

CISHE NEWS

Ethics Conference

Developing an Ethical Framework for Public Health

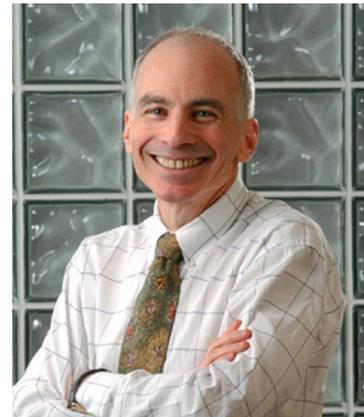
On Wednesday 2nd November 2005, CISHE will host a one-day conference on public health ethics. The conference is being jointly organised by CISHE, the Welsh Affairs Committee of the Faculty of Public Health, Wales Centre for Health and the National Public Health Service for Wales.

Improving public health is a central policy aim in the UK, but both public health interventions and public health research often raise ethical issues. These are often claimed to be created by a conflict between the public good and individual rights. The central aim of this conference is to provide

a critical evaluation of this claim in order to advance the public health research agenda.

Speakers include Prof Lawrence Gostin, Prof Mansel Aylward, Anna Coote, Prof Alan Cribb, Dr Angus Dawson, John Griffiths, Prof Søren Holm, Dr Kevin Kelleher, Prof Robyn Martin, Prof Jean McHale, Dr Mara Miele, Prof Kevin Morgan, Prof Jennie Popay and Prof Darren Shickle.

Registration is £80, which includes lunch. For more information please see our website or contact Zoë Macdonald on Tel 029 2087 9609 or CISHE@cardiff.ac.uk.



Professor Lawrence Gostin

Health Challenge Wales Seminar Series



The first *Health Challenge Wales: Evidence for Policy Seminar* took place on 13th October. The event launched an on-going seminar programme, organised by CISHE in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government. The session was opened by John Griffiths, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. Speakers included Professor David Hunter (Professor of Health Policy and Management, Durham University and Chair of the UK Public Health Association) who

spoke on 'Modernising' Public Health: Policy after 'Choosing Health'; Dr Steve Cropper (Reader in Health Planning and Management, Keele University) who explored the challenges and opportunities faced within community development approaches; Professor Ken Peattie (Professor of Marketing and Strategy and Director of the ESRC Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS), Cardiff University) who explored how social marketing principles have been utilised within Public Health and their future potential.

The series aims to make a major contribution to maximising the relevance of research

for policy and facilitating evidence-based policy for health improvement by bringing together key academics, practitioners and policy makers. Each seminar will include three renowned speakers with a discussion session focusing on the policy implications of the research presented. Those interested in attending future seminars should contact Sheila Foley (CISHE@cardiff.ac.uk) to register for more details. To facilitate discussion, participant numbers have been restricted so early registration is strongly recommended. Seminar two has a provisional date of 16th February 2006.

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New staff

CISHE News and Activities

Congratulations to TEAM CISHE members Ingrid Geesink, Lia Moustelou, Rachel Clark, Laurence Moore, Graham Moore and Sara MacBride-Stewart for completing the Cardiff 10 km run - a fundraiser for Kidney Wales Foundation. The race was completed by all the team within 55 minutes and special congratulations go to Graham and Laurence for being the first members in.



Award presentation by John Lloyd Jones, HSBC Sponsorship Dept, to Sara, Laurence, Graham and Rachel

The CISHE Team took second place in the Corporate Team Challenge. For more information on the work of the Kidney Wales Foundation see

<http://www.kruf.org.uk/>

CISHE in the UK

CISHE submitted a response to the UK Clinical Research Collaboration Public Health Research Consultation. Along with other responses, this will be considered by the Strategic Planning Group, chaired by Professor Ian Diamond, which aims to identify and implement appropriate actions to develop a co-ordinated strategic approach to improving public health research in the UK.

Dr Alex Faulkner presented at the British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference, University of York, 15th-17th September 2005. The paper, by Julie Kent, Ingrid Geesink and David FitzPatrick was entitled *Culturing cells, reproducing and regulating the self: Autologous applications of tissue engineering*.

