Issue 3

Scottish Health Informatics Programme

SHIP
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July 2010

SHIP Retreat, Stirling 20th -21st May 2010

This year saw the second SHIP Retreat at the Barceló Stirling Highland Hotel on 20th to 21st May - an opportunity for dialogue and debate, group work, presentations and a general get together.

We were well looked after by the hotel – a spectacular building on the hill by the castle. (I wonder how many of us accidently ended up in the castle car park on the way home!)

It was built in 1856 to house Stirling High School which was there until the 1960s. The retreat was a trip down memory lane for one SHIP delegate, Gillian Raab, who actually attended the old school as a youngster!

Attendance was up on last year with about 50 people present, most for both days. We were fortunate to have Prof Jaakko Tuomilehto join us from Finland. Jaakko is Professor of Public Health at the University of Helsinki

and gave a thought provoking keynote speech on the Finnish experience of record linkage in health research.

It was great to see three representatives from the CHIMES programme: Child Medical records for Safer medicines. CHIMES is lead by Prof Peter Helms of Aberdeen University.

The "research speed dating" event generated many good collaborative research ideas, something we hope to build on as SHIP progresses.
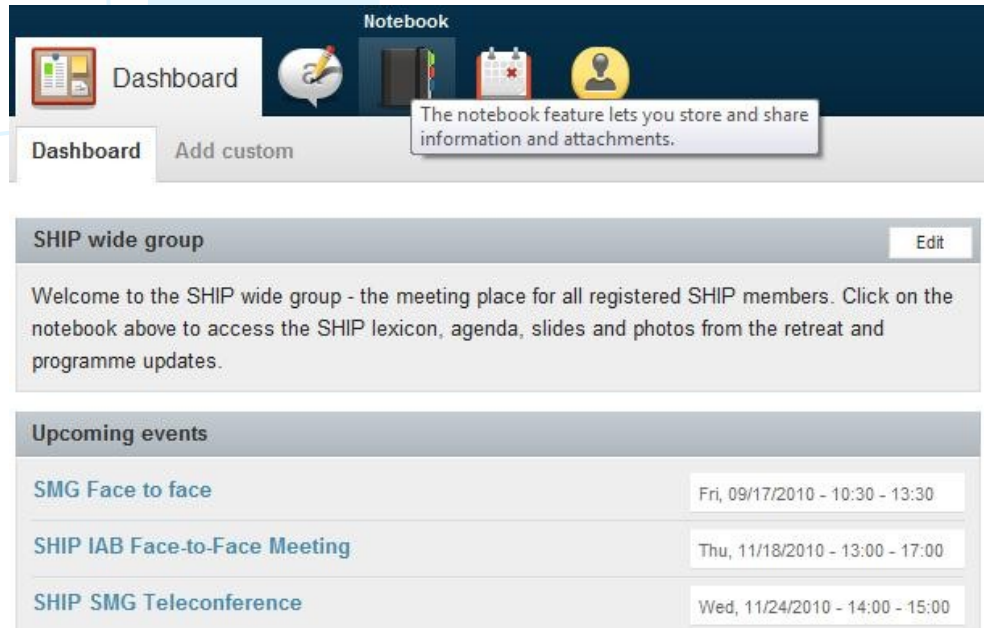
And congratulations to Nayha Sethi who won the prize for best presentation. Nayha is a Junior Research Fellow at Edinburgh Law School and rising star of SHIP's Governance programme.

Slides and photos from the retreat can be found in the new SHIP wiki which can be accessed from the new-look SHIP website, featured next.

Clockwise from top left: Hester and Trish in group work; Donald presenting; the SHIP crew assembled; Nayha with her prize for best presentation (pictured with boss, Graeme).

New SHIP website and wiki

"the new website and wiki will be a one-stop-shop for SHIP"

The SHIP retreat saw the unveiling of the new SHIP website. Although still at its usual location www.scot-ship.ac.uk it has had a make-over by the team at wide-openspace. Designed in Drupal, the new website is easily navigable by users and very easy to edit. The professional design will raise the profile of SHIP as well as providing a number of additional dynamic features to benefit pro-gramme members. For example a secure login area has been included for sharing files and collaborative working, often referred to as the "wiki". The wiki is subdivided into private spaces for each of the core and research pro-grammes so that documents can be developed and ideas explored within the group before sharing more widely. There is also a space for mem-bers of the short life working groups and one that is open to all SHIP members. You will find a calendar for each group with meetings posted. Agendas, min-utes and associated papers can also be found in the notebook function (see above picture). Everyone associated with SHIP should by now have been con-tacted with their access details. Contact the SHIP manager if you need access or have any problems. The website and wiki will be a one-stop-shop for SHIP

New member of the public engagement team

Mhairi Aitken

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Mhairi Aitken has joined the Public Engagement arm of SHIP as a research fellow at the Division of Community Health Sciences, at the Uni-versity of Edinburgh.

She has a degree in Sociology from the University of York, a masters in Environment and Development from the Uni-versity of East Anglia and a PhD from Robert Gordon University. Her research has focussed on public engage-ment with science. In particu-lar her PhD explored oppor-tunities for public engagement in planning processes for re-newable energy develop-ments. This research was informed by the Science and Technology Studies literature and examined opportunities for 'non-experts' to contrib-ute to debates around conten-tious technological projects.

Before joining SHIP Mhairi held an ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh. She has also previously worked as a research fellow at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST).

Mhairi has both an academic and practical interest in public engagement having previously delivered workshops and presentations on public en-gagement to representatives of the Scottish Government and private sector actors.

Mhairi will be doing empirical public engagement work and will be talking to SHIP col-leagues over the coming weeks about their views on public engagement.

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International Advisory Board meeting

On 1st June the International Advisory Board met with members of the management group at Surgeons' Hall. Andrew Morris provided an overview of SHIP developments and outlined the onerous approvals process that is currently required to link datasets across Scotland for research. It's clear a new approach is necessary which preserves confidentiality and public trust.

Steve Pavis gave an overview of ISD and datasets available, progress of the SHIP draft model and our next steps. We need to refine our vision of what an ideal research service would be and have a roadmap to transition towards it. Nayha Sethi spoke on Information Governance: Mapping and Navigating the Landscape. There followed an open discussion of key issues. Graeme Laurie suggested workshops with Caldicott Guardians and GPs would be helpful and these should be hosted within the next year.

There was an undertaking to engage with stakeholders and a timetable will be made for this.

Surgeons' Hall by night

> **"We need to refine our vision of what an ideal research service would be" Steve Pavis**

Update on Core Programme 1: provisioning datasets

In order to develop our proposals for creating a secure data linkage and access system for Scotland, three short life working groups have been created:

- **Governance**: chaired by Graeme Laurie. This group is working on permissions and legal issues.
- **Administration:** chaired by Roma Armstrong. This group is working on management of safe havens, statistical disclosure control and researcher approval.
- **Information Technology**: chaired by Frank Sullivan. This group is working on technical aspects of safe havens, data access and security.

They will each have met three times by the end of September. Their recommendations will then be collated in a report to SHIS-R programme board in October 2010. If approved there will be wider consultation with stakeholders including external data holders.

Comments...

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

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