

You can't afford to miss this course!

The Second Course on The Impact of Genomics on Public Health

6 & 7 November 2014, Cardiff

As genetic and genomic advances impact progressively on every area of health care and scientific research, understanding their implications for the practice of public health and policy becomes paramount. Genomics is impacting the main pillars of public health. In health protection it is changing the way communicable diseases are detected, protected against, treated, surveyed and researched. In health service quality, commissioning and planning its impact is felt in all clinical specialties as diseases are redefined, reclassified and sub-classified according to genotypes. Pathways of care are being redefined and new tests and drugs that utilise the new genomic technologies are increasing. In population screening programmes, a "one size fits all" approach is increasingly becoming questionable as the population can be stratified based upon genetic risks. As for health improvement, we can no longer just concentrate on the environmental factors and ignore gene-environment interactions. We are discovering through the science of epigenetics that environmentally mediated changes in gene expression can impact rapidly on many health-related phenotypes. In fact epigenetics should influence major part of the basis of future public health policies.

Public health has to catch up with all these developments. 'The Dahlgren and Whitehead determinants of health model' of 1991 is no longer sufficient as it does not explain the complex interactions between ALL the environmental determinants and genetic factors that impact on health.

This course will help to ensure that our public health workforce is well equipped and ready to utilise this new knowledge in their everyday work and to plan for better future public health programmes.

Dr Ruth Hussey, Wales Chief Medical Officer and Professor John Ashton, President of the Faculty of Public Health are supporting this important course and will be opening the two days. Distinguished national and international

experts will cover recent advances in genetics and genomic medicine. We will have a series of talks on epigenetics led by Emeritus Professor Marcus Pembrey, a leading researcher in this field. Professor Julian Sampson will lead on the genetic advances in the last decade and horizon scans the future. Professor George Davey Smith will be talking on the contribution of genetics to epidemiology and population health. The course will cover recent advances in laboratory genetic technology; genomics in health care and main stream medicine; cancer genetics and personalised medicine; risk stratification, screening and personalised prevention; pharmacogenetics; the impact of genomics and epigenetics on health policy; genomics and bacterial pathogens; genetic risk and health behaviour; ethical, legal and social aspects of public health genomics and twin research and common complex disorders.

This course, which will give an excellent overview of all developments in this area, will be very useful for staff working in public health, in planning and commissioning, for researchers and other health care professionals who want to better understand genomic developments and those who need a good overview to keep up-to-date with this rapidly changing field.

We look forward to seeing you in Cardiff in November.

Kind regards,

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Please register your interest by contacting:

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