President’s Letter:
SSM - Advancing Knowledge for Population Health: On connecting, collaborating, and covert cycling

The conference season and the 60th anniversary ASM

I’m really pleased to be writing to you about the ASM in York. We will be kicking off in style with our fantastic inaugural debate – which I hope will become an institution at the ASM. This one is ‘This house believes in the nanny state’ and it is all about regulation, big versus small government, freedom, choice and all those intensely interesting political ideas that sometimes get tidied under the carpet at the expense of playing together nicely. Yet Public Health is intensely political, and the 60th anniversary is a fantastic opportunity to reflect and challenge our ideas (and ideals?!).

The planning committee for ASM York has pulled out all the stops for this year’s conference. We have ECR events both before and during the meeting and the debate. This year’s Cochrane Lecture will be delivered by Professor Catherine Law, and Professor Hilary Graham will present the Pemberton lecture; both are vastly experienced and hugely respected experts in their fields. Catherine’s research interests are in child public health, physical growth, inequalities and research for public policy and Hilary’s are also in social inequalities in health, with a particular focus on cigarette smoking and health-related behaviours. The three days will be devoted to networking, academia and the mind - with lectures, talks, posters, and workshops - as well of course plenty of eating and drinking and lovely visits in and around York. Lest we forget, no ASM would be complete without dancing. So don’t forget your dancing shoes!
Moving on to something a bit more serious, I wanted to follow up on the result of the Brexit vote. We conducted a vote in SSM and voted strongly as a Society in favour of Remain. It all seems so long ago now – as we seem to be in a kind of limbo waiting to find out what the implications for us all will be. My philosophy is that we need to be sure to take stock of our strong collaborations with our European colleagues and to press on with mutual research and understanding and working across borders. I wrote to the European Public Health Association President elect to say just that after the vote – and she wrote a very gracious reply saying that we were always welcome as colleagues and collaborators. While bigger politics may end up with our collaborations being slightly different in the coming years, the important thing is that we carry on together.

**ECR, MCR, and SCR networks**

I mentioned mentoring in my last letter. Researcher development is something SSM can really pride itself on – the meaningful development of its members at each stage of their career. Building on the success of our ECR subcommittee, we established a Middle Career Researcher subcommittee in 2015 and now we are about to really power up our Senior Career Researcher section. Soon we can all be in one or other of our sections and have a network to share our career issues with – it’s a life course approach in SSM! I have supported 7 of my team to get their own personal fellowships and I am passionate about researcher development. The ECR, MCR and SCR networks are absolutely the right thing to make sure that we make the most of and enjoy our lives as researchers.

**Exercise desks**

Now we know that sitting is ‘the new smoking,’ I’ve been looking at exercise desks. We’ve got one in our CTU but it’s oversubscribed so I haven’t been able to have a go. I’m thinking of getting a mini-cycler (£14.95) that I can put under my table and use during meetings – it will distract us all from a boring meeting when I start to cycle vigorously under the table. In all seriousness, our offices are going to change radically in the next few years as we work out how to get enough exercise whilst still working as usual.....

My granny had a foot powered sewing machine - which was a very similar device in a way – so maybe we can all soon power our computers with a treadle-type arrangement - see below!

I’ve promised myself that in this newsletter I won’t mention any small or furry animals. So that’s it on the animals front. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the ASM in September.

Aileen Clarke
The next SSM Annual Scientific Meeting is fast approaching and we have short taster for those who are making a last minute decision to sign up.

The programme includes key speakers Professor Catherine Law who will deliver the Cochrane lecture and Professor Hilary Graham who will present the Pemberton lecture. The three days will be a combination of lectures and workshops as well as an opportunity for you to visit some of the beautiful areas around York in the social activities.

Editors have chosen our favourite picks, and we have for you a brief description of the workshops.

Should you have any queries regarding the SSM 60th Annual Scientific Meeting, email ssm@hg3.co.uk
Having an early preview of the conference abstracts is a definite perk of being on the newsletter team. With a total of nearly 250 to choose from, picking just five to feature here was extremely tricky - it’s going to be an exciting couple of days. I’ve decided to highlight five poster abstracts that appeal to my research interests, based on the topics and methods used.