Professor Laurence Moore, with Janine Hale of the Welsh Assembly Government, presented *Practical application of a RCT design in Government*

Research: Evaluation of the Welsh Assembly Government primary school Free Breakfast Initiative, at the GSR (Government Social Research) Conference in London, 3rd-5th October 2005.

Dr Sara MacBride-Stewart presented at the BSA Medical Sociology Conference in York, 15th-17th September 2005. The paper was entitled *Feminisation, Gender and Flexibility: Is Feminisation Devaluing The Medical Profession?*

CISHE Abroad

Dr Maria Tsouroufli co-authored the following conference papers:

- *Supporting doctors with disability in postgraduate medical training*, Association for Medical Education in Europe, Amsterdam, September 2005.
- *Foretelling the future: Women's responses to innovative pregnancy and childbirth technologies, embodying risk and uncertainty or empowerment?* 27th Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives Congress, Brisbane, July 2005.
- *Mixed messages and multiple voices - evaluating prenatal screening technologies*, Health Technology Assessment International Conference, Rome, June 2005
- *Processes of technology diffusion and implementation around prenatal screening in Europe*, Health Technology Assessment International Conference, Rome, June 2005.

Dr Sara MacBride-Stewart co-authored the following papers:

- *How to say it: women's descriptions of their chronic pelvic pain* presented at the IPPS 12th Scientific meeting in Sydney, August 2005.
- *Metaphors of Injury: Making Sense of Visceral Pelvic Pain* presented at 'Making Sense of Health, Illness and Disease' 4th Global Conference, Oxford, July 2005; at the Sociology and Anthropology Seminar Series, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, August 2005; and at the Key Centre on Women's Health in Society, University of Melbourne, Australia, August 2005.

Tissue Engineering Regulation Project

The full report of the project is now available to the public on the ESRC's public research information website. Search for e.g. 'faulkner tissue' and then 'full award details'. www.esrcsocietytoday.esrc.ac.uk

Work Experience

CISHE was fortunate to have a work experience student during the summer. Siân has written a brief account of her time here:

For my work experience I decided to take what I thought would be the easy road and work at CISHE with my mum for a full week. I attend Cardiff High Sixth Form College and the work experience wasn't compulsory but I decided to do it anyway, after all it might be fun? Being in an office was very different from dossing about in the common room, no music and people **choosing** to eat lunch at their desks, and another thing, how many cups of coffee do people drink in a day? A lot! That's one thing I learnt from my experience at CISHE.

I did various jobs, such as data inputting and taking minutes at meetings, both of which sound mildly impressive on my CV, but the activity I enjoyed the most was attending a focus group. It was something I'd never done before and I enjoyed meeting people from different social backgrounds and hearing people's different views and opinions. It was something I didn't have the opportunity to do in college and was far more interesting than sitting in front of a screen. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for having me. I enjoyed the experience and I'm pretty sure the skills I've acquired will come in handy in the future...maybe.

Siân Elliott-Williams.

New CISHE Projects

Extension - evaluation of EU funded adolescent smoking cessation pilot programme

Researchers at CISHE are continuing to evaluate the EU funded adolescent smoking cessation pilot programme, co-ordinated by the Health Promotion Division of the Welsh Assembly Government. The evaluation was initially commissioned in May 2004 and, following an extension of funding for projects, the evaluation will now continue to April 2006.

CISHE is undertaking a process evaluation focusing in-depth on how projects are being implemented, delivered and supported in case study countries. The evaluation team has undertaken further evaluation visits to case study countries and evaluation findings will be presented to a conference of participating countries in November 2005. A presentation of key findings was also made at the first UK National Smoking Cessation conference in London in June 2005.

Exploration of the use of discrete choice experiments to ascertain the characteristics of smoking-cessation services preferred by adolescents

As part of the EU funded evaluation of Adolescent Smoking Cessation Pilot Programme, Professor Laurence Moore, Heather Rothwell and Sarah Francis are undertaking an exploration of the use of discrete-choice methods with young people.

