Editorial

Every year we bring you a special edition on the ASM—the society’s annual conference and general meeting. And every year, there is a wealth of material to incorporate. We try our best to capture the excitement and intellectual stimulus of the event in these pages but in looking at the photos and reports, a real sense of “wish you were here” emerges. Better get going in booking in our places for next year’s conference at Brighton then!

This issue covers everything from president’s address to reports from those who were awarded with free places at ASM, Early Career Researcher (ESR) experiences to members’ feedback on how it all went. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this conference and to this issue. It is very encouraging to see how many people are passionate about social medicine and the society and making it better.
From the President...

While Barack Obama and Mitt Romney slug it out across the pond, SSM already has its first president (see the Honorary Secretary’s article below). While on one level, the change of title is unimportant, renaming the Society’s Chair as President brings SSM into line with most other learned societies. Arguably, it also places a greater responsibility on the role – in addition to chairing meetings of the committee and Society, the incumbent will ‘preside’ over the Society and direct its affairs on behalf of the membership. By making this a two-year, elected position, we have created a more democratic leadership role, which should ensure the Society thrives for at least another 60 years. I am honoured to be able to serve the Society as President for a second year during 2013.

Talking of sexagennia, the Committee recently discussed the Society’s 60th Anniversary, which will fall on 1st July 2016. We intend to celebrate this Diamond Anniversary and will be exploring ideas at forthcoming Committee meetings. Do let us know if you have any thoughts on this.

In July, I arranged a teleconference with Lindsey Davies, President of the Faculty of Public Health (FPH), to discuss academic public health, the role of SSM and other learned societies, and their relationship to FPH. I was pleased that Lindsey shared my concern about the growing gulf between academia and public health policy and practice, which was widely voiced in SSM’s membership survey. She agreed to explore the ways in which FPH can better engage academia and I agreed to explore how SSM might contribute to a joint initiative on this front. I was therefore pleased to see, in the Faculty’s November e-bulletin, that Lindsey reports on a number of recent discussions she has had at a national level to seek clarity about academic public health activities, including teaching public health to medical students and future financial support for academic public health posts currently funded by Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts. As many of you will know the FPH presidential election takes place imminently; SSM will seek continuing dialogue with FPH and its new president in 2013.

Now that this year’s ASM is over, the Committee will be turning its attention to completing the proposed reforms that were heralded earlier this year. We have planned a whole day meeting in January 2013 to discuss in detail the results of the members’ survey and decide what further actions are needed. In the meantime, we have already initiated a programme of work, led by our new Communications Sub-Committee, to ‘rebrand’ SSM to achieve greater consistency in its visual identity across all media – so watch out for a new look newsletter and web site in 2013.

In our first newsletter of 2013, I hope to report on progress with these issues. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter, wish you a happy winter holiday season and very best wishes for a healthy and productive 2013.

Finally, I could not end without expressing a huge debt of gratitude to Jenny Mindell, who steps down at the end of 2012 as the Society’s Honorary Secretary. Jenny has done a fantastic job in this role. We will miss her efficiency, tenacity and attention to detail. I have no doubt that she will continue to play an active role in the Society, but hope that she will take a well-earned rest in the short-term!
Committee News

Jenny Mindell,
Honorary secretary

The Society’s 56th Annual General Meeting was held on 13th September 2012 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, during the Annual Scientific Meeting. My report and that of the Honorary Treasurer, Mark Gilthorpe, will be posted on the Society’s website shortly (www.socsmed.org.uk/reports1.htm); the Minutes of the AGM will be posted there once the Committee has ratified them at its January 2013 meeting. As of 31st August 2012 the Society had a total active membership of 1,070 members. Next year’s ASM will be held in Brighton, Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th September 2013. The following year, the meeting will be held in Oxford, 10th to 12th September 2014.