My first choice is P21 entitled “*Horses for courses*’ or ‘*One size fits all*’? Developing appropriate methods of stakeholder involvement to inform evaluation of complex interventions in Europe’ and presented by Professor Goyder from the University of Sheffield is a fascinating look at differing approaches to involving stakeholders in research in seven European countries. Is it feasible to use the same methods across different countries and settings?

Also from the University of Sheffield, Dr Jordan will be presenting P40 ‘*Wild at heart: A mixed method evaluation of a wildlife-related intervention for older people.*’ There is a growing evidence base indicating that exposure to the natural environment can positively affect health and wellbeing. Wild at heart is an intervention designed to engage older people with wildlife related activities with a view to improving well-being and reducing isolation.

Next up is Dr Adams from the Centre for Diet and Activity Research in Cambridge with P55 ‘*The efficacy and effectiveness of 5-holed salt shakers for reducing salt dispensed by fish and chip shops.*’ Has the move from standard 17-hole salt shakers to 5-holed shakers encouraged by many English local authorities translated into reductions in the amount of salt delivered in practice?

My fourth choice (P97 – ‘*Quantifying the return on investment of public health interventions: A systematic review*’) will be presented by Dr Ffion Lloyd-Williams from the University of Liverpool and is a systematic review which aims to determine the return on investment and opportunity cost of a range of public health interventions and inform discussion on the likely impact of cuts to public health budgets.

Finally, I’m looking forward to learning more about latent class modelling from Dr Melendez-Torres from the University of Warwick. In their abstract (P121) entitled ‘*Latent classes of last-year drug use in a large cross-sectional community-based sample of United Kingdom who have sex with men*’. Dr Melendez-Torres and colleagues have used this technique to investigate recent drug use in men who have sex with men, and to explore associations between HIV testing history and number/type of non-steady sexual partners.
Laia’s Picks

It’s a hard task to limit my picks to only 5 abstracts, but based on my research interests, these are the oral presentations I am most looking forward to. My first pick is on Wednesday in the Lifecourse session. Alison Teyhan will be presenting data from the ALSPAC cohort study examining whether exposure to alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis is associated with educational attainment in adolescence [Session: Lifecourse 1, Venue: PX001, 17:05-17:25, OP03].

Early on Thursday morning Thomas Littlejohns will be presenting on ‘The representativeness of the UK Biobank cohort on a range of sociodemographic, physical, lifestyle and health-related characteristics.’ I am interested in finding out whether these data are a good resource to examine ethnic inequalities in health [Session: Lifecourse 2, Venue: PL006, 08:30-08:50, OP41].

Later that morning I’ll be attending Lesley Fairley’s presentation investigating whether the association between ethnicity and cancer incidence varies according to how ethnicity is assigned (using names analysis, or self-reported). I am not very convinced about name analysis, so I am looking forward to her results [Session: Cancer/Chronic Disease, Venue: PL001, 09:20-09:40, OP31].

My last pick for Thursday is Dr Alghamdi’s presentation ‘Latent class analysis reveals six distinct sleep patterns that are associated with a range of sociodemographic characteristics in the UK population’ [Session: Chronic Disease 2, Venue: PX001, 11:50-12:10, OP51].

My final pick is on Friday morning by Jane West, who will be presenting on whether exposures during pregnancy are associated with adiposity at age 4/5 in Pakistani and White British children participating in the Born in Bradford cohort study [Session: Maternal Health 2, Venue: PL005, 09:20-09:40, OP87].

I am also excited about Catherine Law’s Cochrane Lecture on researching children’s futures, and Pia Wohland’s poster on ‘Mortality, ethnicity, and nativity in England and Wales – Do we see a healthy migrant effect?’

