

Society for Social Medicine Newsletter

Annual Scientific Meeting 2009 Newcastle, 9-11th September

Registration for this year's ASM closed on 20th August and the organisers report a good take up of places.

The meeting website is being constantly updated. Please visit the following link for details of the scientific programme, social events, and travel and accommodation information.

<http://www.ssm2009.org.uk/>

One Day Meeting: Intervention-generated inequalities Newcastle, 8th September 2009

The next one day meeting will be a satellite event, the day before the ASM. We have a great line up of speakers and discussants for what promises to be a highly stimulating event. A few places are still available, and you can register by sending an email to: ssmadmin@ncl.ac.uk. Registration closes at 09.00 on 1st September 2009. Further information, including full programme, cost, travel and accommodation options are on the ASM website at:

<http://www.ssm2009.org.uk/satellite.html>

We look forward to welcoming you to Newcastle!

SSM Committee Nominations

Each year there are two positions available on the SSM committee. This year we have three candidates and their biographies are detailed below. A ballot form is included in this mailing. Please complete this and return to Amy Downing at the address shown or email the name of your chosen candidates to socsocmed@leeds.ac.uk. We encourage all members to take part in voting and to attend the AGM on Wednesday 9th September where the results will be announced.

Elizabeth Breeze

My qualifications are a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, membership of the former Institute of Statistics, an MSc and a PhD in Epidemiology. My research focuses on older people, in particular socioeconomic patterning of health and functioning but with a general interest in the varied trajectories of ageing. At the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) I worked mainly on the MRC Trial of Assessment of Older people and its add-on concerning nutrition; also a resurvey of the original cohort of Whitehall Civil Servants. At University College London I had a project management role on the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). I now work part-time, retaining an interest in ELSA and teaching on the Distance-Learning MSc Epidemiology at LSHTM.

Having been a member of SSM for about 16 years and attended most of the conferences in that time, I am an enthusiast for its role in enabling social epidemiologists and people in allied disciplines to keep in touch with each other and

with developments in social medicine and epidemiology.

If on the committee, I would be keen to promote the Society as providing opportunities for junior researchers to meet senior professors in a stimulating, but non-threatening, atmosphere. Several of the themed workshops in recent years have been methodological and I would like to see this continue both to enable researchers to keep up with fast-moving developments and to help prepare them for the practicalities of data collection and analysis.

Gita Mishra

Dr Gita Mishra is a statistical epidemiologist and programme leader at the MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, UCL, for research on *Lifetime lifestyles and social environment in relation to health, health related quality of life, and survival in later life*. She specialises in using longitudinal studies to investigate factors across the life course associated with chronic disease and healthy ageing. She has also addressed numerous methodological challenges in analysing data across the life course from the issues of measurement errors and missing data, to the techniques of modelling health trajectories.

Dr Mishra has instigated and collaborated on numerous research projects ranging across many aspects of women's health, from the experience of menopausal transition to the role of socio-economic status on health inequalities. She is an International member of the ARC/NHMRC research network for healthy ageing and sits on the editorial boards for journals, including IJBNPA and MHR, and is on the committee for ISOQOL. With over 100 hundred peer-reviewed articles, Dr Mishra has also recently co-edited (with Professor Lawlor) the latest book in the OUP series on Life Course Epidemiology: *Family matters: designing, analysing and understanding family based studies in life course epidemiology* (April 09).

If selected, she hopes to draw upon her extensive experience in statistical epidemiology and public

health to contribute to the scientific and strategic direction of the society.

Andreea Steriu

Andreea Steriu graduated 20 years ago from the Carol Davila Medical School, Bucharest, Romania and recently joined the UK GMC Register. After two years of clinical internship in a teaching hospital she trained in public health and health management. As part of her specialty training she graduated with an MA in Health Services Studies from the University of Leeds and Nuffield Institute for Health and enrolled in further research degree studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Whilst completing her studies, now distance-based, she has been working for almost ten years for the Isle of Man government in the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of Home Affairs, whilst also embarking on part-time academic work with the University of London and the European Agency for Health and Consumers. Her work has focused on health determinants, information systems, outcome-based research, secondary prevention of disease and health care: primary, secondary and tertiary, environmental factors and quality of service.

She is a politically astute public health and health management professional, who has contributed successfully to health care systems reform implementation in Romania, and has brought specific contributions to strategic leadership, programme and project development under change and within an evaluative culture, providing value for money for governments and assisting with implementation of national and European Public Health Programmes.

Andreea is a member of the Society for Social Medicine, UKPHA and the European Dialysis and Transplant Association – European Renal Association and a nominated member for the Science Group of the European Alcohol and Health Forum.