Committee changes

At the end of the year, Margaret Thorogood (Past Chair), Elizabeth Breeze (Ordinary Member), Peter Tennant (ECR representative) and Nick Mays (Chair of the ASM Organising Committee) will have completed their terms on the committee. On behalf of the Society I should like to thank them all for the valuable contribution that they have made to the Society over the last few years. Mark Kelly will also complete his term as an Ordinary member of the committee but has agreed to stay on as a co-opted member, continuing his other role of Communications Officer both on the main committee and chairing the Communications sub-committee.

I am standing down as secretary at the end of this year. Michaela Benzeval will be taking over this role from 1st January 2013. Janis Baird and Sheena Ramsey were elected, in an extremely close ballot, as Ordinary committee members for 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2015. As there were only a couple of votes in the decision, the Committee decided to co-opt the other two candidates until 31st December 2013, in the first instance. Ben Cairns, who is chairing the ASM Organising committee for the 2014 ASM, will join the main committee as an additional ECR rep; Rebecca Johnson will join the communications sub-committee, will assist with the newsletter, and will also attend the main committee meetings.

The committee decided to review the way individuals are suggested for honorary membership, which is offered by the Society to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Society and/or to social medicine. No individuals have been invited this year, pending the introduction of a more systematic way to identify suitable individuals.

All members for whom we have a valid email address were invited to vote on three proposed changes to the Society’s constitution. The results were as follows:

1) To extend the term of office of the current Chair, and all future Chairs, of the Society for Social Medicine from one year to two years
   Yes: n=381 (91%)  No: n=9 (2%)  Abstained: n=8

2) To rename the ’Chair’ of the Society of Social Medicine the ’President’ of the Society of Social Medicine
   Yes: n=337 (90%)  No: n=38 (10%)  Abstained: n=23

3) To award honorary members with all the same rights as ordinary members
   Yes: n=343 (91%)  No: n=33 (9%)  Abstained: n=22

Therefore, Martin White, the current Chair, will serve a second year (as President), remaining on the Committee in 2014 as Past President and Simon Capewell will serve a two year term of office as President in 2014/2015. The next election for President of the Society will therefore be called in 2014, the successful candidate becoming President elect for 2015.

The Committee for 2013 will be:

- Martin White (President)
- Simon Capewell (President Elect)
- Mark Gilthorpe (Honorary Treasurer and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
- Michaela Benzeval (Honorary Secretary and JECH Editorial Board Rep)
- Janis Baird
- Noriko Cable
- Jo Coster (Early career researcher representative – Chair of ECR sub-committee)
- Dermott O’Reilly
- Sheena Ramsey
- Bernd Rechel
- Karen Rees
- Mark Kelly (Co-opted: Communications)
- Rebecca Johnson (Co-opted: Newsletter)
- Anjum Memon (Co-opted: 2013 ASM Chair)
- Ben Cairns (Co-opted: 2014 ASM Chair)
- David Batty (Co-opted: IEA European Federation representative)
- Alastair Leyland (Co-opted: EUPHA representative)

The deputy chair of the ECR committee for 2013, who will be one of the two ECRs currently being elected, will also sit on the main SSM committee. During 2012, the SSM committee has been working on a handbook to serve as an institutional memory for committee members. When it is finished, it will be put on the Society’s website as a useful resource; it will also be updated regularly. This is my last SSM Newsletter article as the Society’s Honorary Secretary. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all those within and outside the SSM for their help and support and to offer my good wishes to Michaela. I have enjoyed serving the Society in this capacity; I recommend becoming involved with the Society and standing for the committee. I look forward to seeing the Society evolve over the next decade with your help.
ASM WAS A BIG HIT SAY MEMBERS

Elizabeth Breeze

As usual we asked attenders to complete an evaluation form – 138 did so, most via the SSM website. At some point over the 3 days of the conference and prior day of workshops 314 people attended. Of course we would like everyone to respond because it is your chance to tell us what we are doing right and how we can do better.

Thumbs up were given for the quality and relevance of the talks, 85% saying there were enough presentations of relevance for them and 96% agreeing that the standard was good (see Figure below). Nearly all responders also said that there was enough time to look at the posters. The plenary sessions were rated well with a clear majority rating them 4 or 5 out of 5 and the Pemberton lecture by Peter Whincup receiving this acclamation from 9 out 10 responders. The policy of keeping venues accessible by walking or public transport and aiming to minimise energy use received almost universal support, some giving us ideas to go a step or two further.