Marie’s Picks

As an early career researcher, this is only my second attendance at the SSM Annual Meeting, so I am a relatively new recruit considering its 60 year history. Judging by the sneak preview of oral and poster presentation abstracts, the 2016 meeting will be equally as stimulating as last year’s.

I always find it difficult to choose between parallel sessions, and my first two picks have made this task more difficult with an inevitable clash. The first is OP75 ‘Sugar Sweetened Beverages Coverage in the British Media – An Analysis of Public Health Advocacy versus Pro-Industry Messaging’ presented by Dr Ffion Lloyd-Williams, reporting the findings of a systematic contextual analysis of news articles to understand the portrayal of sugar-sweetened beverages in the press. There are a number of other presentations from this University of Liverpool research group around obesity and cardiovascular disease reduction through food policy initiatives, which are particularly timely given the recent release of the Government’s childhood obesity strategy, so I am sure there will plenty of lively discussion at these sessions. (continued in next page)
The second presentation I have selected because of its relevance to my own PhD research: presentation OP87 ‘Maternal determinants of differences in size and adiposity between Pakistani origin and White British origin children age 4/5 participating in the Born in Bradford cohort study’. South Asians have a greater risk of adiposity and insulin resistance in adulthood. Dr Jane West and colleagues report findings on early life factors that may contribute towards increased risk of adiposity in childhood, exploring whether children of Pakistani mothers are more prone to the effects of developmental overnutrition during pregnancy e.g. gestational weight gain, compared to children of White British mothers.

I will have to make my final choice about which one to attend closer to the time!

From a methodological perspective, I am looking forward to learning more about multi-level modelling from Adedokun et al. from the University of Warwick in presentation OP33 ‘Contextual factors associated with health care service utilisation for children in Nigeria: a multilevel analysis’. Their multi-level modelling approach has enabled the researchers to examine the relative influence of a complex web of factors at the individual, community and district level upon use of health care services when sick.

My final two selections are poster presentations. There are so many posters of interest, it will keep me well occupied in between lectures, debates, workshops and plenaries. But two posters in particular stood out for me. First is P109 ‘Cumulative exposure to racial discrimination across time and domains: exploring racism’s long term impact on the mental health of ethnic minority people in the UK’. In this study, Dr Laia Becares and colleagues at the Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity at Manchester University found a cumulative impact of exposure to racial discrimination upon long-term mental health in people from minority ethnic groups in the UK Household Longitudinal Study.

Secondly, I will be paying a visit to P52 ‘How poor are foodbank recipients’ diets? – A cross-sectional study of nutrient intake’ by Barker et al. from the University of Sheffield. This presentation reports on the extent of food insecurity and nutritional inadequacy observed in the diets of a sample of food bank recipients in the North of England.

I really wish I could have given more abstracts a mention. The breadth of topics and methods is huge: from ethnography to structural equation modelling, from maternal health to healthy ageing, from an ecological survey of a Manchester waterway to an evaluation of a Cambridgeshire Busway, from wildlife interventions to Bingo Club interventions, from Glasgow to India to Australia and beyond. All of which should make for a very busy and thought-provoking few days!
ECR’s Corner

ECR activities at this year’s SSM conference

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s SSM conference! The free ECR workshop takes place on Tuesday 13th September, directly before the main conference. The programme is now finalised, and can be viewed here. Following the workshop, ECRs are invited to come to dinner at Cosmo Restaurant in York city centre (please email steph.bryant@hg3.co.uk if you have not already signed up). You can also join us on Wednesday 14th at 1:15 pm for our annual ECR speed meeting (no need to register - just come along!). After the conference reception on Wednesday 14th, we will also be organising a dinner for ECRs - more information on this will be sent via email.

Check out the Network Platform!
Members of SSM can now access the brand new Network Platform! If you have not already heard of the Network Platform - it is an online network put together to connect SSM members working in similar research areas or with shared professional interests. The network can be particularly useful for ECRs wanting to make contact with other ECRs or senior researchers working in their field. Via the ECR gig trail, these contacts could provide the opportunity to travel to other institutes and give a talk on a topic of shared interest. Alternatively, ECRs may wish to use the gig trail to host a fellow ECR member at their institute. The platform can be accessed through the members area of the SSM website. You can find out more by using the following links: Network Platform FAQs, Step-by-Step User Guide, and the Network Platform Code of Conduct.

