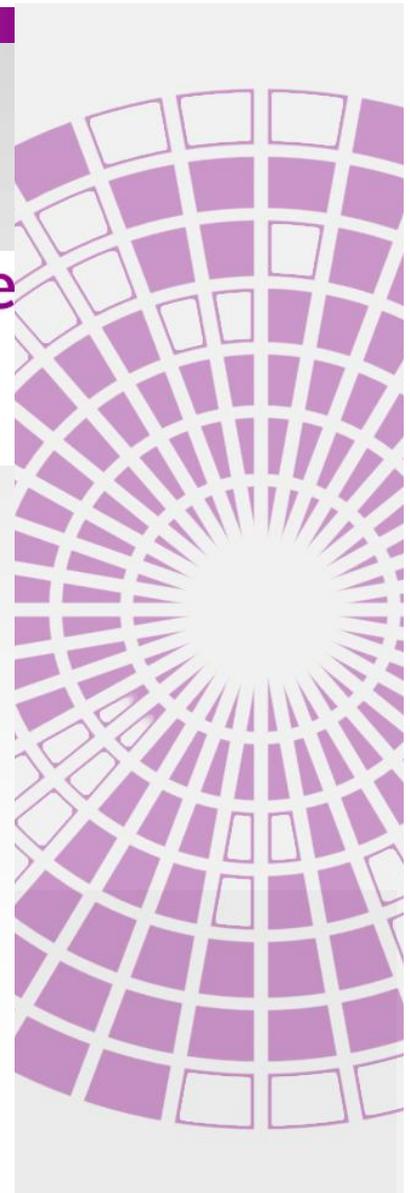


# Society for Social Medicine & Population Health



## President's Letter

I'm heading off to Manchester today for our SSM committee meeting, during which we will be agreeing the final selection of abstracts for the ASM in Cork. We take this selection very seriously. Members of the Committee and the Cork Local Organising Committee have scored the abstracts, with each one seen by four evaluators. Then Wendy Harrison and Mark Gilthorpe from Leeds analysed the scores, with appropriate weighting to take account of 'hawks' and 'doves' to try to be as fair as possible. No scheme is perfect but we do try to get this as good as we can. Apologies to those who will lose out, but we hope we'll end up with an interesting and lively meeting in Cork in September.

Extinction Rebellion is currently blocking streets in London, and school students across Europe have been protesting about climate change. The feeling against the lack of action is building momentum. We all know that climate change is a real threat to our future and to population health. Yet, not one of the ASM abstracts that I had to assess related to this topic.

I'm as guilty as anyone on this score as my research is in other areas, but we do need to embrace the issue and understand the implications of climate change on the health of the population.

One issue that increasingly worries me is the precarious nature of careers in research. We will be starting a discussion about this at the committee meeting to see if there is anything that we can do. The pressure on post-docs is now very great, but it often doesn't get easier as people move into MCR roles. I hope we can find a way of working with other organisations to try to find a way through this problem, but it isn't easy, and we will need to engage universities and funding bodies in the discussion.

The Faculty of Public Health has taken a lead on pressurising government to ensure no erosion of our public health measures after Brexit. We and many other organisations have supported their efforts and have joined our voice to theirs. I am grateful to the Faculty for being so proactive in this area.

## Inside this issue

President's Letter .....	1
Annual Scientific Meeting .....	3
ECR Corner .....	5
News from the MCR Section .....	9
Blog Corner .....	10
Committee News .....	11
The Committee.....	12
Dates for your diary.....	13



Brexit has not gone away (yet?), but we need to make sure that, if, and when, it happens, the health of the public is not damaged.

By the time you read this, the Easter break will be over. The chocfest of this season is somewhat challenging for our promotion of healthy diets, but I imagine that, like me, the majority of you will have indulged in chocolate at some point over the weekend. These three chicks were knitted by two of my colleagues, and each chick is filled with a chocolate cream egg. They have been sold in aid of our local food bank. It is a shameful reflection on us all that we have food banks at all, and, while we are indulging over a holiday weekend, others are homeless and short of food. More than sixty years after the Society was founded we still have huge inequalities in Europe. We have many challenges to face and lots of work to do. Keep going everyone!



**Hazel Inskip**





Annual Scientific Meeting



**Society for Social Medicine and Population Health**  
**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting and**  
**International Epidemiology Association European Congress**  
**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
**Cork, Ireland**

**What is the SSM 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting?**

A three-day academic and professional conference with a mix of high quality, peer reviewed oral presentations, posters and workshops and ample opportunity for networking. The SSM Annual Scientific Meeting is a placeholder in many academic diaries and this year the meeting joins with the International Epidemiology Association's European Congress in Cork, Ireland. The meeting is renowned for its social activities as well as its science and the city of Cork has much to offer delegates.

