

June 2008

Society for Social Medicine Newsletter

Note from The Editor

This issue of the SSM Newsletter contains important information about registering for this year's Annual Meeting. It is worthwhile noting that the Boat Show will also be on at the same time as the meeting, so those who prefer not to use the conference accommodation should book early!

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**.

Steven Cummins, Editor

Department of Geography
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road, London. E1 4NS

E: s.c.j.cummins@qmul.ac.uk

F: +44 020 8981 6276

SSM One Day Meetings

The Committee would like to encourage its members to organise one-day meetings in conjunction with the Society. Please contact Amy Downing for more information and a proposal form (a.downing@leeds.ac.uk)

52nd Annual Scientific Meeting

**University of Southampton
17 - 19th September 2008**

The 52nd Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the University of Southampton on the 17-19th of September 2008.

Registration is now open and you can access the registration form and further information from the University of Southampton's dedicated website.

<http://www.socsocmed.soton.ac.uk/>

Attendees can book early to take advantage of the early-bird reduced registration fee (£210 for members; £230 for non-members). After 30th June an additional £30 will apply.

Guest Speakers

This year's Cochrane Lecture will be delivered by Professor Robert Beaglehole (Auckland) and will be on 'Public health goes global'. The Pemberton Lecture will be given by Professor Paul Elliot (Imperial) on 'Small-area studies of environment and health'

Workshops

This year there will be an interactive workshop on the 'Small Area Synthetic Estimation of Health Needs' led by Professor Graham Moon (Southampton).

This workshop will cover the development of indicators that estimate small-area (eg ward) prevalence's of variables for which local information is not otherwise available. Full details are available from the conference website.

Social Trips

As usual, social trips form an important part of the SSM Annual Meeting. This year a series of walks and visits have been organised in and around Southampton and include trips to Winchester, The South Downs and Spinnaker Tower. Further details are available on the website and you should indicate a preference on the official booking form.

Free Student Places

There are still a number of free student places available. 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 also nominate themselves. 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. In the event of over-subscription, two committee members of the society will select applicants based on the description of expected benefit. When applying please ensure that you include the applicant's name, address and contact details.

Free Places for Honorary Members

Honorary Members are reminded that they are entitled to a FREE place at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The committee encourages all our Honorary Members attend!

Contact point

Dr Carol Orchard, Public Health Sciences & Medical Statistics, University of Southampton
Telephone: +44 (0)23 8079 6530

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

Over one hundred delegates from as far a field as Belgium and Newcastle flocked to the Soc Soc Med one day meeting "Synthesising qualitative research evidence on patients' views and experiences: methodological issues and utility" in London on 21st April. The meeting was hosted by Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of London, and held in association with the Cochrane Qualitative Methods Review Group and the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group.

Presentations included lessons learned from undertaking a meta-ethnographic synthesis, a discussion of the value and role of qualitative syntheses and a description of a "text mining" - a new technique which automatically searches texts to identify concepts and links. Speakers included Professors Jane Noyes, Sandy Oliver and Peter Beresford.

Sorry you missed the meeting? Visit the Soc Soc Med website (www.socsocmed.org.uk/) to see all the presentations!

Thanks go to the Society for supporting and enjoyable and intellectually stimulating meeting.

*Dr Stephanie Taylor,
Queen Mary, University of London*

Reminder: 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, 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.

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 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. Please visit <http://www3.oup.co.uk/jnls/list/eurpub/subinfo/> for more information.

Free E-mail Table-of-Contents Alerting Service

The European Journal of Public Health 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.

CORESE 2nd Report

CORESE is the acronym used by the Dutch group that represents epidemiological interests of member societies (including the Society for Social Medicine) as 'NGO' at the European Union. The second report appeared in late December. This discusses at some length use of personal data for research purposes and distinction of identifiable and non-identifiable personal data (article 29 working party). There are briefer mentions of proposals to strengthen the EU system of pharmacovigilance (comments to peter.arlett@ec.europa.eu) and a new regulation on advanced therapies, including gene therapy. I can forward the report to interested members.

The European Epidemiological Federation (including Society for Social Medicine) is funding this registration - as 'NGO' within the European Union - for a trial period. If there is little (or no) interest the project will not be continued and we will lose the opportunity to contribute to developing legislation.

Professor Robert West, Cardiff University
wcgrrw@groupwise.cf.ac.uk

6th National INVOLVE Conference

Public Involvement in Research: Getting it right and making a difference

INVOLVE's national conference is an event for everyone who is interested in supporting and promoting public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. This includes members of the public, service users, researchers, research commissioners and representatives of voluntary sector organisations.

The aims of the conference are:

- To bring together those with a common interest in public involvement in research
- To encourage knowledge sharing and learning
- To provide a platform for research on public involvement in research

INVOLVE is a programme of the NIHR. The meeting will take place on November 11th-12^h 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham.

For further details please visit:

<http://www.probriefings.co.uk/involve2008> or
<http://www.invo.org.uk>

News from EUPHA

The latest copy of the EUPHA newsletter is now available. Please visit the EUPHA website to gain access to latest European public health news.
<http://www.eupha.org/>

Join the SMM Committee!

Nominations are sought for new committee members of the Society. A variety of positions are available and the nomination form is included within this copy of the newsletter. Please think about joining the Committee as SSM or nominating a colleague (with permission of course). The Committee is a friendly and enthusiastic organisation and positions are open to all, no matter what their career stage.

For further details or queries please contact Amy Downing. Email: A.Downing@leeds.ac.uk

EUPHA Annual Meeting 5-8th November, Lisbon

In 2008, the annual EUPHA conference will be held from 6 to 8 November in Lisbon, Portugal. The main theme of the conference is: **"I-Health: health and innovation in Europe"**

The meeting will be held in association with the 2008 ASPHER annual conference from 5 to 8 November. The main theme for this meeting is **"Education and research – Education in research for Public Health: state of the art and challenges ahead"**.

Programme, meeting and registration information can be found at the address below:

http://www.eupha.org/html/menu3_2.html