



# Newsletter

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## The e-newsletter.

### Discussions with the Royal Society of Health

Besides the Institute of Health Promotion and Education (IHPE) there is another organisation, which takes an interest in the discipline of health promotion. This is the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (RSPH). The RSPH was formed by the merger in 2008 of the Royal Society for Health and the Royal Institute for Public Health. The RSPH has broader interests than health promotion and is also interested in a wide range of other disciplines relevant to public health such as environmental health, food hygiene, safety specialists and civil engineers. It has a royal charter and is an accrediting body. It offers an extensive range of training and confers a range of awards, certificates and diplomas including an award in health promotion. It is a much larger organisation than the IHPE having more than 6000 members and extensive assets. It publishes two journals Public Health and Perspectives in Public Health.

The IHPE has worked together with the RSPH, the Faculty of Public Health and the Voluntary register in the Shaping the Future collaboration and there is no doubt that the IHPE has had far more influence as a member of that collaboration than it could have had by itself. Several members of the IHPE are also members of the RSPH. Given the overlap between the interests of the IHPE and the RSPH there is a case for looking at how we work together in order to ensure that the voice of health promotion is most effectively presented.

The chief executive of the RSPH (Richard Parish) invited those, who were both members of the RSPH and the IHPE, to an informal meeting to think about how the two organisations could most effectively work together to advance our common interests. This meeting took place on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The meeting discussed a range of options ranging from continuing friendly separate existence (the status quo) through various forms of joint working to full merger.

It seems sensible to think about the various options. On the one hand the RSPH undeniably could offer many resources and facilities, which would be most attractive to IHPE members and at a time when health promotion is struggling to be heard, a single voice could be more effective than two separate voices. On the other hand health promotion specialists form a relatively small part of the membership of the RSPH and the voice of health promotion might be lost in the wider considerations of public health. The RSPH is a much larger and more powerful organisation than the IHPE and there is a danger that the IHPE could simply be swallowed.

Nothing has been decided or proposed at this stage and nothing will be decided or proposed until there has been a great deal more discussion. No change in the status of either organisation could take place without the agreement of their members. However members of the IHPE should be thinking about the possibilities for relations with the RSPH. Should we be seeking to move closer to the RSPH or should we firmly keep ourselves well separated from the RSPH. Please let us know your thoughts.

**John Kemm**



This year we intend to send out short monthly bulletins to all those who have signed the Council's pledge. This is our first. Let us know whether you find it helpful.

Mike Gill, Robin Stott and Michael Wilks attended the Copenhagen Conference.

You will recognise that the health message, even if it was heard, was not acted on. The way the international debate is presently framed, ignoring the science from any discipline, and beholden to national interests, makes for geopolitical posturing. The unsatisfactory outcome was inevitable.

All this was despite the fact that our health message 'What's good for the Climate is Good for Health', offers a new prism through which to analyse and resolve the problems we face. Given the persistent challenge of reaching meaningful international agreements, there has never been a greater need for governments to recognize their self-interest in preparing for a future with tightening resource constraints. Our health message provides still largely unrecognised opportunities for action that can deliver significant benefits for cities, nations and regions everywhere. But to get this view across, we will need to **redouble** our efforts. We must be more persuasive to politicians everywhere, and to the negotiators. We need to be able to demonstrate support from many more people, both health professionals and our patients. We think a key is to make our message so obviously in the self interest of nations that they cannot afford to neglect it.

To take this forward, and because health professionals have distinctive contributions to make to enabling the necessary political, technical, and behavioural changes, we intend to:

- 1) Build on the Lancet/ Wellcome research ([www.thelancet.com/series/health-and-climate-change](http://www.thelancet.com/series/health-and-climate-change)), concentrating on
  - the economic as well as health benefits of tackling Climate Change in a fair shares way, as best currently articulated by the Contraction and Convergence model
  - ways of making the information immediately relevant to front line health professionals in our day to day work, and to our patients
- 2) Get the support of ever greater numbers of health professional for our position as signatories to the Council's pledge. Support for the Council's work and for organisations who share our objectives is crucial. (We append below some relevant websites, and will add to these as we learn of more like minded groups. Let us know of others you are involved with)

We need your help. Do please:

Act as ambassadors for the new low carbon way of life, and the low carbon health service we need to develop—Don't underestimate the power of the example of living the life we wish for everywhere ( see our website [www.climateandhealth.org](http://www.climateandhealth.org) for tips).

Talk to your colleagues, and stimulate them to sign our pledge and support the Council. We have 6,000 signatories to the pledge; we MUST scale this up by orders of magnitude, and seek at least 100,000 signatories within the next year. Although this sounds challenging remember that in the UK alone there are about 140,000 doctors and 645,000 nurses on the relevant registries.

Incorporate climate change and health issues into every seminar or other development session in which you are involved ( you can tailor the slide set available on our website)

Share with us your ideas, technical, political or behavioural. Send us examples of good practice and innovative ways of making climate change central to the lives and practice of health professionals.



We will send you monthly updates—always less than 700 words- pointing to activities, successes, challenges and opportunities.