Not everything was rosy – there were sufficient numbers with some negative points for us to take stock and see how we can improve next year. Most of these concern organisational details or peculiarities of the rooms used – the venues obviously change each year but we have to consider how we can minimise the acoustic and sightline problems that many of our teaching spaces have. Alas we cannot rebuild the classrooms and lecture theatres!

Forty people offered ideas for innovations for future ASMs but the text responses to this question and others have not yet been analysed as the survey only closed around the time of the newsletter deadline. A report will be written for the main committee and organisers of forthcoming ASMs to consider.

Interestingly 44% of our responders were non-members so we hope to recruit some of these attenders. This was the largest group, the next largest being those who have been members for less than 4 years (32%), the remainder comprising members for 4-9 years (9%) and those who have been with us longer (15%). While there were a sizeable number who had been doing research less than 4 years (19%) the biggest group were those who had been in the business for 10 or more (46%). Unsurprisingly higher education dominated at 88%; 9% came from the NHS and only small percentages from government or private research or elsewhere. However, many of the responders worked in more than one discipline and, although epidemiology and public health were clearly the most common, our responders also included people working in medical statistics, medical sociology, health service research, health economics, genetics, and other disciplines.

Many thanks to all those who took the trouble to complete the survey, especially those who have given us text suggestions as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses (numbers) to questions on the parallel sessions and posters</th>
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<tr>
<td>There were enough sessions &amp; posters relevant to my work</td>
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<tr>
<td>My preferred choice of talks involved frequent moves between rooms during sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>The standard of talks was generally good</td>
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<td>There was enough time to visit posters</td>
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<td>The poster room was well laid out for viewing posters</td>
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- **Strongly agree**
- **Agree**
- **Disagree**
- **Strongly disagree**
- **NA**
“The 2012 SSM at LSHTM was a really useful experience for me. I’m a health services researcher working specifically on health knowledge translation and policy networks, and interested in evaluation of policy using a complex intervention approach.

The workshop ‘Evaluating Complex Interventions’ was really interesting and it was great to be able to discuss my current ideas with other (and more senior) academics. The sessions in general were spread between epidemiology, health services and public health. It would have been good to have seen more focus on applied research – particularly around policy analysis, knowledge translation and evidence use. I think a dedicated session on methods might be good as well, to have innovative methods or application of methods in novel ways highlighted.

I went to the Early Careers event on the Tuesday, which was really helpful and it was great to meet other ECRs. It was weighted towards the MRC and clinical spectrum of research, and for future events it might be good to have representation from the NIHR, SDO and other less clinical funding bodies & journals. Having said that, the presentations were transferable and excellent. I look forward to next year!”

“I was extremely pleased to be awarded a free place at the Society for Social Medicine Annual Conference 2012, and would firstly like to convey my gratitude to the Society for providing me with such an intellectually stimulating experience.

I attended a diverse range of interesting presentations, and I feel that a number of the ideas and theories explored in these papers will really invigorate my own PhD thesis. In particular, I found Dr Sue Ziebland’s work on the rise of ‘patients’ experiences’ helpful in reminding us of the importance of the lived experience both in clinical care and social interventions. Meanwhile, the workshop on complex public health interventions led by Mark Petticrew, James Hargreaves and Steve Cummins was useful in helping us to grapple with the complicated and often thorny task of defining and understanding nebulous constructs such as ‘complexity’ or ‘context’. Finally, I found the Early Career Researcher events, notably the session on Systematic Reviews, to be a great opportunity to develop my skills as a researcher and to network with other future academics.

I think one of the central benefits of the conference for me was to identify potential limitations or oversights in the field of social medicine, and consider where I might develop my own programme of work. I was somewhat surprised by the dearth of qualitative presentations exploring the theoretical underpinnings of the causal relationships presented in more epidemiological papers, and it has motivated me to extend my expertise in this area.”