Have you heard about the SSM mentoring scheme?
At your request, the SSM main committee piloted a mentoring scheme in September 2014. Twenty-one ECR volunteers were matched to senior members of the Society for six months. All volunteer mentors attended a training workshop and were then matched to ECR mentees based on the mentors’ experience, the mentees’ requirements and their geographic locations. Mentors and mentees then met up once each month. Check out what the mentees thought about the pilot scheme in our infographic on page 10!

A new SSM mentoring coordinator, Professor Hazel Inskip has been appointed, and the SSM will soon be rolling out the next wave of the mentor scheme, including mentor training. This time, ECRs will be matched to Middle Career Researchers (MCRs) and MCRs will be matched to Senior Researchers. Two members of the ECR Subcommittee (Linda Ng Fat and Sarah Gibney) will be the ECR links to the mentoring scheme. Watch this space for more information!
SSM offers a free year’s membership to any ECR joining the Society. (Please note, the free year will be granted in the second year of membership, and will require validation of ECR status by the Subcommittee Chair.)

All enquiries regarding free membership should be addressed to SSM Honorary Treasurer Dr Anna Pearce at anna.pearce@ucl.ac.uk

**Benefits of membership include:**

- **Reduced registration costs** for the Annual SSM conference, one-day meetings and workshops
- **Monthly email** of SSM news, job opportunities, relevant conferences and training courses
- **Quarterly newsletter** consisting of articles on topical issues and events relating to social medicine
- **Membership of the European Public Health Association** reduced registration costs for the Annual EUPHA Conference and free access to the European Journal of Public Health
- **Become part of a professional organisation** and interact with a wide range of people with similar research and policy interests

**Specific ECR benefits include:**

- **Support for ECRs** through networking, mentoring, and academic opportunities
- **Opportunities for research dissemination** and networking through the ECR Gig Trail scheme
- **Specific ECR news and announcements** in a monthly ECR email and quarterly SSM newsletter
- **Notification of relevant vacancies** via the ECR jobs list email
- **ECR specific events** including the annual ECR pre-conference meeting and other one-day events throughout the year
- **ECR networking opportunities and social events** at the Annual Scientific Meeting
Job opportunities for ECRs

Senior Research Associate in infectious disease modelling, Lancaster University
https://hr-jobs.lancs.ac.uk/Vacancy.aspx?ref=A1620
Closing Date: 6th Sept

Applied Health Researcher, Candlelight Trust Leeds
http://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/AOG903/applied-health-researcher/
Closing Date: 8th Sept

Research Fellow in Sociology and Social policy, University of Nottingham
Closing Date: 9th Sept

Workshops & short courses

Five day R course, London & Newcastle- throughout the year
http://www.jumpingrivers.com/#dates

Challenges in analysing data on causes of mortality, Joint meeting between the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) Medical and Statistics & the Law Sections, University of Manchester, 19th October
bit.ly/2aq8duz

Keep up to date with ECR subcommittee news and activities via the SSM website www.socsocmed.org.uk/ECR as well as our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SocSocMed.

To contact the ECR subcommittee, or to register for ECR updates, please email us at ecr.ssm@gmail.com

If you have a job vacancy in social medicine to advertise or you are an ECR who would like to receive notifications about vacant positions please email ecr.ssm.jobs@gmail.com
ECR's Corner continued

Society for Social Medicine

Evaluation of the SSM 2015 Pilot Mentoring Scheme

Top 3 Reasons for seeking a Mentor

1. Advice on my career options/decisions

2. Someone who could serve as a positive role model

3. Someone who could explain academic or work procedures honestly

100% Certain/likely to recommend the scheme to other ECRs

Agreed it had a very positive (40%) and fairly positive (60%) impact on ECRs

‘I really value the mentoring scheme, particularly as I’m from a working class / non-academic family and need to speak to senior professionals to fully understand what a career in academia involves.’

