

February 2007

# Society for Social Medicine Newsletter

**51<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
Cork 2007  
12-14th September 2006**

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS DEADLINE 16th MARCH 2007**

This promises to be (another) special meeting, as it is a joint conference with the European section of the International Epidemiological Association (as was last the case in Oxford in 2001). This means that we can expect more colleagues and friends from Europe and some IEA flavour to the programme, including a plenary lecture by an international figure.

It is also special for both societies in that this year's meeting will be the 50th anniversary of the first SSM meeting (in Birmingham in Sept 1957) and of the first IEA meeting (in Noordwijk, Netherlands in Sept 1957). How long does a 50th anniversary last some members may ask, since we celebrated the anniversary of the founding of the society in Leeds last year!

Our hosts are University College Cork and, as usual, accommodation will be centred in halls of residence. There will be much to fit into three days and forgetting not Ireland's legendary hospitality (SSM Dublin 1958), some perhaps will plan to extend their stay by a few days either before or after.

Anyone interested in running a workshop at the conference should contact the organisers at [epidemiology@ucc.ie](mailto:epidemiology@ucc.ie) or tel: +353 21 4901573.

## **CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

Further details of the Cork ASM can be found at <http://www.ucc.ie/academic/pubh/ssmiea/> Online registration will open soon and for the first time abstracts are to be submitted online. Full details of the abstract submission process are included in this mailing and are also available on the conference website. Abstracts should be submitted at [www.iformix.com](http://www.iformix.com). The deadline for submission is 5pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

## **FREE STUDENT PLACES**

A number of free student places are available at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Please contact the Treasurer Aileen Clarke by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007 ([on socsocmed@gmail.com](mailto:socsocmed@gmail.com)) with details about the student and a short paragraph about why they would benefit from attending the conference. Students may nominate themselves and the grant covers their conference fee/registration, standard accommodation, and standard class travel. In return, students should provide a brief report on their experience / reflections on the Meeting.

The nominees must be students or equivalent, (from any relevant discipline or profession) on a student stipend (or income below £14,000 pa). We need to know that applicants would benefit from the conference. In the event of too many people being nominated, two committee members of the society will select applicants based on the description of expected benefit. Please ensure that you include the applicant's name, address and contact details.

## One day meeting: Researching Symptoms: Past, Present and Future

Joint one-day meeting of:

**SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE  
&  
SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC PRIMARY  
CARE**

at

**Keele University, Staffordshire  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2007**

The overall aim of this meeting is to describe the historical basis, current state and potential developments in the quantitative study of physical symptoms

### **This one-day meeting will cover:**

- The epidemiology of physical symptoms in the community
- The public health impact of physical symptoms
- Patterns and presentation of symptoms in primary care
- Methodological issues in studying recurrent and persistent symptoms

### **The meeting is aimed at:**

- Researchers
- Healthcare professionals
- Public health practitioners / public health trainees
- Policy makers

### **Cost including lunch:**

SSM / SAPC Members - £60, Non-members - £80, Full time students - £30

For up-to-date information and registration forms please visit:

[www.keele.ac.uk/research/pchs/pcmrc/symptoms/symptoms.htm](http://www.keele.ac.uk/research/pchs/pcmrc/symptoms/symptoms.htm)

## EUPHA News

### **EUPHA Annual Meeting**

The EUPHA conference in Montreux, November 2006 attracted over 1300 participants from 62 countries. There were 6 slots with 11 parallel sessions in addition to plenary sessions and over 250 posters. The 2007 conference will be held in Helsinki, from 11 to 13 October 2007 with the theme "Future of Public Health in the Unified Europe".

### **New Sections**

Five new sections were added following the Montreux conference: Public Health Economics, Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Public Mental Health, Environment Related Diseases and Chronic Diseases.

## A Celebration Of George Miller's Life In Science

A symposium to celebrate the late Prof George Miller's contribution to epidemiology & general clinical science in the Caribbean & the UK will take place on March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Institute of Public Health, 28 Portland Place London W1. Speakers will include Norman Miller, Tim Cole, Kennedy Cruickshank, Rainford Wilks, Gloria Beckles, Fred Harrison, Peter MacCallum, Tom Sanders, Peter Esnouf and Steve Humphries. Further details from Joy Stewart Tel: 0161-275-1203 or email: [joy.stewart@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:joy.stewart@manchester.ac.uk)

## Julian Tudor Hart at 80

The NHS as a work in progress: a conference to mark the 80th birthday of Dr Julian Tudor Hart, will take place in Glasgow on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Speakers include Allyson Pollock, George Davey Smith, Phil Hanlon and Graham Watt. Further details from [www.gla.ac.uk/departments/generalpractice/events-tudorhart.htm](http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/generalpractice/events-tudorhart.htm)

## Improving the use of Ethnicity in Analytical Health Research

**Report of a one day SSM conference at the Royal Society of Medicine,**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

Improving the health of minority ethnic groups is part of the UK government's agenda to reduce inequalities on health, and the plethora of research issues relating to ethnicity and health are increasing as countries become more multi-ethnic. This SSM day conference focused on theory, methodology, analysis, interpretation and ethics and explored some of the contentious issues in analytical research relating to ethnicity and health research.