It is particularly important that smoking cessation support should be provided in a form acceptable to adolescents in Wales because prevalence of smoking among adolescents is high. In 2001/2002, 15.5% of boys, and 26.8% of girls, aged 15-16 years reported smoking weekly.

When planning services which help adolescents to give up smoking, it is

useful to know what characteristics would increase, or decrease the likelihood that a service would be well used. Discrete choice experiments are a systematic way of providing this information. They attempt to estimate the relative value potential users place on different attributes of a service. Limited resources can then be focused on providing services with features which render them more attractive to the population served.

Discrete choice experiments developed out of stated preference methods which have been used in market research since the 1970s and more recently in health care planning. So far the method has been little used with young people and has not been used in exploring preferences for smoking cessation services. The findings from both this study and the process evaluation of the pilot programme are expected to provide useful information for policy-makers and planners.

Other members of the team from CISHE include Ingrid Geesink, Jo Holliday and Stephen Burgess. They are joined by Martine Stead, Deputy Director of the Institute for Social Marketing at the University of Stirling and the Open University. For further information contact Sarah Francis (FrancisSI@cardiff.ac.uk) or see:

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/cishe/pages/projects/asc.html>

AWARD in South East Wales



The All Wales Alliance for Research & Development in health and social care (AWARD) has been established as a multi-disciplinary network of academics from Universities in Bangor, Swansea and Cardiff, working to improve health and social care provision by supporting and delivering high-quality research.

The funding for AWARD comes from the Welsh Assembly Government, through the Wales Office of Research and Development for Health and Social Care. AWARD will make a significant contribution to health and social care policy across Wales by addressing the Assembly's agenda and completing primary and secondary studies relating closely to emerging policy issues.

It will also provide support to enable health and social care researchers, policy makers, providers and practitioners to participate fully in research and development activity and further an evidence-based culture. The support will include methodological expertise and training to ensure that research projects maintain a high standard and contribute to the evidence base.

AWARD includes researchers from a full range of disciplines with a variety of methodological expertise, including both quantitative and qualitative methods, evaluation, trial design and health economics. Members have considerable experience of research in health and social care and in wider public policy settings. The framework within which AWARD will work is influenced by the Assembly Government's requirements and their current policy concerns, together with the research expertise and knowledge available within, or linked to, the team.

The All Wales Alliance brings together members from Cardiff University, the University of Wales Swansea and the University of Wales Bangor. The three Regional teams aim to work both collaboratively and separately, linking to an even wider spectrum of academics in the three Universities and elsewhere.

The South East AWARD team, led by Professor Gareth Williams and Professor Chris Butler are based at CISHE and at the Department of General Practice, Cardiff University.

The Cardiff team see their emerging role as to contribute to the national agenda, but also to work closely with colleagues in their host Departments and across South East Wales to deliver high quality health and social care research. Their strengths include multi-disciplinary and multi-agency research; issues of social exclusion and disadvantage; service user and public roles in health and care; and the delivery of health services in primary and intermediate care settings. Efforts are now being made to improve links to practitioners and policy-makers in health and social care to develop strong and lasting links between research, policy and service provision. For further details contact Michael Shepherd at ShepherdM@cardiff.ac.uk.

AWARD can be contacted through their website at www.awardresearch.org.uk. The Cardiff team can be contacted through Zoë Macdonald at CISHE – MacdonaldZ@cardiff.ac.uk

Social Capital History And Policy Implementation

Social capital and local networks are being increasingly recognised as likely mediating factors in the well established relationships that exist between deprivation and health outcomes. There are clear implications here for area based interventions in public health policy, although it has been suggested that there has been a lack of investment in developing social relationships as part of regeneration initiatives. Also noted for their apparent absence have been considerations of local histories and the effects that past experiences might have on contemporary relationships and local perspectives in targeted areas.

Funding from the Department of Health has been awarded to the Institute for Health Research at Lancaster University for a project titled *Social Capital, History and Policy Implementation*. Four case study sites

from the 1970s Home Office Community Development Project have been chosen with a view to exploring how historical sources might be used as an evidence base when planning and implementing regeneration interventions, as well as to gather insights into the impact of the CDPs in the respective areas and into community development approaches generally.