**Early Bird Registration**

Registration is open from the first week of May. Be sure to check out the conference website for further information and to avoid disappointment: <https://registrations.hg3conferences.co.uk/hg3/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=52288&eventID=150&traceRedir=2>

**Presentations**

Amongst a number of high quality research presentations, the scientific programme will be headlined by keynote presentations from **Professor Dame Margaret Whitehead** (University of Liverpool), **Distinguished Fellow Kenneth Rothman** (Research Triangle Institute) and **Professor Valerie Beral** (IEA, University of Oxford).

**Kiss the Blarney Stone and never again be lost for words!**

Blarney Castle and Gardens were built nearly six hundred years ago by one of Ireland's greatest chieftains, Cormac MacCarthy, and has been attracting attention ever since. Over the last few hundred years, millions have flocked to Blarney Castle and Gardens making it a world landmark and one of Ireland's greatest treasures. Now that might have something to do with the Blarney Stone, the legendary Stone of Eloquence, found at the top of the tower. Kiss it and you'll never again be lost for words.



### **Cork City Gaol**

Cork is a city with a very rich historical and archaeological heritage much of it still in evidence today. Part of this heritage, Cork City Gaol, is a magnificent castle-like building, which once housed 19th century prisoners. Take a trip back in time and wander through the wings of the Gaol, accompanied by the shuffling feet of inmates and the jingle of the warders' keys. The cells are furnished with amazingly life-like wax figures and graffiti on the cell walls reveals the innermost feelings of some inmates. The audio-visual show will help you learn about the social history and contrasting lifestyles of 19th century Cork.

### **Civic Reception**

A welcome reception for the conference will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> September at The Glucksman Gallery.

### **Conference Dinner**

At the Clayton Hotel on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, including a three-course meal and entertainment.



## ECR Corner

### Coming Soon:

### Save the date for the ECR Workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019!!

The next Annual Scientific Meeting will be held from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Cork, Ireland jointly with the International Epidemiology Association (Europe) European Congress of Epidemiology, the event will include the usual mix of parallel abstracts sessions, workshops, and plenary sessions.

The **ECR Workshop will be held a day before the main conference on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2019** at the University College Cork, Ireland.

We are delighted to announce that, alongside the financial support from SSM, we have secured additional funding from the [Health Research Board](#) and the [International Epidemiological Association](#), which means that we are able to offer additional free workshop places. Look out for the conference and workshop registration in May! The workshop is a great opportunity to meet your fellow ECRs before the beginning of the conference.

You can have access to previous ASM ECR Workshop presentations [here](#)



#### EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS EVENT

Developing your career in  
research:

Challenges and opportunities in a  
changing market.

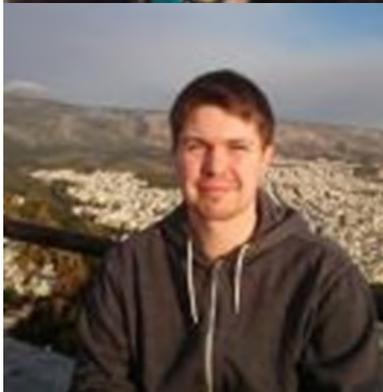


3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2019

Mardyke Pavillion, University College Cork

This year's workshop focuses on developing ECRs' careers in research. We will address challenges and explore mechanisms to maximise opportunities within academia. We will also be navigating to career paths in changing markets with insights into alternative routes beyond academia.

To wrap up the day, we invite you to join us for the ECR dinner in Cork city centre.



## Introducing your new ECR Subcommittee members!

We recently said goodbye to six of our Subcommittee members, Max, Linda, Lia, Kate, Gillian, and Jose. After our election in November, we are delighted to introduce three new members. A huge welcome to Paul, Niamh, and Kate! Kathryn, Tarra, Janice, Georgia, and Naoimh remain on the subcommittee. Each member has a very specific role but will be contributing more generally to the ECR Subcommittee.

ECR Subcommittee Chair role has been handed over to *Kathryn Skivington*, therefore we would like to give the previous chair and welfare officer, Max Barnish, a huge thank you for his commitment and contribution to the Subcommittee over the last year.

