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### 2019 SSPC Annual Conference

#### 'New roles for new goals—recent evidence on primary care transformation in Scotland'

We are delighted to announce our next Annual Conference is to be held on **28 May 2019** in **The Royal Society of Edinburgh**.

The conference will comprise presentations, discussions and workshops that focus on the findings of the recent National Evaluation of Primary Care Transformation in Scotland, Evaluation of Community Pharmacy in Scotland, and National GP survey on workload, job satisfaction and GP cluster functioning.

To reserve a place as a delegate at the SSPC 2019 Annual Conference, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2019-sspc-annual-conference-tickets-58711494661>

The delegate fee is £145 .

We look forward to seeing you there !



## Editorial

Over the last few months, the SSPC core team has been focused on producing the overall evaluation of the Scottish Government Primary Care Transformation and Primary Care Fund for Mental Health, which distributed over £30 million across all territorial health boards between 2016 and 2018. This has involved a great deal of work by the SSPC core team and by SSPC senior academics and their teams at the Universities of Glasgow, St. Andrews, Stirling, and the Highlands and Islands, over the last two years. The evaluation involved 39 researchers and support staff, well over 300 qualitative interviews, analysis of over 700 relevant documents, and systematic reviews of the international literature. Further details are given on page 3.

As indicated on the front cover, we have also conducted a national survey of GP work satisfaction, allowing us to compare the findings with previous surveys using the same questions in Scotland and England, and also giving us a useful 'baseline' on GPs views on the new GP contract.

As well as this, we have continued to contribute to Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Improving Together Interactive (iT*i*) hub for GP clusters (<https://ihub.scot/improvement-programmes/primary-care/gp-clusters/> ) and to the Primary Care Evidence Collaborative, established to help coordinate evaluation in primary care across multiple agencies (<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20180517002553/http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2010/10/25094316/0>).

There are also four new briefing papers on our website and more to come soon.

Primary care faces unprecedented challenges over the next ten years. We believe that a strategic review of primary care R&D priorities for Scotland, as recommended in the RCGP Scotland report 'Securing the Future', and endorsed in December 2018 by the Scottish Academic Heads of Department, is now more necessary than ever. SSPC is keen to contribute to this, pending ongoing funding which at present remains uncertain.



Professor Stewart Mercer  
SSPC Director



Professor John Gillies  
SSPC Deputy Director

### Huge congratulations to new appointees:

- ◆ Jill Morrison, University of Glasgow Clerk of Senate from August 2018, the first female in this role since it was created 290 years ago.
- ◆ Bruce Guthrie, University of Edinburgh Professor of General Practice
- ◆ Stewart Mercer, University of Edinburgh Professor of Primary Care and Multimorbidity
- ◆ Derek Stewart who is leaving RGU to take up the post of Professor and Lead of Academic Quality for the Health Cluster (Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Health Sciences and Dentistry) at Qatar University. Thanks to Derek for his contribution to SSPC. We wish him well.



## 2018 Scottish GP Survey

SSPC funded and conducted a work satisfaction survey of all GPs (not including locums) in Scotland. Data collection is now complete and we achieved a response rate of 56% (compared to 20-30% response rates for similar surveys in England). Our respondents represented all territorial Health Boards, all Health and Social Care Partnerships and 91% of all GP Practices.

The survey included questions used in previous GP surveys in the UK over the last twenty years, and will allow us to compare our findings with these previous surveys, and with a recent survey in England, which is as yet unpublished. We also 'tartanised' our survey, adding in questions on the new GP contract and GP Clusters. This will give important information on the GP workforce now, in terms of job satisfaction and future working intentions, but perhaps more importantly will form a 'baseline' for future surveys as the new ways of working expand and embed in Scotland. We are grateful to Bridie Fitzpatrick for leading this work and to GPs in Scotland for supporting it. Analyses are ongoing, and **we will present the key findings at our SSPC Annual Conference on the 28th of May this year.**

## SSPC Evaluation of Primary Care Transformation in Scotland

SSPC was commissioned by the Scottish Government to carry out an independent evaluation of new models of primary care being tested in Scotland, including (but not limited to) those funded by the Primary Care Transformation Fund and the Primary Care Fund for Mental Health from April 2016 to March 2018. The evaluation includes a national scoping exercise and follow-up, plus a series of in-depth case studies, conducted by senior academics in SSPC affiliated Universities.

**We will present our findings at the SSPC conference on 28th of May this year and will publish the reports on the SSPC website in due course.**

## Briefing Papers

Four new briefing papers for GP clusters have been published over the past few months.

