

November 2008

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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SSM Membership Survey

SSM members should look out for a membership survey that will with you shortly. Members will have the option of completing the survey online or by post. The online survey will be accessible from the SSM website (socsocmed.org.uk). If you would prefer to receive a paper copy please contact Dr Kate Dunn at: ARC-NPCC, Primary Care Sciences, Keele University, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG. Email: k.m.dunn@cphc.keele.ac.uk.

Annual Scientific Meeting 2008

Student Reports

The Society offers free places to students to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting as a way of exposing them to research and the activities of members. This year was no exception and we offered 25 places to students from a wide variety of clinical and non-clinical backgrounds. Each student is asked to write a report on their experiences of the meeting. A selection of reports are outlined below.

“I cannot quantify the benefit of attending the SSM conference. Attending the conference served as a well-deserved break from my research work and it rejuvenated [my] enthusiasm after I returned to my research....It was a great opportunity for me to have a chat with mentors like Catherine Pope whose work I have used a lot in my research project.” *Adewale Adeoye*

“The 52nd Scientific Annual Meeting of SSM in the University of Southampton was a great combination of increasing knowledge and fun. I attended parallel sessions on health services research, primary care, qualitative research and health policy. I enjoyed the quality of presentations and learned a lot about new issues in the field. Although the conference was not crowded, the quality of attendants was pretty high. For a junior person like me, it was a great

opportunity to meet and talk with premier people in the field.... In addition, I enjoyed the Cochrane Lecture both in terms of content and the quality of presentation. The whole event was a knowledge increasing and enjoyable experience.”

Amirhossein Takian

“This September in Southampton I got the opportunity to put faces to papers at the annual meeting of the Society for Social Medicine. As a research student completely new to the field of health and social sciences, I went to explore. I came across methodological approaches I would not have otherwise, and understanding the breadth of research has helped to keep my mind open.

An added bonus of variety in topics was the variety in people who attended the meeting. I met a vet doing research in medical sociology, a clutch of social epidemiologists, a couple of NHS workers, and people of all levels from various research units and academic institutions. Walking over a glass floor a hundred or so feet above Portsmouth, our ranks disappeared and chatting to others became natural. Being brought together with like-minded individuals to dine and drink champagne, surrounded by a gallery of old cars in the Beaulieu motor museum in the middle of the New Forest, was indeed a treat for a young researcher.” *Christo Albor*

“The SSM meeting was one of the most spectacular conferences that I have ever attended. There was one presentation that I enjoyed so much and which was valuable to my research field.? I had a chance to meet the presenter, Dr. Cindy Cooper, the presenter and we shared our research interests and we thought it would be a brilliant idea if we could work together! It was a great place to get a great networking experience! The conference was like a turning point of my life as I realised how important of my research area is and that my work will be a significant contribution to the SSM and public health society in general.” *Eliane Du*

IEA CORESE

From Professor Robert West: CORESE newsletter 3. This arrived in August but just too late to get into our newsletter of that month. CORESE is the ‘NGO’ at the European Union to represent epidemiological and public health interests and help to keep us informed of impending legislation that may affect us and our work.

The present newsletter discusses a committee draft report that comments on the environment, public health and food safety white paper – full of good intentions but weak on practical proposals? It also comments on the patients’ rights regulation – citizens getting health care in any member state (regulation 1408/71).

There is further critical comment on the CIOMS guidelines for epidemiological research. If any member of the Society wishes to read more, I can forward the CORSE newsletter(s). The Society for Social Medicine, together with comparable societies in other member states, is supporting this initiative – an ‘NGO presence’ within European legislature – for a trial period of 2 years; we are now some 18 months into the 2 years.

Int’l Epidemiological Association *Key Dates for the Diary*

IEA 2009 European Regional Meeting
Warsaw, Poland, 26-29 August 2009

19th IEA World Congress of Epidemiology,
Edinburgh, Scotland, 7 – 11 August 2011. Contact
Professor Raj Bhopal E:Raj.Bhopal@ed.ac.uk

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.
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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.

INCHES Film Competition

INCHES Launches International Film Competition

As part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations starting from 15 September 2008, the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) is launching an International Film Competition on Health and Environment, sponsored by several organisations.

The competition called "Focus on Children in a Healthy Environment" and centred on the themes "Climate" and "Environmental Health" will run until 1 March, 2009 and is open to all nationalities and ages.

Full details of the competition's rules and regulations; information on how to submit films and an application form can be read and downloaded at www.inchesnetwork.net/filmcompetition.html.

It would be great if a SSM member won!