

Infectious Diseases

Alumni support is helping us to make breakthroughs in the treatment of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, *E.coli*, hepatitis, pneumonia, salmonella, and hospital 'superbugs' like MRSA. But there is more to do, as diseases are increasingly resistant to our antibiotics. Help us save lives by supporting our work in developing new drugs and vaccines.

Professor Mark Pallen, Professor of Microbial Genomics "We are fortunate in Birmingham in having such a concentration of talent and technology on the same campus, attacking the problem of infection from so many different angles. It is clear that we are making our mark on global efforts to rid humanity of the scourge of infection. Together we can make a difference."

Birmingham is one of the highest-ranking institutes in microbiology in the U.K.: we played a crucial role in [understanding the recent outbreak of *E.coli*](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/07/27July-Social-networking-and-crowdsourcing-aid-swift-characterisation-of-deadly-E-coli-strain.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/07/27July-Social-networking-and-crowdsourcing-aid-swift-characterisation-of-deadly-E-coli-strain.aspx>) in mainland Europe which affected almost 4000 people; we are leading efforts to [understand drug-resistant superbugs](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/our/news/items/antibiotics.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/our/news/items/antibiotics.aspx>) which cost the NHS around £1 billion a year; and we continue to develop new drugs to [fight tuberculosis](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/02/25febBirmingham-pushes-ahead-on-global-scourge-of-TB.aspx) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/02/25febBirmingham-pushes-ahead-on-global-scourge-of-TB.aspx>).

Our alumni and friends have always been tremendous supporters of our medical research. Together we have made significant breakthroughs. However, we cannot stop. As new antibiotics are developed, new strains of pathogens emerge. We need your continued support to help us develop new drugs and vaccines. With your support we can stay a step ahead.

Help us to save more lives by [giving today](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx) ([/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx)). To discuss how you can help us fight infectious diseases, contact [Sally Brooks](mailto:s.b.brooks@bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:s.b.brooks@bham.ac.uk>) [+44(0)121 414 7957].

Giving = Saving. How donors are helping us save lives

Our groundbreaking work in tuberculosis (TB) is possible thanks to the generous and sustained support of our donors. Professor Del Besra's research is funded by alumnus James Bardrick, who shares our passion to develop treatments that will benefit people across the world.

There are almost 15 million cases of TB every year around the world, and it causes almost 2 million deaths a year, mostly in developing countries in South America, South Africa, and South-East Asia. The need to develop new ways of treating TB has become more acute in recent years, when multi-drug resistant strains of the bacteria have emerged. Patients often need to take up to six different drugs over a period of nine months to fight the diseases, which is costly and often ineffective, and entirely unfeasible for the developing world where access to healthcare is severely limited.

With the support of alumni like James, our research is helping to develop cheaper and more effective treatments, meaning we can save lives. [Help us](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx) ([/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/giving/givenow.aspx)) save more by giving today.

James Bardrick (BSc and BCom Engineering and Commerce, 1986), donor "TB remains a global disease, but current treatments are expensive and ineffective. Professor Besra's research, particularly into more cost-effective treatments, is vital"