

# Society for Social Medicine Newsletter

## 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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**Annual Scientific Meeting 2009  
Newcastle, 9-11<sup>th</sup> September**

## ABOUT THIS YEAR'S ASM

This year's ASM will be held at Newcastle University, where Martin White and colleagues look forward to offering you a warm welcome and an exciting programme. The main conference will run from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

However, there will also be a **satellite meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>**. The topic of the meeting will be **"Intervention-Generated Inequalities"**. We will shortly be advertising the programme and booking

arrangements – please keep an eye out for this, as we expect it to be a very popular event! Delegates wishing to attend both meetings will be offered a reduced registration fee. We hope this addition to the programme will make for an even more stimulating conference.

During the ASM, Prof Sally Macintyre will give the annual Cochrane lecture. The provisional title for this lecture is **'Good intentions and received wisdom are not good enough'**. Prof Valerie Beral will deliver the Pemberton lecture on the topic of **'The causes and prevention of breast cancer'**.

A conference website will be available soon.

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The deadline for submission of abstracts for this year's conference in Newcastle is midnight on **FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**. We invite abstracts on any aspect of **health services research, epidemiology, public health, social medicine, health policy, and related subjects**. Abstracts should be no longer than 400 words and written in a structured format (background, methods, results, conclusions).

Abstracts should be submitted at [www.iformix.com](http://www.iformix.com). You will need to register if you have not used the site previously. Please read the enclosed notes before submitting an abstract.

This year we are introducing a **dedicated poster session** and so you will be asked to order your preferences for an oral or poster presentation. In doing so, please consider whether your work might better be presented as a poster.

All abstracts will be marked blindly by four members of the committee. A copy of the marking guidelines is available on the SSM website ([www.socsocmed.org.uk](http://www.socsocmed.org.uk)). You will be informed by the end of May whether your abstract has been accepted or not.

### CALL FOR WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

The Local Organising Committee is also keen to receive **proposals for 3 hour educational workshops**, which will be held in parallel on Thursday afternoon, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in Newcastle. Workshops should focus on a cohesive theme (e.g. on any relevant health science topic, research area, method or technique). Anyone interested in offering a workshop should contact Martin White ([martin.white@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:martin.white@ncl.ac.uk)). Guidelines are available at [www.socsocmed.org.uk](http://www.socsocmed.org.uk) (click on 'The Society', then 'SSM meetings', then scroll down and click on 'guidelines').

We can also offer **accommodation for meetings** of national or regional working groups, project teams or any other group, large or small, that wishes to get together on the morning of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, prior to the main conference. We can offer a range of rooms and can organise refreshments at a reasonable cost. Please contact Laura Ritson ([l.ritson@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:l.ritson@ncl.ac.uk)) for details.

### FREE STUDENT PLACES

As usual, a number of free places are available at the ASM for those interested in the society and its aims and who are on a low income (e.g. PhD students or those working in the NHS or voluntary sector). The grant covers conference registration, standard accommodation and standard class travel. In return, successful applicants will be asked to provide a brief report on their experience (see [www.socsocmed.org.uk](http://www.socsocmed.org.uk) for extracts from last year's reports).

Applicants should nominate themselves by completing an application form which is available from Aileen Clarke at [socsocmed@gmail.com](mailto:socsocmed@gmail.com). **The closing date for applications is 29<sup>th</sup> May.** In the event of over subscription, two of the Society's committee members will select applicants based on the supporting statements provided on the form.

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

### SSM One-day Meeting: RCTs in Public Health and Health Services Research

A SSM sponsored conference on RCTs in Public Health and Health Services Research is taking place on **April 7<sup>th</sup> 2009** at the **University of Sheffield**. Details of the conference can be found at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/ctru](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ctru). For further information, please contact: Karen Beck (0114 222 0795, [karen.beck@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:karen.beck@sheffield.ac.uk)) or David White (0114 222 0807, [d.a.white@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.white@sheffield.ac.uk)).

Speakers include Prof Mark Petticrew (LSHTM) and members of the SchARR at Sheffield.

### UPDATE: SSM Membership Survey

You will by now have been asked to complete the SSM membership survey. **So far 221 members have completed the survey** - that's 20% of the total membership. We'd like to improve that and would like **as many people as possible** to complete the survey. Reminders are currently being sent out, but if you've deleted the link and wish to access the survey please contact Christine Rivett-Carnac ([christine.rivett-carnac@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:christine.rivett-carnac@lshtm.ac.uk)).

The survey is designed to make sure that we get **your opinion about the way the society functions**, for example, how the ASM could be improved,

how we might improve our links with other organisations, and how we can improve communication. But we also welcome your views on any aspect of the society. We hope the results from the survey will be included in the summer newsletter.

**Electronic Communication:  
Help keep us up to date**

In the future, 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](http://www.socsocmed.org.uk) and updating your details online or contacting [socsocmed@gmail.com](mailto: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 ([admin@socsocmed.org.uk](mailto:admin@socsocmed.org.uk)).

**Important 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 6<sup>th</sup> – Weds 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Warwick: Weds 14<sup>th</sup> – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Are you interested in hosting the ASM in 2012 or another year?**

Please ask the Honorary Secretary for more information about what is involved ([admin@socsocmed.org.uk](mailto:admin@socsocmed.org.uk)).

**Future IEA Meetings**

**2009 European Regional Meeting:**

Warsaw, Poland – 26-29<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Website available soon via the IEA website

([www.dundee.ac.uk/iea](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/iea))

**2010 European Regional Meeting:**

Likely to be Helsinki, Finland – dates TBC

**19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Epidemiology:**

Edinburgh, Scotland – 7-11<sup>th</sup> August 2011

For more information contact Professor Raj

Bhopal ([raj.bhopal@ed.ac.uk](mailto:raj.bhopal@ed.ac.uk))

**Future SSM One-day Meetings**

The Society holds several one-day meetings throughout each year, usually joint with other organisations. The Committee would like to encourage it's members to organise meetings in conjunction with the Society. Please contact the Honorary Secretary for more information ([admin@socsocmed.org.uk](mailto:admin@socsocmed.org.uk)).

**Society for Academic Primary Care,  
38th Annual Scientific Meeting**

**8th–10th July 2009**

**University of St Andrews, Scotland**

This meeting will be hosted by the Universities of Dundee and St Andrews for the Scottish School of Primary Care. The Conference Chair is Professor Frank S Sullivan.

**Deadlines for abstract submissions are:**

Panels: Fri 13 February 2009

General abstracts &amp; workshops: Fri 6 March, 2009

**Keynote Speakers***Wednesday:*

Sir Alan Langlands – Principal of Dundee University

*Thursday:*

Professor John Spencer – Newcastle University

Professor Philip Hannaford – University of  
AberdeenProfessor Peter Rubin – Chair Education  
Committee GMC, University of Nottingham*Friday:*Professor David Haslam – President Royal College  
of General Practitioners

**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual HSR Lecture,  
3<sup>rd</sup> March, 5.30pm, LSHTM**

**DOES PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT IMPROVE  
THE QUALITY OF CARE?****Prof Peter Smith, York University**

Peter Smith is Professor of Health Economics, at York. He will consider the challenges in measuring the performance of health care providers and the uses to which such analyses can be put, such as public reporting of relative performance and determining the level of payment of providers.

**Reminder: European Journal  
of Public Health**

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. However, the Journal is now primarily an electronic journal, so as part of your EUPHA membership you are entitled to **FREE ONLINE ACCESS** to the full text of the Journal.

In order to gain access to the journal please register as outlined below.

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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](mailto:EJPHqueries@oxfordjournals.org) in the first instance.

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

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

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