### ***Kathryn Skivington – ECR Subcommittee Chair***

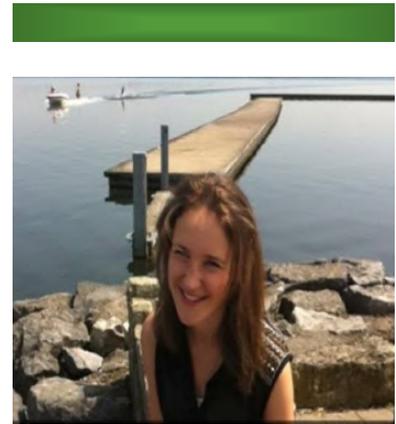
I am a Research Associate at the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow, and I work within a programme of research around Informing Health Public Policy. My research interests include complex interventions, health inequalities, multimorbidity, and how public policy affects health. I feel privileged to be chairing the ECR committee of SSM in 2019. I am enthusiastic about making sure ECRs are supported in their roles, and are able to get the most from their involvement in SSM. I look forward to engaging with and supporting fellow ECRs in my role on the committee more broadly.

### ***Paul Henery – ECR Communication Officer***

I am a Research Assistant within the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow and a final year PhD student at the University of Stirling. I am currently investigating how social inequalities affect child health using causal pathways, and completing my PhD which looks at how best to measure multimorbidity in predicting health and social care outcomes among older people as well as examining what specific multimorbidity “scores” and conditions predict greatest need for health and social care services. As Communications Officer I am looking forward to relaying key issues such as opportunities for career development to ECRs such as workshops and courses (SSM-led or otherwise). I will also play a part in covering next year’s conference and accompanying workshop on social media for the benefit of ECR members.

**Niamh McGrath – ECR ASM Local Officer**

I am a PhD researcher at the School of Public Health, University College Cork. My background is in clinical-health psychology and my PhD is focused on supporting implementation of recommendations for psychological aspects of diabetes in primary care in Ireland. I am interested in implementation science, intervention development, psychological aspects of obesity and diabetes, stress and food choice. I am really excited to be one of the Local Officers on the SSM ECR subcommittee this year. My main responsibility in this role is to organise the ECR workshop as part of the SSM Annual Scientific Meeting. I am looking forward to welcoming SSM ECRs to Cork this year for the event.



**Kate O'Neill – ECR ASM Local Officer**

I am a post-doctoral researcher in the School of Public Health, University College Cork. I am currently working as part of a multidisciplinary team to develop, implement and evaluate a pilot complex intervention to promote healthy infant feeding practices in primary care. My PhD research estimated the economic burden of diabetes in Ireland and explored the potential for current policy approaches, including a sugar-sweetened beverage levy, to impact on the burden of diabetes. With a background in epidemiology and public health, I am interested in the generation of robust evidence to inform public health policy. In my role as a local officer on the SSM ECR sub-committee, I hope to organise a stimulating, relevant and enjoyable ECR event at the SSM Annual Scientific Meeting in September and can't wait to welcome you all to Cork!



**ECR Shout-out**

Niamh McGrath supervised a winning research study conducted as part of the [BT Young Scientist and Technologist Exhibition \(BTYS\)](#) in January 2019. Ms Hannah Walsh (13 years) won first place in the category; Social and Behavioural Sciences. “Diabetes: Don’t sugar coat it – Improving the general populations’ understanding of type 2 diabetes to support prevention”. Furthermore, Niamh, as a member of the Psychologists in Diabetes group in the University College Cork, co-authored a policy brief titled: “Diabetes Services: Gaps in Psychological Care”.

**Congratulations Niamh!!**

Naomh McMahon (ECR SSM Welfare Officer - University of Central Lancashire) won Research Student of the Year at the [North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards 2019](#) and successfully passed her Viva this March.

More information on the press release [here!](#)

**Congratulations Naomh!!**



The ECR Subcommittee is keen to put ECRs and their work into the spotlight. Therefore, we want to let us know of your academic achievements - be that papers you have just published, presentations you were proud of, or prizes you have won. We'll then feature your work in the next SSM newsletter and give you a well-earned shout out! Email us on [ecr.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:ecr.ssm@gmail.com)

## One Year Free SSM Membership for ECRs

SSM offers a free year's membership to any ECRs joining the Society. (Please note, the free year will be granted in the second year of membership, and will require validation of ECR status by the Subcommittee Chair). All enquiries regarding free membership should be addressed to Peter Tennant at [secretary.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.ssm@gmail.com).