*20 out of 21 mentees involved in the pilot scheme responded to the evaluation survey

Get in touch:

ecr.ssm@gmail.com @ECR_SSM SSM ECR Subcommittee
The formal launch of the SSM Mid Career Researchers Section will be at the SSM Annual Scientific Meeting in York in September 2016. We’ll be kicking off with some (hopefully) lively discussion about what the Society could be doing for MCRs. This discussion will take place at a lunchtime session on Wednesday 14th September and will be a great opportunity to meet other MCRs and to hear from each other about the challenges that are distinct to this career stage. Importantly, we are also keen to hear suggestions about what the Society could be doing for MCRs. You may already have registered for the conference (and the event) in which case it would be really helpful if, in the lead up to the conference, you could consider a couple of questions that we plan to discuss at the session:

1. What is the most important issue for you as a Mid-Career Researcher?
2. What would you like SSM to do for MCRs? Some examples of support from SSM for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) include funding for a one-day pre-conference meeting; reduced membership fees for ECRs; prizes for the best ECR posters and presentations at the ASM and a mentoring scheme. Would these be helpful to you as an MCR? Are there other types of support that you think might be helpful?

If you are coming to York and haven’t yet registered for the event, don’t worry there is still time! We are very much looking forward to meeting you in York and hope that you can help us shape what we can be doing as MCRs for MCRs.

If you won’t be at the Annual Scientific Meeting this year, we’d still love to hear your thoughts via email (secretary.ssm@gmail.com) or Twitter. The conference hashtag will be #ssmconf and we’ll be live tweeting from this event and throughout the conference.

Jo Thompson Coon
In this quarter SSM has held two twitter chats. The first #ssmtalk was on 'Balancing parenthood & work' Hosted by Rebecca Whear @EvidSynthTeam.

If you missed it, you can read the full chat here

The second twitter chat was hosted by Mark Kelson @MarkJKelson and the topic was ‘Brexit: impact on population health research’ (full chat here)

SSM wants to chat. Twitter chat that is.

Have you missed any of the recent Twitter chats? Catch up with all the past action in the #SSMtalk archive

http://socsocmed.org.uk/ssmtalk/

If you would like to host a future chat or suggest a topic then email us at socsocmed@gmail.com
Hello all!

Since Martin White and Simon Capewell launched their brave efforts to lead the Society into the 21st century, the committee has grown substantially, and we are now fortunate to have a large number of eager volunteers from across the UK, Ireland, and beyond. Alongside our ECR, MCR, and communication subcommittees, this means an unprecedented number of our members are now directly contributing towards the Society’s function and activities. One consequence is an increased need for leadership beyond the traditional positions of Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and President. For this reason, you may remember we recently updated our constitution to create the five-year role of communications officer, until then a rather glaring omission in the digital world.

Given our ambitions to maintain and increase our focus on outward-relations, we would next like to afford the same status to our committee representatives from the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and International Epidemiological Association (IEA) / European Epidemiological Federation (EEF). This will again require a constitutional change and therefore a vote of the membership, further details of which I’ll be providing at the Annual General Meeting in York. I am optimistic that you’ll all agree these roles (and the links they represent) are all the more vital for an outward-looking society given the UK’s pending departure from the European Union.

Elsewhere, with a number of ordinary committee members coming to the end of their terms, we will also shortly be seeking new volunteers to serve on some of our committees and subcommittees. This includes the need for a new president for 2018-2019 (serving as president-elect in 2017 and past-president in 2020). If you would like to discuss the role, or know anyone who you think would make for an excellent president of our Society, please don’t hesitate to drop me an email on Secretary.SSM@gmail.com!

I look forward to seeing many of you in York for the Society’s 60th birthday celebrations!