The four case study sites are Upper Afan, Southwark, Hillfields and Cumbria and CISHE is conducting the research on the Upper Afan site in South Wales. The project work in this case study is being led by Eva Elliott. Emily Harrop has been collecting written sources relating to the period and making contact with local residents and CDP workers in preparation for the oral history interviews that will be carried out over the next couple of months. For further information contact Emily Harrop at HarropE@cardiff.ac.uk

Feminisation And Medicine

As a solely literature-based project, we are interested in the recently reignited debate that medicine is potentially devalued by increasing numbers of women entering the profession. In August 2004 the president of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor Carol Black, when interviewed in *The Independent*, was reported as having made the claim that the feminisation of medicine could lead to a devaluing of the profession. In the controversy that followed, Black attempted to clarify her position in a letter to the editor of *The Lancet* 2004 in which she tried to press the point that she was trying to 'contribute to the debate about evolving attitudes to work, careers, family and personal life in our society by looking at medicine in particular'. The project asks what we are to glean from this event and the ensuing interchange that occurred mainly in the medical press between doctors and various medical representatives.

Two research publications are being developed from this research work: one for a leading medical education journal and the other for a health sociological journal. By focusing on gender we will explore how female medical professionals have become an apparent problem for modern medical professionalism. At the same time we will explore the new forms of the medical professional (such as the 'part-time' worker) that are emerging at a time of extraordinary institutional change. Principal Investigator Sara MacBride-Stewart Macbride-stewartS@cardiff.ac.uk

Performance Assessment And Wicked Issues: The Case Of Health Inequalities

Performance assessment is now an established feature of health strategies in Wales, England and Scotland.

However, there is variation in how it is engaging in a cross-cutting way with health inequalities, especially given its largely 'entity-based' approach to date. This project will explore how the different approaches to performance assessment in England, Wales and Scotland shape the 'construction' of health inequalities by local stakeholders and how these constructions vary with the position of stakeholders in the local policy systems.

Funding from the ESRC has been awarded to Professors Tim Blackman, David Hunter and Dr Linda Marks (Durham Univ), Professor Lorna McKee (Univ of Aberdeen) and Professor Gareth Williams for this project which will start in January 2006. For further information contact Gareth Williams at WilliamsGH1@cardiff.ac.uk

CISHE Spotlight

In every issue the CISHE newsletter will focus on an on-going project

The Evaluation of the Free School Breakfast Initiative

The Welsh Assembly Government is piloting an initiative to provide free, healthy breakfasts to primary school children throughout Wales as part of their strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Researchers from CISHE have been commissioned by the Welsh Assembly to evaluate this initiative and determine the benefits for concentration, academic performance, behaviour in the classroom, school attendance and dietary habits.

The Initiative

The nutritional and educational benefits of breakfast consumption have led to a number of Government funded school breakfast initiatives. The number of schools participating in such programmes has risen dramatically, so that by 1997 approximately six million children in the US were attending a school breakfast club each day (US Department of Agriculture, 1999). In the UK, the introduction of breakfast programmes has occurred more recently, with funding from the Education Action Zone initiative, the New Opportunities Fund and Sure Start Out of School Fund. The Department of Health also introduced a pilot initiative in 1999.

The Welsh Assembly Free School Breakfast Initiative aims to provide all primary school aged children in maintained primary schools in Wales with the opportunity to have a free, healthy breakfast each day, with the purpose of improving children's health and educational attainment. Given the considerable potential impact of school breakfast programmes on health and social inequalities the scheme has initially been rolled out in "Community First" areas, the areas suffering the most deprivation in Wales. The Free Breakfast Initiative will be introduced in non-Community First schools from January 2006, with CISHE commissioned to undertake an additional evaluation in these areas. More information about the set up and running of the Welsh Assembly Free School Breakfast Initiative can be found at www.learning.wales.gov.uk/breakfast

Study Design

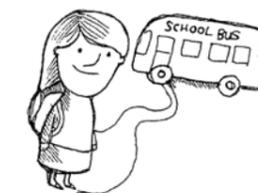
The CISHE evaluation employs a cluster RCT design but also incorporates an embedded process evaluation to address issues concerning the context and implementation of the initiative. In this way, the evaluation not only addresses the question, 'Does it work?', but also 'What works?', 'For whom?' and 'Under what circumstances?'

