

The Centre of **Excellence** for
Public Health
 Northern Ireland



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The Centre of **Excellence** for
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Wednesday 18 June 2008
 Launch and Scientific Symposium

teamwork : community : vision



Launch Programme



INTRODUCTION AND OPEN

07:45 Registration & Refreshments
09:15

09:30 *Chair: Dr Christopher Gibson OBE (Chairman of the Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) Management Board)*

Professor Peter Gregson (Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast)
Professor Frank Kee (Director, Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI))
Invited Dignitaries

PARTNERS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH - GREATER THAN THE SUM

HEALTH POLICY IN A CHANGING WORLD - Changing Models, Changing Practices

Chair: Professor Lindsay Prior (School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, QUB) (Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI))

10:30 Professor Nicholas Mays (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) 'Research, Evidence and Health Policy: Beyond the 'Two Communities' and Towards a Better Policy Process'

10:55 Professor Allan Best (University of British Columbia) 'Conceptual and Organisational Factors in Bridging Research to Policy and Practice'

11:20 Q&A

11:30 Coffee (Great Hall)

NUTRITION & PUBLIC HEALTH

Chair: Dr Michael McBride (Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPSNI)

12:15 Professor Elizabeth Barrett-Connor (University of California, San Diego) 'Nutrition: Under, Over, Bad'

12:40 Professor Mandy Ryan (University of Aberdeen) 'Using Discrete Choice Experiments to Elicit Preferences in Public Health Research: An Application to Obesity'

13:05 Q&A

13:15 Lunch (Great Hall)

ECONOMICS & HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Chair: Ms Barbary Cook (Community Development and Health Network) (Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI))

14:45 Professor David Canning (Harvard School of Public Health) 'The Economics of Public Health'

15:10 Professor Martin McKee CBE (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) 'Health and Wealth'

15:35 Q&A

15:45 Coffee (Great Hall)

THE CONTINUING CHALLENGE OF CHRONIC DISEASE

Chair: Professor Alun Evans (School of Medicine and Dentistry, QUB), (Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI))

16:15 Professor Kjell Asplund (Umeå University, Sweden) 'The Rise and Fall of Cardiovascular Disease'

16:40 Dr Kari Kuulasmaa (National Public Health Institute, Helsinki) 'National Health Examination Surveys in Europe - Time for Action'

17:05 Q&A

17:15 Close: Dr Jane Wilde CBE (Chief Executive, Institute of Public Health in Ireland) (Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI))

17:30 Wine Reception

BIOGRAPHIES

Nicholas Mays has been Professor of Health Policy in the Health Services Research Unit, Department of Public Health and Policy, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London) since 2003. He is currently Head of the Health Services Research Unit. Since 2003 he has spent approximately three months each year as a policy adviser to both the New Zealand Ministry of Health and the State Sector Performance Branch of the NZ Treasury. Among his previous positions, he has headed Health Services Research at the King's Fund (1994-98) and was head of the Health and Healthcare Research Unit at Queen's University Belfast from 1991-1993.

Allan Best is Senior Scientist in the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation, and Director of the Community Partnerships for Health Research program in the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Allan was awarded the 1996 O. Harold Warwick prize by the National Cancer Institute of Canada for outstanding contributions to cancer control. For outstanding research contributions he has been an elected Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, the Canadian Psychological Association, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy for Health Behavior.

Elizabeth Barrett-Connor is a Distinguished Professor and Chief, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, School of Medicine, at the University of California, San Diego. She is founder and director of the Rancho Bernardo Heart and Chronic Disease Study, begun in 1972, with continuous support from the NIH. She has served as President of the Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association; the Epidemiology Council of the American Heart Association; the Society for Epidemiologic Research; the American Epidemiological Society; and has been a Member of the Armed Forces Epidemiology Board, a member of the Advisory Council of the National Institute on Aging and Advisory Committee of The Millennium Cohort Study. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine and has received many awards including four MERIT awards from the National Institute of Health (NIH).