Peter Tennant
Email: secretary.ssm@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Committee Role</th>
<th>Overview of Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laia Bécares</td>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Ensuring the production of at least 3 high quality electronic newsletters per year, including soliciting articles from the committee and membership, member of communications sub-committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Capewell</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Committee member, assisting/supporting president, ECR/mentor  Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarani Chandola</td>
<td>Chair of ASM LOC 2017</td>
<td>Co-ordinating all aspects of the ASM locally, liaison with the Committee's ASM Co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aileen Clarke</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Overall oversight of society, chairing committee and AGM, strategic leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lia Demou</td>
<td>Chair-Elect of ECR Sub-committee</td>
<td>Representing the ECR sub-committee at Committee, chairing the ECR sub-committee, representing the views of ECRs within SSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Downing</td>
<td>Chair-Elect of MCR Sub-committee</td>
<td>Representing the MCR sub-committee at Committee, chairing the MCR sub-committee, representing the views of MCRs within SSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Dundas</td>
<td>One day workshop Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Lead for one day workshops and events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Flint</td>
<td>ASM Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Oversight of ASM and other meetings, liaison with HG3 and local organising committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Hayes</td>
<td>External Relations Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Negotiation and consultation with other organisations, liaison with President, co-ordinates input into external consultation processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazel Inskip</td>
<td>Mentoring Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Co-ordinating newly established SSM mentoring scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Kelson</td>
<td>Communications Officer</td>
<td>Chairing the communications sub-committee, strategic leadership of communications including web site, newsletter and social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alastair Leyland</td>
<td>EUPHA Liaison</td>
<td>Ensures EUPHA and SSM work effectively together and facilitates joint membership, events, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Murray</td>
<td>Social Media Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Promoting the society via social media, including Twitter and Facebook, liaison with Communications officer and honorary secretary , member of Communications sub-committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Niedzwiedz</td>
<td>Regional Liaison (Scotland)</td>
<td>Representing Scottish members, facilitating regional events etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Oliver</td>
<td>Chair of ASM LOC 2016</td>
<td>Co-ordinating all aspects of the ASM locally, liaison with the Committee's ASM Co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Pearce</td>
<td>Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>Managing the financial affairs of the society, liaison with membership secretary, HG3, banker and auditors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Perry</td>
<td>IEA/EEF Liaison</td>
<td>Ensures EEF and SSM work effectively together and facilitates joint membership, events, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheena Ramsey</td>
<td>Chair of MCR Sub-committee</td>
<td>Representing the MCR sub-committee at Committee, chairing the MCR sub-committee, representing the views of MCRs within SSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Robertson</td>
<td>New Members Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Promoting membership; social media support role</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Ronzi</td>
<td>Chair of ECR Sub-committee</td>
<td>Representing the ECR sub-committee at Committee, chairing the ECR sub-committee, representing the views of ECRs within SSM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Tennant</td>
<td>Honorary Secretary</td>
<td>Ensuring smooth running of society, communication with members, organising and minuting committee and Annual General meetings, co-ordinating work of committee members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Tilling</td>
<td>Scientific Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Co-ordination of abstract scoring for ASM (and other meetings), moderation of scores, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelina Visram</td>
<td>Membership Secretary</td>
<td>Communicating with membership, liaison with HG3, honorary treasurer and secretary</td>
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Dates for your Diary!

September

8th September — John Snow Society – Pumphandle Lecture, LSHTM
Dr Paul Spiegel will deliver this annual lecture on the topic of ‘The Syrian conflict and its effect on the future of humanitarian response: We need a new pumphandle’. Dr Spiegel is a medical epidemiologist who has responded to crises and undertaken field work and research in humanitarian emergencies in many countries around the world. He has recently been appointed Director of the Center for Refugee and Disaster Response at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The lecture will be followed by the Society’s Annual General Meeting, held in the John Snow Public House, to which all are invited. The lecture will be recorded and placed on the Society’s website. Book here.

13th-14th September 2016—Public Health England Annual Conference 2016, University of Warwick
The theme of this year’s conference is ‘Evidence into action’, and the conference will promote and showcase the application and translation of science and research, to support effective local and national action to improve public health. The conference will be of interest to representatives from across the health and social care system interested in applied prevention research, programmes and policy. Pre-conference workshops and The Big Debate take place on 12th September. Register here.