The evaluation is being undertaken with 58 schools in South, West and North Wales co-ordinated at CISHE, with a separate team based at the Social Inclusion Research Unit, NEWI, headed by Professor Odette Parry. Intervention schools have been asked to set up the Initiative from Easter 2005 and the control schools to continue operating as they are until the end of data collection (Spring 2006). Quantitative outcome measures are being taken at baseline, 4 months and 12 months and process data is being collected between the 4 month and 12 month follow ups.



Quantitative Outcome Measures

In the group tests administered within the classroom, children are asked to complete three questionnaires. These consist of: cognitive tests to assess different aspects of memory and attention that have been shown to be sensitive to the effects of breakfast, a questionnaire to measure children's attitudes and a brief dietary recall questionnaire. Teachers are asked to complete a questionnaire to assess children's classroom behaviour assessing five dimensions of behaviour: hyperactivity, emotional symptoms, conduct problems, peer problems and prosocial behaviour. Individual work with children consists of further cognitive testing and a more in-depth dietary recall interview. Parents also complete a questionnaire assessing children's breakfast behaviours and the morning routine.



Process Evaluation

An initial preliminary process evaluation was completed with schools which began provision of free breakfasts during September 2004 and a report is available at <http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk/breakfast-evaluation-e.htm> The main process evaluation is currently underway, focusing on the views and experiences of pupils, teachers, head teachers, caterers, LEA co-ordinators and school breakfast scheme co-ordinators, utilising in-depth interviews, questionnaires and routinely collected data. Areas of interest include scheme activities and content, uptake and reach of the scheme, perceived benefits and costs, scheme integration with other school policies and issues of sustainability. Eight participating schools have also been selected to act as case studies to explore these issues in more depth.

Despite the many government initiatives introducing school breakfast schemes, few comprehensive and conclusive evaluations of these have been conducted. Significantly, the Welsh Assembly Government took the decision to phase the introduction of this major policy initiative to allow for a period of testing, adjustment and evaluation. Although we have seen a growth in the use of such policy pilots in the UK in recent years, they remain the exception rather than the rule. The Free School Breakfast Initiative is a prime example of how a new policy initiative can be implemented to enable a rigorous evaluation.

For further information contact Dr Simon Murphy at MurphyS7@cardiff.ac.uk

CISHE Working Papers available soon

See <http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/publications/workingpapers/index.html> for full papers.

Sarah Francis, Ingrid Geesink, Laurence Moore: *Evaluation of European Adolescent Smoking Cessation Pilot Programme*

Abstract: Smoking cessation projects for adolescents, funded by the European Commission, were piloted in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Spain and Wales. The initial timeframe for the programme was January to December 2004. However, the EC agreed to extend the programme until December 2005. Two additional countries, Italy and Romania, are participating in the second year of the programme.

The programme is being co-ordinated by the Health Promotion Division, Welsh Assembly Government appointed researchers at CISHE to evaluate the pilot programme. This includes a process evaluation drawing on case studies with six pilot projects to provide an in-depth insight into project set-up and implementation. In addition, a minimum data set has been designed to collect comparable outcome

data across the pilot programme. The evaluation will continue until the end of 2005. This paper focuses on the preliminary results of the process evaluation conducted in 2004, including key lessons about what works in setting up and implementing projects with a particular focus on adapting smoking cessation activities for adults to the different and transient needs of adolescents.

Sarah Francis, Eva Elliott, Laurence Moore: *Evaluation of Equity Training and Advocacy Grant Pilot Programme*

Abstract: The Townsend review of the arrangements for allocating resources for health and health services in Wales, 'Targeting Poor Health', recommended a 'dual strategy' for tackling health inequalities in Wales by action both within and outside the NHS. The review recommended the provision of equity training grants (to increase awareness and understanding of health inequalities and inequities in access to health care) and advocacy grants (to stimulate new action

locally to address unmet needs).

