

February 2008

Society for Social Medicine Newsletter

Note from The Editor

This issue of the SSM Newsletter is one that marks a goodbye to Laurence Moore who was editor for the past two years. We at SSM wish to extend our thanks to Laurence for continuing to scrounge for stories and items to keep the membership informed about the Society and wider academic Social Medicine.

As ever, the Editor's job is to keep information flowing to the membership. With that in mind I would like to encourage you to submit news items, announcements, meetings, reports – in fact 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**. One day meetings on these topics are particularly encouraged.

I am keen to encourage comments and suggestions about what you would like to see in the Newsletter as well as contributions. Please feel free to contact me at the address below.

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51st Annual Scientific Meeting Joint Meeting with IEA Europe Cork 2007 Report

The 51st Annual Scientific Meeting was held jointly with IEA Europe and attracted about 400 delegates from a wide range of countries. The meeting was held on the campus of University College Cork and was a huge success. The wide range of papers and posters presented were of a very high quality and provoked much debate. Professor Jørn Olsen delivered the 1st John Pemberton lecture and talked about current achievements and challenges in epidemiology. Professor Trevor Sheldon then delivered the Cochrane lecture and talked about the evidence base for public health and social interventions. Many thanks go to both speakers. Videos of their lectures are available on the UCC website (Go to <http://interactive.ucc.ie/ucc/> and select video from Epidemiology & Public Health).

Many delegates also enjoyed the trips and workshops organised on the Thursday afternoon, whilst other chose to explore the city of Cork. And after all the hard work, the conference dinner at Oriel House was very enjoyable, especially the traditional Irish dancing and audience participation in this! Many thanks go to the organisers, especially Karen Mulcahy and Ivan Perry.

52nd Annual Scientific Meeting

University of Southampton
17 - 19th September 2008

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS DEADLINE: 20th MARCH 2008

Abstracts are invited for oral and poster presentations on all aspects of health services research, epidemiology, public health and social medicine. For further details on submitting an abstract please see the notes enclosed with this mailing.

Our hosts this year are the University of Southampton and accommodation will be centred on halls of residence, as usual.

Details of this year's ASM including will be available shortly via the Society's website (<http://www.socsocmed.org.uk/>). Please contact Carol Orchard for further information (carol.orchard14@btinternet.com)

FREE STUDENT PLACES

A number of free student places are available for the ASM. Please contact Aileen Clarke (aileen.clarke@warwick.ac.uk) 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 of the Meeting (see page 4 for extracts from last years reports). In the event of over subscription, 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.

REMINDER: Honorary Members are also entitled to a FREE place at the ASM. We would love to have all our Honorary Members attend!

SSM One Day Meeting
Queen Mary,
University of London
21st April 2008

SYNTHESISING QUALITATIVE RESEARCH EVIDENCE ON PATIENT'S VIEWS & EXPERIENCES: METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES AND UTILITY

This day meeting will concentrate on synthesising and using qualitative research in health and health care. The aim is to introduce new techniques such as text mining and to reflect on how best to translate qualitative research into policy. Speakers include Stephanie Taylor, James Thomas, Cecily Marsden, Jane Noyes, Angela Harden and Peter Beresford.

The meeting will be held on 21st April, 2008 at The Arts Lecture Theatre, Queen Mary, University of London and is scheduled to run from 10.30 to 4.30pm. Register by April 9th.

Further details and a booking form can be found as a flyer in this Newsletter or by visiting: <http://www.ihse.qmul.ac.uk/chs/socsocmed/>

SSM ONE DAY MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

The Committee would like to encourage it's members to organise one-day meetings/workshops in conjunction with the Society. These could take place at the ASM or any other time of the year. Frurther information on running a workshop is available on the SSM website or from the Honorary Secretary (admin@socsocmed.org.uk)

European Journal of Public Health

As an 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 (EJPH), 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 EJPH. 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.