“The free place allowed me to attend the 2012 SSM conference at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. As a beginner in public health research, this conference was truly an eye-opening experience. Attending the plenary, various parallel and poster sessions gave me an insight on the vast diversity of public health research, as well as the tremendously high quality of the project work that I can only admire. This enabled me to appreciate the multifaceted research in cardiovascular risk and health policy, and understand the contribution of different research perspectives into the greater body of knowledge. I particularly enjoyed the early career researcher workshop on systematic review and meta-analysis, which was highly relevant to my current work, and pointed me to the various learning resources which would be very useful in the near future.

I was also pleased to present my work in the parallel session, and I was grateful to have interesting discussions and received encouraging comments on the work. This gave me immense satisfaction and pride, having contributed to furthering the research in public health policy. I also gained very useful guidance from the established researchers working in the area, in particular I am very thankful to the chair of the session Professor Trevor Sheldon. As much as I enjoyed learning about other projects, I have also derived huge pleasure from meeting and networking with other researchers, and it is a great pleasure to work alongside people who are amicable and approachable.”

“As with all conferences, I was looking forward to presenting my work (as a poster presentation), catching up with people I had not seen in a while, and meeting new people as well. It was great to see many familiar faces at SSM among the ECR community, and more senior academics as well.

Adam Fletcher actually recruited me fairly last minute as a helper so I had a tour around the building on the Monday afternoon. As a result I had no problem finding my way around to the different rooms - I am not sure about the other delegates though! The Lucas and Bennett rooms in particular were tricky to find. LSHTM was a great venue with superb facilities. Lunch was good, particularly on Thursday. My only complaint would be that there wasn’t quite enough food put out for the invited lunch on the Wednesday (or perhaps extra people came?!).

All the talks I went to were of a really high standard and it was clear that people put a lot of effort in preparation. I particularly enjoyed the history talk in Wednesday’s plenary. It was really nice to see a PhD student in Friday’s plenary and I think that this way of attributing merit based on abstract quality rather than their name/prestige is great and should continue.

The dinner on Thursday was a fantastic Harry Potter-esque venue and the food was great too. I did not expect to enjoy the ceilidh (having had less than enjoyable experiences in the past) but actually it was a lot of fun. I think that there would be a lot of info out there about how the conference was.”
ECRs in London
This started the day before the main conference when, for the first time, we held an ECR pre-conference meeting. This meeting was co-funded by MRC and Wellcome (with 'in kind' support from SSM) meaning that we could offer it for free to attending ECRs. Our 30 ECR attendees comprised a mixture of SSM members, MRC postdoctoral fellows and Wellcome fellows, and many of our speakers were likewise affiliated with one or more of those institutions.

The meeting began with a series of broad talks and reflections around 'Conducting good research in social medicine' (speakers Cyrus Cooper, Mark Petticrew and Hilary Graham), followed by a more nuts-and-bolts session on getting funding and getting published (speakers Peter Dukes, Kirsten Patrick (BMJ) and current SSM chair Martin White). In the afternoon, 9 of the ECR delegates presented their work in the brief 'killer slide' format that had worked well at last year’s workshop, and the day closed with a talk from Sir John Savill, Chief Executive of the MRC. In our feedback survey, completed by 20 of those attending, 100% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the day and 100% would recommend the event to fellow ECRs! We therefore certainly plan to hold more of these in the future (although are not yet sure of the frequency). In the meantime, slides from this are now available on the conference website at: http://www.ssmconference.org.uk/presentations.html

At the conference itself, there were nearly 150 self-declared ECRs attending (making up nearly half of all delegates), of whom 20 benefitted from free places. As always, ECRs were very positive in their feedback about the conference in general and about it as a place for ECRs, with several echoing the sentiment that it “seems like a very friendly conference for ECRs to attend.” We held several further ECR events, including a speed-meeting session on the first day attended by around 25 people (See photo below). According to our ECR survey (completed by 15 of those attending), 87% were satisfied or very satisfied with it as a networking event/chance to meet other ECRs, 80% as a social event/bit of fun and 87% saying they would recommend it. For next year, we will also take on board the suggestions we received for ways to improve or expand the session (including perhaps "wine")