The Welsh Assembly Government set up a pilot programme to assess the potential value of these grants which were aimed at health professionals and their partners outside the NHS. The pilot programme funded 25 projects in three Local Health Board areas between December 2003 and March 2004. An independent evaluation clarified the mechanisms driving the programme and assessed the potential of Equity Training and Advocacy Grants to address health inequalities.

The programme provided small pots of funding to raise awareness amongst health professionals about health inequalities and also stimulated some new local action.

This report presents the findings from the evaluation and describes the sorts of projects that were funded, the key crosscutting findings, and suggests what the main challenges might be to the future of such a programme

CISHE Collaborators



Paul Walker
PHA Cymru,
the Welsh
Public Health
Association

PHA Cymru was founded eight years ago as the Welsh national branch of what was then the Public Health Alliance. It is a membership organisation with currently about 100 members from a wide – but not wide enough yet – range of backgrounds. These include health promotion, health visiting, environmental health, housing,

community pharmacy, academic, community and of course NHS public health.

Its mission is "Through our members, activities and co-operation with others, to be a unifying and powerful voice for the public's health and well-being in Wales, focusing on the need to eliminate inequalities in health, to promote sustainable development and to combat anti-health forces."

In keeping with our holistic and ecological approach to health, PHA Cymru promotes

values and principles which inform all its work in Wales:

Human Rights, Equity and Social

Justice: Everyone, irrespective of gender, age, social class, ethnicity, (dis)ability or sexuality, should have access to resources and opportunities to support an acceptable quality of life and health and enjoy equal civil, political and social rights, including protection from avoidable threats to health.

Sustainable Development: Human economic and social development needs to ensure a viable ecological balance.

Peace, Respect and Tolerance: Violence and war present major threats to human life and physical and mental health and ecosystems. Tolerance and respect for different cultural, religious and ethnic groups and peaceful ways of resolving human differences must be cultivated universally.

Empowerment: This involves strengthening people's capacity to self-determination and to make informed choices.

Responsibility and Accountability for Health: Responsibility must be both individual and collective. It encompasses individuals, families, communities, organisations, business and government. Each of us has a role to promote public health and to be accountable for the health implications of our actions.

Co-operation: Public health can only be secured through co-operation and partnership.

To transform these values and principles into action we have identified what we call our Three Pillars of Action as follows:

Advocacy

- Raising awareness of public health issues across all sectors and levels of society.
- Highlighting how committed individuals, communities and organisations can contribute to public health objectives.
- Training and education through the national curriculum, and for the wider public health workforce, including the voluntary sector.

Campaigning

- Lobbying local, sub regional, national and UK government on major public health issues.

- Influencing public health policy through collaborative inquiry and in the media.

Congress

- Commitment to a model of public engagement.

- Collaborative inquiry to inform the policy development process at local and national levels.

- Organisation of the annual Wales Public Health Congress, which brings people at grassroots level across Wales together to address public health issues, promote research and identify issues for campaign and advocacy.

Our main activities in our eight years of existence have comprised, in the main, conferences on issues of topical public health interest; publishing a regular newsletter, Iechyd Da; commenting on national policy initiatives and consultations and responding where appropriate to public health events. A regular annual feature of our calendar is the All Wales Public Health Congress where we try to engage local community and voluntary organisations and local people with the public health agenda. This we see as central to our mission and we look forward to the day when the majority of our membership comprises representatives from such organisations rather than well paid public health and related professionals who tend to hijack most public health bodies. This

year we are holding our third Congress on the theme of *Ageing Well in Wales* in Llandudno.

Collaboration with other like-minded organisations is something that we are trying to develop realising that as a small organisation, reliant almost entirely on voluntary effort by our members, we have everything to gain by so doing. Last year we inaugurated an annual programme of joint conferences on the theme of housing and health with the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru and one of our major projects this year is to establish an All Wales Wellbeing NGO Network with the objective of empowering NGOs with a public health interest to have more influence and to be more involved in the public health agenda at local and national levels.