With your subscriber number to hand, please visit <http://www3.oup.co.uk/Register>

- **If you are registering for the first time.** Help is available for activating your online access at the above web site.
- **If you've already registered an account with OUP and you need to register your additional subscriber number for EJPH,** log in at the Activation and Maintenance Page and go to 'Subscription Details Edit' to add this subscriber number to your account.
- **If you've already registered an account for this subscriber number,** then you do not need to register again.

You will need your username and password to gain access to the full text of the journal.

Optional Print Subscription

In addition to online access to the EJPH, as a EUPHA member you also have the option of purchasing a print subscription to the journal at a greatly reduced rate. Please visit <http://www3.oup.co.uk/jnls/list/eurpub/subinfo/> for more information.

Free E-mail Table-of-Contents Alerting Service

The EJPH offers a free table-of-contents e-mail alerting service. Please visit <http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/alerts/etoc> to register for the journal's eTOC service, and you will be sent an e-mail every time a new issue is published, listing the contents.

Members Book Discount:

The Policy Press are offering SSM members a 15% discount on two recently published books 'Challenging Health Inequalities' by Elizabeth Dowler and Nick Spencer and 'Community Health & Wellbeing' Edited by Steve Cropper and colleagues.

The books can be ordered from the website: www.policypress.org.uk and members should insert the code POA15SSM when prompted at the checkout.

Evaluating Complex Interventions

The National Centre for Research Methods is holding a one-day meeting at Cardiff University on **Evaluating Complex Social Interventions: Randomised Controlled Trials and Realistic Evaluation** organised by Prof Laurence Moore. For further details please see the following link. <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/events/2008/20080423/FurtherInformationformRCT.doc>

ASM Student Reports: Cork 2007

Each year the society provides a number of free places for students to attend the ASM. This year there were 19 and each was asked to write a little about their experiences. Here is a selection of their comments:

“The SSM conference was the first chance I’ve had to present my work to colleagues outside of my institution. I can’t think of a nicer environment in which to have done this; both very relaxed and also a good proportion of other presenters were PhD or Post Doc students, which made it all much less intimidating.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed the SSM/IEA conference. I was surprised by the wide variety of topics covered. The presentations gave me lots of ideas about the kind of research area I would like to pursue in the future as well as a better understanding of the wide range of methodology used in epidemiological research.”

“I found the SSM/IEA conference to be a great experience. The diversity of topics covered gave a real feeling of how broad the field is, the wide range of work being conducted, and possible future directions for which the skills I am developing as a PhD student could take me.”

“A bug has bitten and I can’t wait to scratch it! I got swept up in a flurry of exciting projects and findings, which has broadened my thinking, opening up my mind to the possibilities within research. I’m now eager to begin or become involved in a project with the view to presenting my work at a Society for Social Medicine Conference within the next two years.”

“The range of parallel sessions available was extremely extensive. Those sessions which appeared of no direct relevance to my studies were often the most creative in terms of my own work. It enabled me to be free of all the usual conventions and current thinking in my specialist area and approach my topic with a completely different view.”

”I found ALL the presentations I attended interesting. Moreover, I found the themes identified very stimulating; if anything there was too much choice!”

“I very much enjoyed the opportunity to present to an international audience, and received some helpful feedback, that has informed our approaches to the final analyses of these data in preparation for publication.”

“As an undergraduate medical student, the Society for Social Medicine & International Epidemiological Association Joint Meeting was the first international conference I attended and I must admit it managed to exceed my highest expectations.”

”The quality of all the other works presented at the meeting was remarkable and I learned a lot from them about many interesting and important subjects on Public Health.”

“My attendance at the conference was both an enjoyable and beneficial experience for me and I returned to my research project with renewed enthusiasm and excitement.”

Free student places will be available for the 52nd ASM in Southampton, September 2008. For details please contact Aileen Clarke on: aileen.clarke@warwick.ac.uk