglishlanguage

Further information on the eligibility criteria for Certificates of Sponsorship can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points

Applications
Applications should be made on-line via our website at http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk; the reference for this post is HESA06. Applications should include a CV and the names and email contacts of 2 referees who can be contacted immediately if shortlisted. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk. Closing date for the receipt of applications is 10pm, Sunday 15 February 2015.

The supporting statement section should set out how your qualifications, experience and training meet each of the selection criteria. Please provide one or more paragraphs addressing each criterion. The supporting statement is an essential part of the selection process and thus a failure to provide this information will mean that the application will not be considered. An answer to any of the criteria such as “Please see attached CV” will not be considered acceptable. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk.

Interested applicants are invited to contact Dr Timothy Powell-Jackson (timothy.powell-jackson@lshtm.ac.uk) for further information.

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is committed to being an equal opportunities employer.