Collaborating with CISHE represents a new step for us into the field of academe and public health policy debate and development. We expect to learn a lot from this; and in return we hope that CISHE will gain from tapping into our knowledge and experience of what is happening on the ground and of what works in practice. An important symbiosis in our view. For further details see <http://www.ukpha.org.uk/activities/regions/phacymru/>



CISHE Farewells

Bryn Williams-Jones, Fellow in Ethics, left CISHE in August to take up a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the University of Montreal, teaching in the Bioethics Programme in the Department of Social and Preventative Medicine.

Victoria Hopkins, who worked on the Health Challenge Wales project, has now left CISHE to commence a PGCE course in Cardiff.

New Staff



Graham Moore

After graduating with a BSc in Psychology in 2001, Graham took some time out to travel before returning to the UK and studying for an MSc in Nutrition, Physical Activity and Public Health. He worked part-time on the Free Breakfast Evaluation to gain research experience whilst studying, before a full-time post became available on the project. Since joining CISHE full-time, he has completed his MSc dissertation in the field of Health Psychology and hopes to develop his interests in the psychological and social determinants of health behaviours, with a particular interest in health inequalities.

Claire Pimm

Claire graduated with a BSc Econs in Psychology and Sociology from Cardiff University in 1995. She was a Housing Allocations Officer for Newport Borough Council for six years, then a Housing Management Officer for Charter Housing Association in Newport for a year. She completed an MSc in Evidence Based Research at Cardiff University in September 2003. Her dissertation was a qualitative study which looked at risk and safety-consciousness. Claire will be working on the Free School Breakfast Evaluation Project.

Larry Raisanen

Larry joined CISHE in September as a research associate to help evaluate the impact of the Welsh Assembly Government Free School Breakfast Initiative. He graduated with a BA in Psychology and Philosophy from Marquette University, and went on to complete an MA in Applied Health Psychology, an MSc in Computer Science and, most recently, a research-based PhD investigating means for automating the design of cellular communications networks.

Larry has worked in the National Health Service, private health centres, Children's Services, as well as in academic and research departments in both the United States and Britain, where he has performed a diverse range of roles: from writing complex code to solve NP-complete problems, to writing papers on the efficacy of self-monitoring as an intervention to improve exercise levels, to running weight-loss interventions for patients.

Michael Shepherd

Michael joined CISHE in August 2005 as Senior Research Fellow, working for AWARD in South East Wales. He has worked in public health, social and policy research for many years, mostly in the health service, but also in other agencies, most recently the Sports Council for Wales. Michael has lots of experience of national and local policy development and evaluation, often working on health issues across agencies or directly with communities and service users. He has an MSc in Policy Studies, and has recently been awarded his PhD from Bristol University, School for Policy Studies. Michael's main research interests are in: citizen and service user participation in decision-making, health-related behaviour change and community-based approaches to tackling inequalities in health.

Mara Souza

Mara had been working as an Electrical Engineer until 1995, when she started to work as maintenance manager in a hospital. At the same time, she did her first post-graduate course on Work Safety Engineering. Through these experiences in the health area she decided to begin a Postgraduate degree in Clinical Engineering. In 1999, she started to work as lecturer and researcher on the CEFET-BA, a Higher Education Institution. She finished her Masters in Biomedical Engineering, researching about medical device nomenclature and still co-ordinates the project to create the Brazilian Medical Device Nomenclature. In addition, she is part of the Brazilian Medical Device Technical Committee. Mara is doing her doctorate in Public Health, working with Dr Edina Alves Costa (Brazil) and Dr Alex Faulkner (CISHE). Her thesis is a comparative study between the Brazilian and UK regulatory systems on medical devices, focusing on the medical electrical equipments. Mara is also an international visiting fellow in CHISE.

For more information about CISHE's projects and research please contact:

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Please note: back issues of this Newsletter and a full list of CISHE's publications can be found on our web site at: <http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/cishe>