

Scottish Health Informatics Programme



November 2009

SHIP Conference at St Andrews Sept 09

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The conference ran from 17th – 19th September at The Gateway in St Andrews, a modern building of striking circular architecture housing state-of-the-art facilities.

There were 149 delegates who were welcomed by Paul Boyle Director of the Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland (LSCS) & Co-Director of the Centre for Population Change (CPC). SHIP is grateful to Paul for leading the organisation of the conference. It was a great success under his leadership.

Baroness Onora O’Neil set the tone with an excellent speech on Personal information and confidential communication. Her suggestion was that we should instead rethink information privacy

in terms of communicative action rather than content so that ‘confidentiality’ would regulate types of communicative action removing the need to define types of information as personal or not.

There were parallel sessions on Resources, Methodology and Epidemiology / Health Services Research.

It was heartening that so many people were able to come from so far away with ten people coming from Australia.

The conference dinner was held in the historic Lower College Hall and was excellent. The Lomond Ceilidh band played afterwards in the Upper College Hall. Of course the informal interactions were as important as



The Gateway, St Andrews

the formal ones in swapping ideas and forging collaborations with colleagues from around the world.



Taking questions at the conference

Workshop: analysing linked health data

The University of St Andrews hosted a very successful Wellcome Trust funded Training Workshop on “Analysing Linked Health Data (12-16th September 2009). The course was led by Prof D’Arcy Holman, holder of the Foundation Chair in Public Health, Uni-

versity of Western Australia and a leading figure in the field on linked data. The course was aimed at health researchers, clinical practitioners and health service managers who wished to get value out of working with birth, death and disease registries and routinely col-

lected administrative health data. It attracted 24 UK participants and 8 from countries including Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, and the majority have already expressed their intention to attend the Advanced Training which is planned for 6-10th April at St Andrews

SHIP International Advisory Board

On 19th September the first meeting of the SHIP International Advisory Board was convened at St Andrews University.

The IAB has an advisory rather than executive role. It will encourage the SHIP team on all aspects of the project, including the protection of public interest and it helps to influence and shape these policies.

Presentations were given by Principle Investigators of SHIP on various strands of the programme:

- **Ethics, Governance and the National Data Model**
- **Public and patient engagement**
- **Integration of GP datasets**
- **Clinical trials**
- **National Diabetes Epidemiology and Pharmacovigilance**

SHIP is grateful to have the following distinguished people on the Board:

Prof Janet Darbyshire, Director of the MRC Clinical Trials Unit

Prof Jaakko Tuomilehto, Professor of Public Health, University of Helsinki

Professor C. D'Arcy J. Holman, Chair in Public Health, University of Western Australia

Mr Ian Crichton, Chief Executive, NHS National Services Scotland

Mr David Neal, Head of Policy and Deputy Director, NRES

Bill Lowrance, Ph.D., Consultant in Health Research Ethics and Policy

Dr Philip Burstein, Vice President, Health Care Data Optimisation and Data Stewardship Operation, GSK

“this group is an opportunity for us to reach beyond our own worlds”
Philip Burstein,
speaking at the IAB.



Members of the IAB with SHIP investigators

Introducing your Programme Manager



Violet Warwick: SHIP Programme Manager

Violet was born in 1973 and attended Bell Baxter High School, Cupar. She went to the University of Edinburgh to study architecture but changed course after two years and graduated BSc in Biological Sciences with honours in Biochemistry.

Still in Edinburgh there followed a successful PhD in high resolution protein X-ray crystallography with Prof Malcolm Walkinshaw. The project was

sponsored by Amersham Health to use structure based drug design and molecular modelling in the development of novel radiopharmaceuticals.

In a sunny interlude, Violet took up a post with the Government of Gibraltar and there discovered her passion for databases.

Back in UK she then spent several happy years at University College London, learning to run clinical trials at the CR

UK & UCL Cancer Trials Centre.

In 2008 it seemed to be time to head for home and Violet moved back to Fife and became a Clinical Trials Monitor for NHS Tayside.

She is now delighted to have a new challenge as Manager of the Scottish Health Informatics Programme.

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Forthcoming events

Advanced Analysis of Linked Health Data

5-day Training Workshop to be held at the Department of Geography & Geosciences,

University of St Andrews
6-10 April 2010.

Course Coordinators:

Professor D'Arcy Holman holder of the Foundation Chair in Public Health, at the University of Western Australia and a leading figure in the field on linked data

Associate Professor David Preen is Director of the Centre for Health Services Research at the University of Western Australia School of Population Health

Associate Professor Rachael Moorin is the Director of the University of Western Australia node of the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health (ACERH)



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Look out for
the SHIP
seminar
programme
coming
soon.

Comments or suggestions...

If you have any comments on this newsletter, or ideas for the forthcoming SHIP website, please send to:

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