20th September — The Health and Social Care Conference 2016: Enhanced, efficient and effective care through integration and technology, Manchester
This conference aims to explore topics such as funding, policy, workforce and skills and devolution. Register here.

28th September — Process evaluation of complex interventions, Cardiff University
The aim of this one-day course is to provide participants with a working knowledge of the theory and practice of process evaluation of complex interventions. The course is led by Dr Graham Moore (Senior Lecturer and programme lead for complex intervention methods in DECIPHer). The teaching team (Dr Suzanne Audrey, Dr Rhiannon Evans and Dr Jeremy Segrott) includes authors of numerous empirical and methodological works related to process evaluation, including recent MRC guidance. Register here.

29th September — Involving children and young people in the design and conduct of research, Cardiff University
The aim of this one-day course is to provide participants with an understanding of how to involve children and young people in the design and conduct of research, with a particular focus on the development and evaluation of complex interventions. The course includes practical sessions where delegates can apply learning to develop a plan for involving children and young people in their own projects or research ideas. Register here.

October

2nd to 6th October — 2nd International Conference of Realist Evaluation and Synthesis, Barbican Conference Centre, London
Titled ‘Advancing synthesis, strengthening practice’, this event will bring together key thinkers in the field of realist synthesis, providing an accessible forum to learn about, debate and advance realist methodology. The conference reflects a growing interest in the application of realist inquiry across many disciplines including health, public policy, education, social welfare, criminal justice, and international development. Register here.
Dates for your Diary Continued

13th October—Supporting a Healthy Childhood - Policy Priorities for Obesity, Active Lifestyles and Responsibilities, London
This forum is timed to follow the publication of the Government’s newly released Childhood Obesity Strategy, and will be an opportunity for policymakers and delegates to discuss the priorities for tackling high rates of childhood obesity in the UK and the way forward for the implementation of the Strategy. Find out more here.

18th October—Whole Systems Obesity National Conference, Leeds Town Hall
This conference aims to share emerging outputs from the Whole Systems Programme as whole systems working continues to emerge globally as a more constructive approach to combatting complex, multi-dimensional challenges. The event is free to attend and will be of interest to all those involved in tackling obesity including Chairs and members of Health and Wellbeing Boards, Directors of Public Health, Researchers and Practitioners in the field. Register here.

November

9th November—The King’s Fund Annual Conference, London
Bringing together leaders from across the NHS, local authorities, housing, patients, carers, national bodies and the voluntary and community sector, this conference aims to explore the main challenges for health and social care in the UK: sustaining existing services and standards of care; developing new and better models of care; and tackling these challenges by reforming the NHS ‘from within’. Register here.

9-12th November—European Public Health Conference, Vienna
The 9th European Public Health Conference is on the topic ‘All for Health, Health for All’. It aims to contribute to the improvement of public health in Europe by offering a means for exchanging information and a platform for debate to researchers, policy makers, and practitioners in the field of public health and health services research as well as public health training and education in Europe. Pre-conference events include workshops on mental health and architecture, environment and health, patient participation in health care research and innovation, and a Young Researchers Forum. Register here.

14th – 18th November—Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Vancouver, Canada
This conference covers six broad themes: enhancing health system resilience: absorbing shocks and sustaining gains in every setting; equity, rights, gender and ethics: responsiveness through values-based health systems; engaging power and politics in promoting health and public value; implementing improvement and innovation in health services and systems; new partnerships and collaborations for health system research and development and future reciprocal learning and evaluation approaches for health system development. Find out more on the conference website.

21-24 November—9th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Shanghai, China
Co-organised by WHO and the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) of the People's Republic of China. On the 30th anniversary of the Ottawa Charter, and the first year of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this conference will direct and guide Member States on the practical application of evidence-based health promotion concepts, approaches and mechanisms for achieving SDGs. Event details can be found here.