Voting will close on 1st September 2009.

EUPHA Committee Nominations

A position is available to represent SSM on the EUPHA committee. There are two candidates for the this position. Please complete the enclosed ballot form and return to Amy Downing at the address shown or email the name of your chosen candidate to socsocmed@googlemail.com.

Clare Jinks

I have been a member of the Society for Social Medicine and the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) for 7 years. During this time I have been involved in a wide range of mixed methods and public health research. I am currently a Senior Lecturer in Health Services Research at the ARC National Primary Care Centre, Keele University. My research interests include musculoskeletal pain and prevention of this, health care needs assessment (both population and individual perspectives), understanding the social determinants of health, and patient and public involvement (PPI) in research. In my current role I lead a programme of qualitative studies that are part of a National Institute for Health Research programme grant on the management of osteoarthritis in primary care. I also support patient and public involvement in research as the lead person for PPI within the West Midlands Research Design Service. I would welcome the opportunity to represent the Society on the EUPHA committee and I would work to help strengthen public health research and multidisciplinary collaboration. I would like the opportunity to support the effective dissemination of public health research findings, which I hope will facilitate the uptake of results into public health policy and practice.

Ellen Nolte

Ellen Nolte has recently joint RAND Europe as their new Director Health and Healthcare, previously senior lecturer at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Her research

interests are in the systematic analysis of health systems across Europe, international comparisons in the health sector, and health system performance assessment. She has published widely in areas of relevance to policy-making in the European Union and elsewhere. She is leading on a project that provides an 'on-call facility for international healthcare comparisons' for the English Department of Health and, while at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been presented with the prestigious Career Scientist Award by the National Institute for Health Research, England, to undertake a five-year research programme into chronic diseases. Ellen holds a PhD from London University and a master's degree in public health (MPH).

Voting will close on 1st September 2009.

Electronic Communication: Help keep us up to date

Reminder

We'd like to move towards more electronic communication with our members. To achieve this **we need your current email address**, and more importantly we need you to let us know if this changes. At the moment we have a valid email address for 85% of the membership but it's a constant battle. Please help by keeping us up to date (you can do this by going to the website www.socsocmed.org.uk and updating your details online or contacting socsocmed@gmail.com).

You will have noticed that some information is already circulated by email (such as the call for abstracts) but we'd like to increase this - although we promise not to bombard you with emails! We aim to maintain a healthy balance between minimising the number of emails sent out (and also reducing the printing of paper communications) and alerting you to relevant, up to date information. Of course, you can ask to be removed from the list at any time by contacting the Honorary Secretary (socsocmed@leeds.ac.uk).

European Journal of Public Health

Reminder

As a SSM member you are also a member of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA). This used to entitle SSM members to free copies of the printed version of the European Journal of Public Health, which were distributed with the Newsletter. However, the Journal is now primarily an electronic journal, so as part of your EUPHA membership you are now entitled to **FREE ONLINE ACCESS** to the full text of the European Journal of Public Health. In order to gain access to the journal please register as outlined below.

Activating your Online Access

To activate your personal online access to EJPH, you will need to register an account. To do this, you will need a subscriber number sent to you in a letter from Oxford University Press, the journal's publisher. If you do not have or do not know your subscriber number, please contact EJPHqueries@oxfordjournals.org in the first instance.

Dates for your Diary

Future SSM Annual Scientific Meetings

The dates for the next two ASMs have now been finalised. Please make a note of them in your diary.

Belfast: Mon 6th – Weds 8th September 2010
Warwick: Weds 14th – Fri 16th September 2011

Are you interested in hosting the ASM in the future?

Please ask the Honorary Secretary for more information about what is involved (socsocmed@leeds.ac.uk).

Future IEA Meetings

2009 European Regional Meeting:
 Warsaw, Poland – 26-29th August 2009
<http://www.euroepi2009.org/>

19th World Congress of Epidemiology:
 Edinburgh, Scotland – 7-11th August 2011
 For more information contact Professor Raj Bhopal (raj.bhopal@ed.ac.uk)

Joint SSM & HSRN Seminar

SSM is working with the Health Services Research Network (HSRN) to organise a seminar on the theme of research governance. Details have not yet been finalised but this event is likely to be held in Manchester in late October.

Further information will be available soon. Any queries should be directed to Stefan Groombridge (Stephan.Groombridge@nhsconfed.org).

Note from the Editor

Please continue to submit news items, announcements, meetings, reports – anything that you think that would be interesting to the wider membership. We are particularly keen to increase the number of items relating to **Health Services Research** as well as **Public Health research that exists outside the practice of Epidemiology**.

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