Almost 100 ECRs registered for this year’s lunchtime seminar which was itself run by two ECRs, Richard Dodds and Hayley Denison. Their talk on ‘How to get started with a systematic review: an introductory guide for early career researchers’ (the slides for which are available on the conference website at http://www.ssmconference.org.uk/presentations.html) also got excellent feedback in our survey (completed by 26 people who attended this event), with 88% being satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the presentation, 88% with the relevance of the material covered, and 96% saying they would recommend it. The SSM committee also agrees with the survey respondent who commented “I think having a session run by ECRs for ECRs is a great idea. Please do more!... so we’ll be looking for other volunteers next year.

Anna G and the rest of the ECR sub-committee

Message from the chair of the ECR sub-committee
From January 2013, Jo Coster will be taking over as chair of the ECR sub-committee. At the same time, the sub-committee will also gain two new members, one of whom will be acting as chair-elect. I was delighted to see so many talented and enthusiastic individuals put themselves forward for election this year, and am only sorry that we can’t let everyone join.

With two new members joining, we must also say goodbye to Anna Goodman and Anna Pearce, both of whom have been excellent servants of the SSM and who were pivotal in establishing and sustaining the ECR movement. I wish them the very best with their ‘middle careers’ and beyond! Before going, I managed to get them to ‘agree’ to do ‘meet the expert’ interviews, which I hope you will all enjoy.

Peter Tennant
ASM’s Roving Reporter: 
Meet Anna Goodman

1) Why did you decide to get involved in social medicine?
I did human sciences as an undergraduate (a mix of biological and social sciences), and finished torn between epidemiology, social anthropology and evolutionary biology, but decided that epidemiology was the one I could most easily imagine using to improve human health and wellbeing. I’ve never been very medically minded, though, so have always been interested in things at least as big as a person or bigger – hence my interest in cultural, environmental and, well, social things.

2) What area of social medicine do you think most needs to be researched in the next 20 years?
Although I did my PhD in child mental health, I decided at the end to switch to a field that brought together public health and environmental sustainability, two things I think are both really important. So I see both as priorities, both separately and at their intersection. But ‘objective importance’ wasn’t the only reason I switched, it was also because I was personally interested in both issues, which I think is also really important.

3) What was your first ever publication about, in 30 words or less?
Well to my surprise I recently found out that a letter that I submitted online to BMJ while doing a MSc appears in PubMed, but I still don’t think that really counts. My first proper publication was from my MSc summer project looking at risk factors for child mental health problems in Brazil and showing that, although a very different context, they are actually pretty similar to those in the UK. The first of many co-published with my Dad when I was still doing the child mental health thing.

4) What is the publication that you are most proud of and why?
I really like what I think of as my PhD publication, which boils the entire central question of my PhD (‘why do British Indian children have an apparent mental health advantage?”) into 5000-odd words. Plus I like that it was co-authored with Dave Leon and Vikram Patel, my two PhD supervisors, who were both important mentors for me.

5) What is the publication that you are least proud of and why?
Ha, I think I helped come up with this question as part of our interviews, and I can see why most of our interviewees so far have ducked it one way or another! I think probably for me it’s a paper I wrote validating a measure which validated a measure predicting the prevalence of child mental health disorders in schools, using routine variables collected by OFSTED. At the time the Department of Children School and Families (the once and future Department for Education’) were considering using this measure to predict mental health needs in schools, but in the end they never did, so as far as I know the validation hasn’t yet been useful for anything.

6) If you had to recommend one book for ECRs in social medicine, what would it be?
It’s quite a specific book, but I think ‘Work Stress’ by David Wainwright & Michael Calnan is brilliant in bringing together psychological-, epidemiological-, sociological- and political-type data to examine stress at work, and I’ve always thought it’s a lovely example of joined up social medicine. Though sadly no specific tips for stressed doctoral students or post-docs.

