

2010-11 Princeton Global Scholar

Jeremy Farrar

As a world leader in infectious disease research and training, Jeremy Farrar brings an in-depth, global perspective to issues facing international public health today. He is the director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, is a fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in the United Kingdom and serves in a number of advisory roles for the World Health Organization.

Dr. Farrar studies a wide array of infections. His research ranges from basic work on the ecology and evolution of viruses to applied translational research on vaccines. His work on H5N1 avian influenza was central to defining the clinical presentation and pathogenesis of this disease, while his research on drug resistance in multiple organisms has shed new light on this major evolutionary process. His research has been published broadly, particularly in the *New England Journal of Medicine* over the last five years.

Combining basic and clinical science, epidemiology and pathogenesis, Dr. Farrar's teaching focuses on major infectious disease threats of the 21st century, including dengue, influenza, tuberculosis, encephalitis and typhoid fever, as well as drug resistance. He also leads the Li Ka Shing University of Oxford Global Health Program, and serves as a mentor to students at all levels through an integrated training program that begins in high schools and includes opportunities for undergraduate, master's, doctoral and postdoctoral studies. This program has trained more than 200 Vietnamese and regional scientists.

As a Princeton Global Scholar, Jeremy Farrar will be a catalyst for promoting scholarship in international public health, which is a major focus for growth at the University. His presence will strengthen the relationships among the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs, the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the Department of Molecular Biology that have developed over the past several years around the topic of global health.

He also will provide Princeton faculty and students an opportunity to begin collaborations in Vietnam with the OUCRU. Established in 1991, the OUCRU is a partnership among the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City, the Health Services of Ho Chi Minh City and the Wellcome Trust. Its facilities support research on major tropical diseases, HIV/AIDS, animal health and zoonosis, and statistical and modeling work.

Short periodic visits to Princeton will enable Dr. Farrar to foster and engage Princeton faculty and students in research projects based at the OUCRU while providing him the flexibility needed to conduct his research and clinical practice in Vietnam.

During his visits to Princeton, he will lecture in courses associated with both the graduate and undergraduate certificate programs in health and health policy. He will participate in mentoring undergraduates by co-advising senior thesis research projects -- which may be combined with student travel to Vietnam in the summer before senior year -- and by co-directing a policy

workshop designed to prepare students with the background material needed for their fieldwork.

During the fall semester break, Dr. Farrar and his group will host student visits to Vietnam and supervise their work. His impact on graduate students will be felt largely through collaborative research projects, such as his collaboration with Professor Bryan Grenfell's group on the dynamics of influenza.

Through his appointment as a Global Scholar, Princeton is making a vital connection that furthers its goal of international scholarly collaboration and exchange in global public health through joint research and the flow of students, faculty and ideas.