There were 70 participants at the conference including the nine speakers, who covered issues of conceptualising ethnicity, its meaning, classification, analysis and interpretation, ethical dilemmas, effects of inclusion and exclusion of ethnic minorities in research, their recruitment, and put the case why genetic variants do not underlie ethnic differences in rates of chronic disease. There was also a paper on the National Electronic Library of Health's approach to amassing the evidence on ethnicity and health.

The excellent papers led to lively debate and we are looking into the possibility of publishing the papers together. Meanwhile the conference programme and power point presentations are available on the Society's website.

## Society for Academic Primary Care 36th Annual Scientific Meeting

**Primary Care Research for Better Health:  
*Delivering International Excellence***

The SAPC ASM will take place 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July 2007, at Kensington Town Hall, London. For information and submission forms please visit [www.sapc.ac.uk](http://www.sapc.ac.uk) (click on annual conference). Deadline for abstract submission Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006. The target audience for the meeting is all those with an interest in primary care research and teaching.

## New publications on ethnicity, race and health

Professor Raj S. Bhopal has a new book published by Oxford University Press, entitled *Ethnicity, Race, and Health in Multicultural Societies: Foundations for better epidemiology, public health, and health care*. This book is aimed at MSc Public Health courses, and is especially relevant for those studying ethnicity and race in the health care context.

In addition, two new books are available free of charge from the South Asian Health Foundation website <http://www.sahf.org.uk/>. These are:

Kiran CR Patel and Raj S Bhopal (Eds): *The Epidemic of Coronary Heart Disease in South Asian Populations: Causes and Consequences*;

Kiran CR Patel and Ajay M. Shah (Eds): *Prevention, Treatment And Rehabilitation Of Cardiovascular Disease In South Asians*.

## Sociology of Health and Illness monograph

Proposals are invited for the fifteenth volume in the monograph series to be published by Sociology of Health and Illness in conjunction with Blackwell Publishers. The Board of the journal considers all proposals for the Monograph series at the first board meeting of each year. The monograph will be 65-70,000 words in length comprising contributions of approximately 6,500 words each and will appear both as a regular issue of the journal and in book form. The planned publication date is September 2009.

The proposal needs to contain certain elements including the following:

1. Justification of the proposed topic in terms of its academic merits, how it fits into the monograph series and how links between medical sociology and other substantive areas will be established.
2. A statement of 3 or 4 themes that might be addressed and how these might be broken down into sub-themes.
3. Consideration of the proposal's appeal to: regular readers of the journal and to readers who might buy it as a book; medical sociologists and to readers from sister disciplines.

Proposals can be discussed informally with the Monograph Editor (Hannah Bradby of the University of Warwick, UK: email: [H.Bradby@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:H.Bradby@warwick.ac.uk)) to whom finalized proposals should be sent to by March 29th 2007. The outcome notified by April 30th 2007.

See <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0141-9889&site=1> for further details of the series.

## Changes to the SSM Committee

At the end of 2006, Sally Macintyre (Past Chair), Mark Gilthorpe and Joy Townsend (Ordinary Members) and Cindy Cooper and Steve Cummins (Co-opted committee members for one year) completed their terms as members of the committee. Thanks to them for the hard work and the valuable contribution that they have made to the success of the Society over the last few years.

From January 2007 we welcome back two committee members – Cindy Cooper, who will become a full committee member, and Mark Gilthorpe, who wishes to serve another term. Both will be on the committee for three years. Steve Cummins will be co-opted for a further year. We are also delighted to report that Diana Kuh has been nominated as Chair Elect during 2007 - her term as Chair will be in 2008.

## New Honorary Members

We are very pleased to announce that Professors Stephen Frankel, Alison McFarlane and Elizabeth Russell have been put forward for Honorary Membership of the Society, and that each of them has been pleased to accept.

## SSM Newsletter

If you have any contributions to the newsletter please send them to: Laurence Moore, Cardiff Institute of Society, Health and Ethics, 53, Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3AT. Email: [MooreL1@cf.ac.uk](mailto:MooreL1@cf.ac.uk)