7) What is your favourite Social Medicine/Public Health related joke?
When she turned 60, my mother took up walking 5 miles a day to keep fit. She’s 75 now and we have no idea where she is.

8) If you weren’t a scientist, what would you be?
I’d run my own coffee shop and sell homemade cakes and pies, maybe with a healthy and child-friendly twist.
ASM’s Roving Reporter:  

Meet Anna Pearce

1) Why did you decide to get involved in social medicine?

I became interested in population health whilst studying geography in high school. Although my teacher advised me that I didn’t have the aptitude for the subject, I stubbornly insisted on studying geography throughout high school and sixth form, and went on to do a BSc in Geography and Population Studies. This led me on to an MSc in Demography and Health at LSHTM, which is where I discovered the joys of epidemiology. For my dissertation I decided to look at the association between social capital and child health, and I subsequently got a RA position at the UCL Institute of Child Health, where I have been ever since.

2) What three pieces of advice would you give to an ECR who is just starting out in social medicine?

Bearing in mind that I am an ECR myself, my tips would be: 1) Set aside time to read – I always have a pile of ‘wider interest’ papers to read on my commute. 2) Get involved – don’t underestimate the value of attending conferences, contributing to activities in your department, and getting involved in societies like SSM. It’s a great way to network and to find out what makes you tick. And 3) find a good mentor – someone who shares similar academic interests with, but who can also support you in planning and developing your career.

3) What was your first ever publication about, in 30 words or less?

It was a BMJ paper describing socio-economic inequalities in MMR uptake, and reasons for not immunising, in a UK cohort of children who were born not long after the time of the MMR scare.

4) What is the publication that you are most proud of and why?

I think I’d say it was a paper which arose from a local collaborative project with Great Ormond Street Hospital, Haringey PCT and other local practitioners including schools and the local council. We piloted a multiple methods approach for exploring children’s views of environmental influences on their eating habits and physical activity, using photography, maps and focus groups.

Aside from the fact that it was a really interesting project to work on, the paper received quite a lot of interest and I think it offers a nice example of how multi-disciplinary work can really add value.

5) What is the publication that you are least proud of and why?

I think as an ECR you should be proud of all of your publications. They may not be ground breaking but all have their part to play somewhere. For me a good example of this was a paper which described the potential of existing secondary datasets to monitor national, regional and sub-regional levels in childhood overweight, diet and physical activity.

It was work carried out for the Department of Health and I think had much practical value. But to my knowledge it has never been cited in the academic literature!

6) If you had to recommend one book for ECRs in social medicine, what would it be?

Geoffrey Rose’s Strategy of Preventive Medicine is a great read for anyone new to social medicine.

7) What is your favourite Social Medicine/Public Health related joke?

Despite keeping an ear out for PH jokes over the past 3 years (knowing that this question was coming!) I’ve still had to resort to Google. How about: an epidemiologist gave birth to twins. She was delighted. She rang the minister who was also delighted. "Bring them to church on Sunday and we’ll baptise them," said the minister. "No," replied the epidemiologist. "Baptize one. We’ll keep the other as a control"
John Pemberton was the key figure in founding the Society for Social Medicine (SSM) and the ‘International corresponding club’ (ICS), later to become the International Epidemiological Association (IEA). The first full meetings of the two societies were held in September 1957, SSM in Birmingham and ICS in Noordwijk.

On the fiftieth anniversary of those two meetings at a joint conference of SSM and the European region of IEA in Cork, Ireland in Sept 2007, a Pemberton lecture was established with Jørn Olsen, president of IEA, giving the inaugural lecture. Following retirement as emeritus professor from Belfast, John Pemberton returned to Sheffield, where he continued an active contribution to epidemiology and social medicine for many years. He died in early 2010 aged 97.