### Benefits of SSM membership include:

- **Reduced registration costs** for the annual SSM conference, one day meetings and workshops
- **Monthly email** of SSM news, relevant conferences and training courses
- **Three times a year newsletter** with articles on topical issues and events relating to social medicine
- [Membership of the European Public Health Association](#), reduced registration costs for the annual EUPHA Conference and free access to the *European Journal of Public Health*
- **Become part of a professional organisation** and interact with a wide range of people with similar research and policy interests

### Specific ECR benefits include:

- Support for ECRs through networking, mentoring, and academic opportunities
- Opportunities for research dissemination and networking through the ECR Gig Trail scheme and SSM Network Platform
- Specific ECR news and announcements via monthly ECR emails and triannual SSM newsletters.
- ECR specific events including the annual ECR pre-conference workshop and other one-day events throughout the year
- ECR networking opportunities and social events at the Annual Scientific Meeting

Keep up to date with ECR subcommittee news and activities on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or via the SSM website [www.socsocmed.org.uk/ECR](http://www.socsocmed.org.uk/ECR)

To register for ECR updates, please email us at [ecr.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:ecr.ssm@gmail.com).

If you have a job vacancy in social medicine to advertise or you are an ECR who would like to receive notifications about vacant positions please email [ecr.ssm.jobs@gmail.com](mailto:ecr.ssm.jobs@gmail.com).

## Get in touch:



[ecr.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:ecr.ssm@gmail.com)



[@ECR\\_SSM](https://twitter.com/ECR_SSM)



[SSM ECR Subcommittee](#)

## News from the MCR Section

### Events and Workshops

The MCR section ran two successful events at the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Glasgow in September 2018. We had a half-day pre-conference workshop on developing line management and team leadership skills. This session was well received by the attendees but participation was lower than anticipated. The other session during the traditional Thursday afternoon workshop slot was a masterclass in grant writing, facilitated by senior SSM members. This workshop was rated as excellent by both the attendees and the facilitators. Our thanks go to Aileen Clarke, Alastair Leyland and Martin White for sharing their top tips for successful grant applications.

This year the ASM is joint with International Epidemiology Association European Congress of Epidemiology. There will be pre-conference workshops hosted by the ECE and several workshops on Thursday afternoon. While none of these have been specifically arranged for the MCR section, many will be of relevance and interest to MCRs.

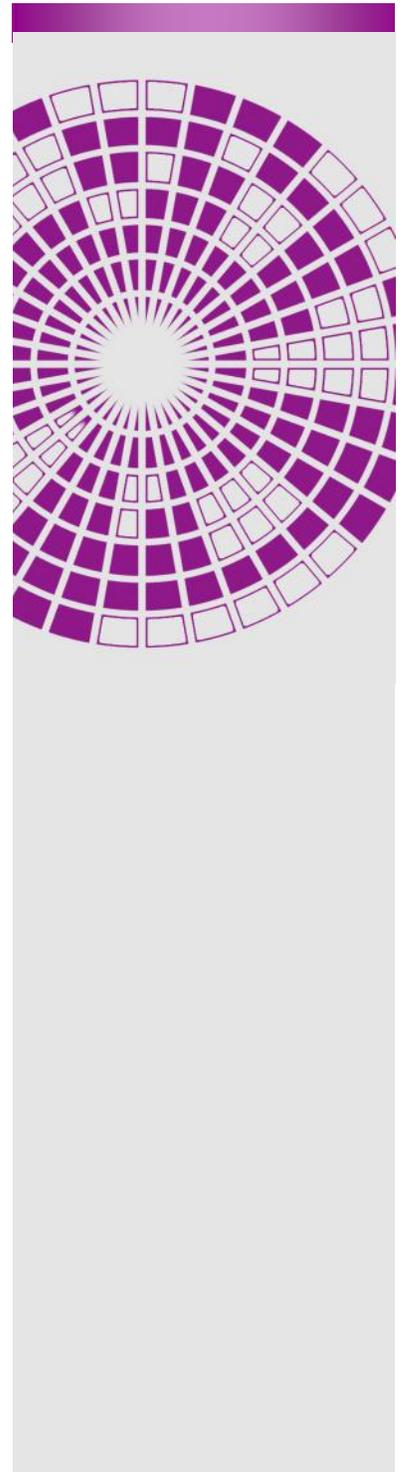
The MCR Section are always looking for ideas for events that we can help arrange for the MCR members. Please get in touch and let us know what events would be useful for you. We have some ideas, such as a joint 1.5-2 day writing retreat with the SCR section which we could couple with a CV clinic. Watch this space for more information!