- **Polypharmacy** by pharmacists Derek Stewart, Marion Bennie and Alpana Mair looks at this major issue, caused by the recognition and treatment of multimorbidity in primary care, and suggests evidence based ways in which clusters could address this safely and effectively.
- **Measuring and enhancing empathic, person centred care** by Stewart Mercer looks at how the CARE measure could be used by clusters.
- **Physical activity participation by adults** by Gozde Ozakinci and John Gillies looks at adherence to the 2011 CMO guidelines on physical activity and how social prescribing and behavioural intervention approaches could address the problem.
- **Personalised care for people with type 2 diabetes** by Kevin Fernando and John Gillies looks at evidence from SIGN guidelines 116 and 154 on HbA1c levels and diabetes, and suggests how an individualised realistic medicine approach could reduce risks.

Soon to be published additional briefing papers focus on Learning from the Deep End, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Musculoskeletal (MSK) Physiotherapy, and the Evaluation of Primary Care Transformation.

## Another Good Read

**The Exceptional Potential of General Practice: Making a Difference in Primary Care (editor Graham Watt).** This book draws on pioneering precedents, basic principles, current examples and international experience to capture the narratives, examples and ideas that underpin the exceptional potential of general practice.

## 2019 NES GP Fellowships

We are still awaiting confirmation of funding for these. For further updates, please keep an eye on <http://www.sspc.ac.uk/news/>

## Educational Opportunities

## Bridie Fitzpatrick

**MSc and CPD Short Courses in Primary Care (University of Glasgow).** Interested in studying for an online MSc in Primary Care at the University of Glasgow? All courses run as online distance learning and can be accessed from anywhere in the world! Three of the MSc optional modules are also run as stand alone courses for continued professional development. For more information, see <https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/primarycare/?card=shortcoursesforcpd>

**MSc in Family Medicine (University of Edinburgh).** This on-line learning programme is targeted at doctors with limited opportunity for post-graduate study in family medicine. The principles of family medicine and evidence-based medicine are taught focusing on application to local context as well as relevance to global health. On-line learning is complemented by 2 weeks face-to-face teaching, allowing students to meet and form peer-support learning networks which continue beyond completion of the course. For more information, contact [robin.ramsay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:robin.ramsay@ed.ac.uk)

**Bridie**, a key member SSPC since 2015, has retired. Her research career began in epidemiology when she spent 7 years helping to lead the Glasgow W.H.O. MONICA Project before conducting a series of studies over the next 7 years as a research fellow in the University of Glasgow. She consolidated her research with MSc and PhD studies recognising that her interests and forte related to methodology and project systems. Consequently, she spent the last 2 decades of her career on a series of research-related activities; delivering training; running networks; supervising students, making funding applications, and delivering and reporting the findings of challenging studies.

In the Scottish Family Health Study, she established complex systems for recruiting and collecting data from over 24,000 participants. This remains a national resource (Generation Scotland) for investigation of the genetics of diseases that aggregate in families. In both the Keppoch Study on Patient Enablement (in Scotland's most deprived population) and a subsequent study based on video recordings plus follow-up of almost 700 GP consultations in deprived and affluent areas she achieved patient response rates of approximately 70%. She went on to supervise data collection in the CARE Plus Study (a cluster RCT in very deprived populations in Glasgow), achieving follow-up rates of almost 90%. More recently, in an evaluation of the Glasgow Deep End Link Worker Programme, she achieved recruitment and follow rates up beyond expectations. At the same time, Bridie worked on the BeST<sup>2</sup> Services Trial - perhaps the most complex intervention study ever conducted – involving multiagency collaboration between the NHS, Social Work, the voluntary sector, the University and the Judiciary.

In summary, Bridie's career is distinguished by examples of solid, practical, and sustained achievement. In all areas, she worked innovatively, collaboratively and persistently, finding ways around obstacles, and applying streetwise intelligence to research activity. On behalf of everyone in SSPC and beyond, we thank Bridie for her hard work, generosity in helping others, and her outstanding contribution to primary care research in Scotland.

**True to form, Bridie wants the 'last word'.....** the aforementioned successes have only been possible through collaborative efforts with my primary care colleagues and their patients for which I am very grateful, and of which we should all be proud. Working with you has been my pleasure and privilege.

## Success Stories

Congratulation to:

- ◆ Dan Morales, Dundee Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship
- ◆ Katie Gallacher, Glasgow Stroke Association Fellowship
- ◆ Ros Adams, Aberdeen CSO Senior Clinical Fellowship
- ◆ Bhautesh Jani, Glasgow NRS Career Research Fellowship
- ◆ Virginia Santiago, St. Andrews NRS Career Research Fellowship

If there anything you would like to discuss with us, please email [info@sspc.ac.uk](mailto:info@sspc.ac.uk) or contact us on our Twitter account.

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