A collection of papers, mostly relating to foundations and early years of SSM and IEA, collected by John Pemberton himself, has been lodged at Cardiff University. A collection of social medicine / epidemiological / health care evaluation documents was initially started by University of Wales College of Medicine library round Archie Cochrane memorabilia. Following the merger of UWCM with University College Cardiff and renaming Cardiff University this collection has joined the ‘SCOLAR’ collection with full time professional archivists. Cataloguing of John Pemberton’s papers is completed and the catalogue will be searchable online by the end of the year.

Archives of both SSM and IEA are held at the Wellcome Institute of History of Medicine.

Housekeeping

Please keep your contact details up-to-date. The easiest way to do so is to visit the SSM website. Click on “Membership”, and fill in your details on the “Online update” at: http://www.socsocmed.org.uk/Updatefrm.htm

Pemberton References to Know

Special Collections and Archives (SCOLAR), Arts and Social Studies Library, Cardiff University, P.O. Box 430, Cardiff CF24 0DE, http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/sclar
**SocSocMed News**

**Dates for your diary!**

**CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS**

**Epidemiology CPD at The University of Edinburgh**

**Title:** Concepts of Epidemiology  
**Dates:** 10-14 December 2012 (5 days)  
**Fees:** £845.00 GBP  
**Website:** [http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/epidemiology](http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/epidemiology)

Now in its 8th successful year, this popular CPD course continues to attract professionals from many fields and throughout the world. Compressing much of the introductory content of the University’s MSc in Public Health into a comprehensive week-long crash course, ‘Concepts…’ acts as a vital introduction to epidemiological research and practice for anyone moving into this field.

Developed and delivered by Prof Raj Bhopal and others at the Centre for Population Health Science (University of Edinburgh), the course also includes extensive support materials and a copy of ‘Concepts of Epidemiology’ 2008 2nd Ed., R.Bhopal.

The course carries 30 CPD credits with the Royal College of Physicians and includes a certificate of attendance from The University of Edinburgh.

Bursaries are available for Scottish residents, by application. SSM members will get a *10%* reduction on the course fee.

More details: [http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/epidemiology](http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/epidemiology)

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**Call for open symposia at the Euroepi 2013 in Aarhus, DK**

At this European conference we have 6 open 1.5 hour time slots for symposia centred around a common topic of interest for epidemiologists in Europe. These symposia should be open for all participants in the congress and they will be evaluated by members of the scientific committee. Only applications that reach the quality criteria will be considered (scientific content, relevance for epidemiologist, public health importance). They can be arranged as round table discussions, oral presentations or poster session, centred around a common theme. We may also have the opportunity to broadcast one or more of these symposia on the internet.

Please send a short application (1-2 pages) no later than April 1 to Henrik Støvring (stovring@biostat.au.dk) stating:

- The title of the symposia
- The purpose and form
- The number of expected participants

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**Oxford Handbook of Epidemiology for Clinicians**

By Helen Ward, Mireille B. Toledano, Gavin Shaddick, Bethan Davies, and Paul Elliott  
Oxford Medical Handbooks  
416 pages | 180x100mm  
978-0-19-852988-0 | Flexicover | 24 May 2012

The Oxford Handbook of Epidemiology for Clinicians provides all the information required by students and junior doctors who need to understand and translate key epidemiological concepts into medical practice. Unlike standard textbooks in this area, the focus throughout is on clinical applications of epidemiological knowledge. SSM members will receive a *20%* discount.

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**New SSM members**

Kate Harvey  
Lois Hristina  
Oliver Anthony  
Shaun Ayako  
David Shirai  
Gerardo Javier Petkova  
David Lavery  
David Hiyoshi

**Welcome to the Society!**

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**Call for Editors & Submissions**

Our time as editors is coming to an end and it’s time to pass the baton onto the new generation of editors. There are great plans for the future of SSM including the newsletter and this is fantastic opportunity to part of an exciting era, hone your communication skills and contribute to the endeavours of the society. Good too for meeting new people and for your CV.

If you are interested, please contact us on e.breeze@ucl.ac.uk, n.cable@ucl.ac.uk or hefferc@yahoo.com.

Deadline for submissions for the next issue is 15 January 2012.