### Tweet your paper

As ever, the MCR section can help communicate the findings from your research. We can promote it via our Twitter account @MCR\_SSM. Follow us and when you publish new research please tweet and copy in @MCR\_SSM and we can retweet to help amplify to a wider research network.

### New Members Welcome

This year we have had to say goodbye to several members of the MCR Committee. Most of these were founder members of the Committee and so have been of enormous help to get the Section up and running. Many thanks go to Emily Murray, Noriko Cable, Mark Kelson, Jo Thompson Coon, and Sheena Ramsay. Would you like to shape the MCR Section? Then, please consider joining the Committee. It's a great opportunity to network with senior academics, peers and colleagues, and to get involved in discussions about the future of the research in this field. Watch out for nominations and elections.



Get in touch:



[mcr.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:mcr.ssm@gmail.com)



[@mcr\\_ssm](https://twitter.com/mcr_ssm)

## Blog corner!

### Welcome to the first blog corner of 2019!

An increasing number of scientists use blogs as a creative platform for science communication, discussing their research, raising issues they encounter, sharing their experience... Blogs not only contribute to professional collaborations and research dissemination but also enhance the sense of community in science.

We hope you find the following blogs informative and inspiring!

For our readers who are thinking about doing a PhD or are currently doing one, feel free to visit <https://phdlife.warwick.ac.uk/>. It will give you a great insight into the PhD student experience, and you might find many topics you can relate to. The thesis and research whisperer blogs (<https://thesiswhisperer.com/>; <http://researchwhisperer.org/>) are also a great source of information for both doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, covering subjects such as thesis corrections, student-supervisor relationship, publishing papers...

Conveying information in an accurate and eloquent way can often be a challenge for researchers, especially early on in their career. The doctoral writing blog gives us some tips, ideas and resources to improve academic writing (<https://doctoralwriting.wordpress.com/>). Research communication also involves finding the best way to visually present key information, through an oral or poster presentation at a conference for instance. The 'Visual Communication Guy' provides design ideas for data visualisation (e.g. infographics, pie charts) (<https://thevisualcommunicationguy.com/>) and advice on how to improve data reports, slideshows and dashboards are given at <https://depictdatastudio.com/blog/>, including a post on 'How to visualise demographic data'. The blog 'Better Posters' gives constructive feedback on a varied selection of posters, which you may find useful if you are preparing for a conference (<http://betterposters.blogspot.com/>).

The last recommendations for this issue are blogs related to epidemiology and public health, please visit: <https://ije-blog.com/>, <https://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/iehc/> and <https://betterhealthforall.org/> to learn more.

Hope you have a good read!

**PS. Let us know if you regularly write or read a blog, we can add it to our list for the next issue!**

## blog

/blog/ 

*noun*

plural noun: **blogs**

1. a regularly updated website or web page, typically one run by an individual or small group, that is written in an informal or conversational style.

## Committee News

---

Hello!

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who participated in the membership census. We are currently in the process of transferring the information into the membership area, so you can easily check, update, amend, and remove your data at any time. In the meantime, the committee have been digesting the results and implications for our ongoing direction and future strategy.

We received 320 responses to the census before the provisional data collection closed in January, equivalent to 61% of the 525 eligible members with a known email address. In terms of the Society's relationship with the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health (JECH), respondents were very favourable, with 84.1% supporting the Society's current relationship with JECH and 78.4% scoring 3 or more out of 5 for the degree that JECH represents the values of the Society. Respondents were also keen for our conference abstracts to remain published in JECH, although they were more mixed on whether we still needed to produce a physical abstract booklet.

I was also very pleased (if somewhat surprised) to read that our communications were both well received and well read, with over two-thirds of responders giving at least 3 out of five for the 'value' of both the members email and newsletter. Although respondents supported moving the newsletter to a blog-like format, the difference was quite marginal/Brexit so our planned blog will exist in parallel to a traditional newsletter for the foreseeable future.

In terms of the committee, the main news is that we now have a Senior Career Researcher subcommittee who are tasked with helping the Society to better support our senior members and their priorities. The subcommittee will be chaired by Janis Baird (University of Southampton) and the other members are Simon Capewell (University of Liverpool), Tarani Chandola (University of Manchester), Aileen Clarke (University of Warwick), Mark Gilt-horpe (University of Leeds), Ian Harvey (Retired, formally University of East Anglia), Kate Hunt (University of Sterling), Nick Payne (University of Sheffield), Jo Thompson-Coon (University of Exeter), and Martin White (University of Cambridge).