Mandy Ryan joined the Health Economics Research Unit at Aberdeen in 1987, graduating with her PhD in Economics in 1995, on work concerned with the application of contingent valuation and discrete choice experiments in health economics. In 1997 she was awarded a 5-year MRC Senior Fellowship to develop and apply discrete choice experiments in health care. In 2002 she was awarded a Personal Chair in Health Economics by the University of Aberdeen and in 2006 was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Mandy has worked with academics, government and the pharmaceutical industry and has published widely in the field of health economics.

David Canning is Professor of Economics and International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Professor Canning's research focuses on the role of demographic change and health improvements in economic development and the effect of changes in longevity on economic behaviour. Before taking up his position at the Harvard School of Public Health, David held faculty positions at the London School of Economics, Cambridge University, Columbia University, and Queen's University Belfast. He has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank. In addition, he was a member of Working Group One of the World Health Organization's Commission on Macroeconomics and Health.

Martin McKee is Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where he co-directs the European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition (ECOHOST), a WHO Collaborating Centre that comprises the largest team of researchers working on health and health policy in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He is also research director of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, a unique partnership of universities, national and regional governments, and international agencies. His contributions to European health policy have been recognized by election to the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences, and the US Institute of Medicine, by the award of honorary doctorates from Hungary and The Netherlands and visiting professorships at the Universities of Zagreb and Belgrade. In 2003 he was awarded the Andrija Stampar medal for contributions to European public health and in 2005 he received a CBE. Although the author of over 400 publications and nearly 30 books, he still takes time to write a regular blog. (<http://martinmckeesblog.blogspot.com/>)

Kari Kuulasmaa is the Head of the International Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology Unit of the National Public Health Institute of Finland. The Unit, formerly called the MONICA Data Centre, was established in 1984 as the international data centre of the WHO MONICA Project. With a population of ten million men and women, MONICA was world's largest study of heart disease, stroke, risk factors, and population trends. The project was completed successfully in the early 2000s. Two projects of the Health Monitoring Programme and the Public Health Programme of the European Union, led by Kari, have assessed the feasibility of a European health examination survey and made recommendations for action to the European Commission. His Unit also oversees the MORGAM Project, which has harmonized and pooled data from large population based follow-up studies on cardiovascular events and death from 20 centres in 11 countries. MORGAM is closely involved in finding genetic determinants of CVD risk and assessing the predictive power of biomarkers on cardiovascular diseases.

Kjell Asplund retired earlier this year from the position of Director General of the Swedish Board of Health and Welfare and Chief Medical Officer of Sweden. Prior to taking up this position he was Professor of Medicine at Umeå University, Sweden. His research has covered the areas of endocrinology, diabetes, nutrition, metabolic and genetic disorders, stroke, cardiovascular epidemiology and evidence-based medicine. He has been Chairman of the Board of the Swedish Health Technology Assessment Agency, Chairman of the European and Scandinavian stroke societies and Chairman of the Steering Group of the WHO MONICA Project. He is serving (or has served) as a Member of the Board of a number of governmental agencies and other institutions in Sweden, such as The Medical Products Agency, Rescue Services Agency, Umeå University and The Swedish Society of Medicine.

“Partners for Public Health - Greater than the Sum” is a Scientific Symposium marking the launch of the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (Northern Ireland). The purpose is to allow delegates to

- Learn more about the Centre and promote its mission
- Hear internationally renowned public health scientists who will provide a compass for our future work
- Network with other members of the public health family and help build longer term productive relationships

The programme will be of interest to researchers, practitioners and policy makers from a wide range of disciplines whose work relates to public health. We will be applying for five hours of CPD activity, further information and proceedings will appear on the Centre website.

Communication is key to any effective partnership. Please take a little time to complete the evaluation sheet and return it at the end of the day or within 24 hours by email as we would like to learn your ideas about how the Centre can serve you, or how you may wish to contribute in the future.