



News

New mental health network led by SPHSU



[Professor Lisa McDaid](#) is leading one of eight new mental health networks announced by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The Transdisciplinary Research for the Improvement of Youth Mental Public Health (TRIUMPH) network will see academics working with young people, health practitioners, policymakers and voluntary organisations to find new ways to improve mental health and wellbeing, especially among vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

[Read more >](#)

SPHSU hosts Society for Social Medicine conference in Glasgow

[Ruth Dundas](#), chair of the local organising committee, welcomed 250 researchers to the 62nd Society for Social Medicine and Population Health Annual Scientific Meeting in Glasgow from 4th-7th September. The Unit had a strong presence right across the three day programme with 11 oral, four rapid fire, and two poster presentations,

and our Director, [Professor Laurence Moore](#), chaired a lively panel debate on the future of population health.

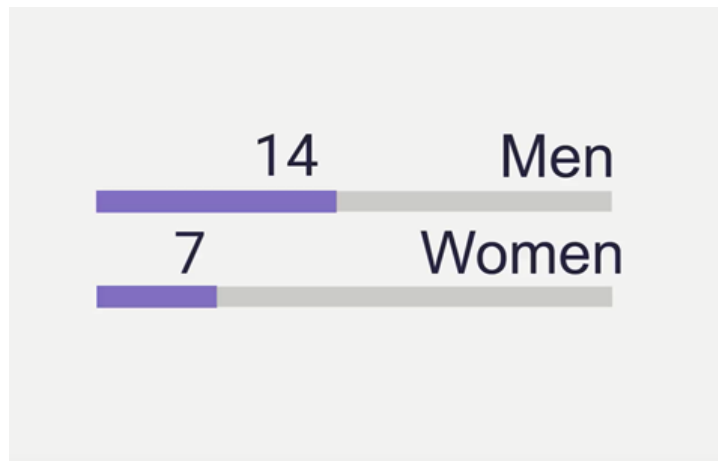
[Read the abstracts brochure >](#)

Reduction in second-hand smoke exposure

[Professor Alastair Leyland](#) and [Dr Lindsay Gray](#) were involved in research led by the University of Stirling which found Scotland has made even greater progress in protecting non-smokers from second-hand smoke than previous reports had suggested. Since 1998 the average amount of cotinine - a biomarker for exposure to tobacco smoke – measured in non-smokers' saliva has reduced by over 97%.

[Read more >](#)

Closing the 'gender gap' in sex surveys



A study led by [Dr Kirstin Mitchell](#) has found the disparity between the number of sexual partners reported by men and women can largely be explained by a tendency among men to report extreme numbers of partners, and to estimate rather than count their lifetime total. Together with gender differences in attitudes towards casual sex, this explains roughly two-thirds of the notorious 'gender gap' found in many sex surveys.

[Read more >](#)

[Watch Kirstin explaining the findings in this short video >](#)

Lone parent job-seeking requirements negatively affect mental health

Unit research suggests that requiring lone parents with school age children to seek work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits may adversely affect their mental health. Lone parents must seek work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits once their youngest child reaches a specified age. Since 2008, the lower age limit at which these 'Lone Parent Obligations' (LPO) apply has been reduced in steps.

[Read the paper >](#)

[All of our published papers are available on our website >](#)

Events

Milestone Year Seminar Series

Join colleagues past and present, for this special series of seminars marking 20 years of the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit. Seminars will take place from 1-2pm (followed by tea, coffee, cakes and fruit) at the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, 200 Renfield Street, Glasgow G2 3AX.

Thursday 20th September 2018

[Professor Graham Hart](#), University College London, *Population health fellowships in a changing research and funding environment* - [book now >](#)

Thursday 8th November 2018

[Professor Steven Cummins](#), London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, presentation title TBC - [book now >](#)

Thursday 15th November 2018

[Professor Danny Wight](#), MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, *Perpetuating global inequalities in the knowledge economy: reflections from 20 years of public health research in East Africa* - [book now >](#)

Thursday 29th November 2018

[Dr Carol Emslie](#), Glasgow Caledonian University,
*From Hogarth's Gin Lane to "New booze death map
shame of Scottish women": taking the long view on
women, men and alcohol research - [book now >](#)*

Thursday 6th December 2018

[Professor Mark Petticrew](#), London School of Hygiene &
Tropical Medicine, *Researching the commercial
determinants of health - [book now >](#)*

Thursday 13th December 2018

[Professor Anne Ellaway](#), MRC/CSO Social and Public
Health Sciences Unit, *Does where you live affect your
health? Thirty years of research at SPHSU - [book now >](#)*

Hacking for health

We are organising an exciting 48-hour "hackathon"
connecting software engineers, graphic designers and
other creatives to develop innovative software, tools and
visualisations about the complex nature of the major
challenges in public health. The event will start on Friday
5th October at 3pm and continue through to Sunday 7th
October. We welcome policymakers and other
stakeholders to join this exciting event.

[Read more](#) or [contact Dr Anne Martin for more
information >](#)

Improving health blog

PhD student [Ian MacNeill](#) has written a blog reflecting on
his experiences at the Scottish Graduate School of Social
Science (SGSSS) summer school: [PhD summer school
experience – supportive, inspiring and most of all,
fun! >](#)

[Dr Ruth Lewis](#) and [Dr Kirstin Mitchell](#) have written about
their experience of taking part in Pint of Science: [What
has science ever done for our sex lives? Exploring
social science's contribution to sex research at the
Pint of Science festival >](#)

Unit website

Our website has a refreshed design, layout and navigation. [Please take a look and let us know what you think >](#)

Read more about our six research programmes:

[Complexity in Health Improvement >](#)

[Measurement and Analysis of Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health >](#)

[Neighbourhoods and Communities >](#)

[Social Relationships and Health Improvement >](#)

[Understanding and Improving Health within Settings and Organisations >](#)

[Informing Healthy Public Policy >](#)

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