Also, after five years on the committee, the time has come for me to surrender the Honorary Secretary hot seat to Sarah Gibney (Department of Health, Ireland). It's hard to believe how quickly the years have flown by; until that is that I look in the mirror. Anyway, the upshot is that future messages may likely have a more Irish flavour and the hunt for our next Honorary Secretary begins in earnest! If you are interested in the role, then please contact the secretary email account (below) and Sarah and I will be delighted to answer any questions that you may have,

**Peter Tennant**  
Honorary Secretary  
[secretary.ssm@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.ssm@gmail.com)



**SSM secretary**

**Peter Tennant**

Peter Tennant is University  
Academic Fellow in Health  
Data Science at the University  
of Leeds

## The Committee

Hazel	Inskip	President
Kate	Hunt	President-Elect
Peter	Tennant	Honorary Secretary
Sarah	Gibney	Honorary Secretary-Elect
Anna	Pearce	Honorary Treasurer
Dorina	Cadar	Communications Officer
Ivan	Perry	Chair of ASM LOC 2019 & IEA/EEF Liaison
Declan	Whelan-Curtin	Deputy Chair of ASM LOC 2019
Carol	Brayne	Chair of ASM LOC 2020
Danielle	Cannon	Deputy Chair of ASM LOC 2020
Kathryn	Skivington	Chair of ECR Sub-committee
Tarra	Penney	Chair-Elect of ECR Sub-committee
Ruth	Dundas	Chair of MCR Sub-committee
Alastair	Leyland	EUPHA Liaison
Catherine	Hayes	External Relations Co-ordinator
Rebecca	Lacey	Deputy Mentorship Co-ordinator

## The Newsletter Team

Anthony	Laverty
Kate	Mason
Marie	Murphy
William	Ball
Max	Barnish
Gill	Martine-Edith
Samantha	Ofil
Sandra	Pinto da Silva

## Dates for your Diary!

<b>WFPHA International Vaccination &amp; Capacity Workshop 2019</b> 22 <sup>th</sup> May 2019   Geneva, Switzerland <a href="https://www.wfpha.org/events2/workshops/2019">https://www.wfpha.org/events2/workshops/2019</a>
<b>2019 ASPHER Deans' and Directors' Retreat</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2019   Erice, Italy <a href="https://aspher.org/deans-and-directors-retreat.html">https://aspher.org/deans-and-directors-retreat.html</a>
<b>Conference: Improving health in urban communities</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2019   The King's Fund, London, UK <a href="https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/improving-health-urban-communities#about">https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/improving-health-urban-communities#about</a>
<b>IMI Stakeholder Forum 2019: Brain health and disease in the digital era - 2020 and beyond</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2019   Brussels, Belgium Deadline for registration: <b>17<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b> <a href="https://www.imi.europa.eu/news-events/events/imi-stakeholder-forum-2019">https://www.imi.europa.eu/news-events/events/imi-stakeholder-forum-2019</a>
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Residential 3-week Summer Course in Epidemiology</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> June – 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2019   Florence, Italy <a href="http://www.eepe.org/">http://www.eepe.org/</a>
<b>UCL Health and Society Summer School: Social Determinants of Health</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019   London, UK <a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/iehc/study/health-and-society-summer-school">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/iehc/study/health-and-society-summer-school</a>
<b>52nd Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> July - 16 <sup>th</sup> August   Several locations, depending on the course <a href="https://essexsummerschool.com/">https://essexsummerschool.com/</a>
<b>European Research and Innovation Days</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2019   Brussels, Belgium <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/european-research-and-innovation-days_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/european-research-and-innovation-days_en</a>
<b>Course: Advanced Search Strategy Design for Complex Topics</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2019   University of York, UK <a href="https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=9582">https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=9582</a>
<b>Call for abstracts:</b> <b>4th International Conference on Administrative Data Research: Public Data for Public Good</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2019   Cardiff, Wales, UK Deadline of the call for abstracts: <b>12<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b> <a href="https://ijpds.org/adr2019">https://ijpds.org/adr2019</a>

AND FINALLY...

Do please remember to renew your subscription, and keep your contact details updated, so that you can continue to enjoy the many benefits from membership of the Society.

To update your contact details please go to <http://www.hg3.co.uk/ssm/members.aspx>.

If you have any login problems with this site please contact HG3: [ssm@hg3.co.uk](mailto:ssm@hg3.co.uk).