We look forward to your continuing support in the most urgent problem of this century. Robin Stott and Mike Gill Co-chairs. [climateandhealthcouncil@bmj.com](mailto:climateandhealthcouncil@bmj.com)

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#### LIKE-MINDED ORGANISATIONS

**Health and environment alliance:** [www.env-health.org](http://www.env-health.org) - very active in Europe. The Council is a co-signatory of HEAL's Prescription for a Healthy Planet.

**10:10 Campaign:** [1010uk.org](http://1010uk.org) This year, thousands of individuals and organisations are uniting behind one simple idea: that together we can take the first step to solve climate change. Over 40 NHS Trusts have signed up. Why not pledge to cut your own emissions by 10% in 2010 and then ask your employer to do the same?

**The Campaign for Greener Healthcare –** [www.greenerhealthcare.org](http://www.greenerhealthcare.org) - a charity supporting action to transform healthcare for a sustainable future. Projects include Green Nephrology (the first specialty green transformation programme), Green OT (the first health profession green transformation programme), the NHS Forest (NHS Trusts and community groups growing forests for health) and SHEBA (the sustainability & health evidence base – [www.sustainabilityforhealth.org](http://www.sustainabilityforhealth.org)). Works with partners on transforming medical education, coordinate the 10:10 Health campaign, and publishes a monthly e-newsletter, Green Rabbits.

**Healthy Planet:** [www.medsin.org/campaigns/healthyplanet](http://www.medsin.org/campaigns/healthyplanet) - the student wing of action on climate change and health. Our main activities are introducing climate change to medical education, advocating for NHS sustainability and better environmental and health policy, and supporting similar student initiatives worldwide. For more information email [healthyplanet@medsin.org](mailto:healthyplanet@medsin.org)

**Medact:** [www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org) A membership organisation which is very active in tackling the roots of conflict in health - from war to injustice and climate change. Members receive a highly-readable magazine 'Communique' three times a year and an e-bulletin every month. It has many active local groups. It aims to sign up NHS Trusts and Royal Colleges to 10:10, arrange local showings of Age of Stupid, and engage in education of all health professionals on the need for a low carbon society.

**The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU):** [www.sdu.nhs.uk](http://www.sdu.nhs.uk) The SDU is part of the NHS. Its aim is to inspire staff and stakeholders to transform the NHS into a low carbon and sustainable quality healthcare service. Its report "Saving Carbon, Improving Health" was launched in January 2009 and sets out the NHS commitment to meet major reductions in carbon emissions in line with UK and international targets.

**Doctors for the Environment Australia:** [www.dea.org.au](http://www.dea.org.au) - a branch of the [International Society of Doctors for the Environment](http://www.isde.org) (ISDE), based in Switzerland, and particularly active on climate change and health. Its secretary, David Shearman is on our International Council.

#### Letter from the Editor

**I apologise for the late production of the e-newsletter. This will be my last edition as I am resigning from the Council. I wish all of you and the members of Council every success with the future of IHPE. I am planning to retire to somewhere warm.**

**Anne Woodcock**

I enclose details of the forthcoming Public Policy Exchange symposium, entitled [Working with Families to Transform Disabled Children's Services](#), which will take place on **Tuesday 16th March 2010** at The Guoman Charing Cross Hotel, The Strand, London.

To address the stark gap between national policy and local reality for disabled children, the Government launched *Aiming High for Disabled Children* in May 2007 - A radical transformation programme for disabled children's services, supported by £430 million of funding over three years from 2008-2011.

This special Public Policy Exchange symposium offers a timely opportunity for stakeholders to:

- Assess the progress made since the introduction of the AHDC Programme
- Identify current gaps in service provision and new challenges to face
- Discuss how to work with families to shape and deliver services
- Consider how to improve access to affordable, quality childcare and shortbreaks
- Examine how to make best use of funding and increase multi-agency working

Delegates will share vital best practice, explore innovative sustainable solutions and network with colleagues across the education, health and social services landscape.

For further details, please see the attached overview or visit [our website](#). Do feel free to circulate this information to relevant colleagues within your organisation.

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I enclose details of the forthcoming International Symposium, entitled [Minding the Gap: Overcoming Gender Inequalities in the European Labour Market](#), which will take place on **Tuesday 30th March 2010** at The Renaissance Hotel, **Brussels**.

With the recent announcement that the European Commission will renew its commitment in 2010 to promoting gender equality by adopting a gender equality strategy, this special International Symposium provides a timely opportunity for practitioners and stakeholders across the EU to discuss the next steps for the *Roadmap* for equality between women and men in the workplace and European labour market.

The *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.

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I enclose details of the forthcoming International Symposium, entitled [Towards Multi-Level Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking in Europe](#), which will take place on **Tuesday 13th April 2010** at The Renaissance Hotel, **Brussels**.

Since the launch of the **EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012**, hopes are high that a renewed commitment to address the gaps in capacity building across the EU will have a positive impact. This special International Symposium provides a timely opportunity for practitioners and stakeholders across the EU to discuss the latest challenges and consider the steps needed to revitalise the triple 'C' approach of **Cooperation, Collaboration** and **Coordination** in the fight against drug trafficking through multi-level and cross-border approaches in Europe.

The *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.

For further details, please see the attached programme or visit [our website](#). Do feel free to circulate this information to relevant colleagues within your organisation.