

# European Society for Prevention Research

**Update - June 2010**

*This update is for the members of the European Society for Prevention Research which was founded in November 2009 in Rome.*

## **First EUSPR Conference and Members' Meeting**

The first EUSPR conference / members' meeting will take place as a pre-conference session (Wed. 10 November 13:30–16:30 and Thurs. 11 November 9:00–12:00) during the [European Public Health Conference](#) in Amsterdam.

**Wednesday 10 November 13:30-16:30** - a half day conference focused on the role of innovative prevention interventions in tackling inequalities in health by:

<b>Walter Ricciardi, President of EUPHA</b> , Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy	Framework of prevention in Europe
<b>Michael Kelly</b> , National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, UK	Social Norms interventions and Combining design approaches (provisional title)
<b>Finn Rasmusson</b> , Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden	Evaluating primary care interventions for prevention of obesity in childhood
<b>Joan Benach</b> , Commission on Social Determinants of Health, John Hopkins University, WHO - TBC	Health equity through action on the social determinants of health (provisional title)
<b>Anthony Biglan</b> , Oregon Research Institute - TBC	Health inequalities and action in USA (provisional title)

## **Thursday 11 November 9:00-12:00**

The second day of the meeting will include:

- Three workshops to discuss what members expect from the EUSPR in order to advance evaluation research by building and transferring evidence of effectiveness in prevention.
- A talk by Zili Sloboda, the former president of the US SPR, to present the success story behind the US Society
- The annual administrative meeting for member's of the EUSPR. Issues such as the strategic direction of the EUSPR, member's involvement and management issues will be discussed.

**Cost:** 100€ for the two half day sessions. **Support a student-member** to attend the conference/meeting. If you would like to support a student by arranging your fee to be 150€ (and the student's 50€) please [contact us](#) before registering.

**To register:** for the EUSPR conference / members' meeting visit: [www.eupha.org](http://www.eupha.org). For more information about this event or for help registering [contact us](#).

*Join us during this historical first EUSPR meeting in Amsterdam to:*

1. Provide input and influence the future directions of the Society
2. Contribute to the EUSPR-constitution and fundamental by-laws
3. Meet colleagues and form working groups on sub-themes
4. Vote for the members of the EUSPR Executive Board
5. Learn about the experiences during the development of the [US-SPR](#)
6. Meet the representatives of our US counterpart and US National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)) to establish transatlantic contacts
7. Meet key speakers from US and Europe and exchange ideas about innovative approaches in Public Health relevant prevention

*Note that EUSPR is waiting for the approval of a request for funding and in case of acceptance, some grants for free registration will be offered.*

**Deadline for registering 15 September 2010**

## Membership

**EU-SPR Membership** is open for researchers and practitioners in all areas of prevention, in particular those that target social and behavioural determinants of health. Specialists are welcome irrespective of whether their interest lays in the promotion of mental health, in cardio-vascular disease prevention, in prevention of violence and bullying, or of domestic accidents and injuries. As always, membership is reviewed by the [Steering Committee](#) before acceptance is granted and during the first year is free of charge. Visit [www.euspr.org](http://www.euspr.org) for details.

The Steering Committee is considering the possibility of charging membership fees and/or accepting donations from members in order to sustain the coordination of EUSPR over time. Membership benefits would include:

1. Preferential access to available EUSPR grants for the participation of Master Courses organised with the support of the Society
2. Preferential access to traineeships (also for one's students) at EMCDDA and UNODC, related to the Master Programmes
3. More effective and coordinated access to and use of EU research and other funds
4. Timely information about and invitation to relevant ongoing scientific meetings in Europe via the EUSPR listserv

## Reading

**First issue of the EUSPR Corner now published** in the *European Journal of Public Health*. **EUSPR—Prevention science, an ‘outsider inside’ public health** by Fabrizio Faggiano is listed under [European Public Health News](#). [Read more](#)

**Special issue on the challenges of implementation research in early childhood education** in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* issue Volume 25, Issue 3, Pages 267-408 (3rd Quarter 2010). The challenges of implementation research in early childhood education in parallel with prevention research are clear. Discussions and research examples are provided on ten key areas of implementation. [Read more](#)

### **New publications - from our members**

Woolfall K, Sumnall HR (2010) Evaluating interventions for children of substance using parents: A review of outcome measures. *Addiction Research and Theory*. 18:326-343

Sumnall H, Bellis MA, Hughes K, Calafat A, Juan M, Mendes F (2010) A choice between fun or health? Relationships between nightlife substance use, happiness, and mental well-being. *Journal of Substance Use*. 15:89-104

Montgomery C, Field M, Atkinson AM, Cole JC, Goudie AJ, Sumnall HR (2010) Effects of alcohol preload on attentional bias towards cocaine related cues. *Psychopharmacology* 210:365-375

Jones L, Pickering L, Sumnall HR, McVeigh J, Bellis MA (2010) Optimal provision of needle and syringe programmes for injecting drug users: A systematic review. *International Journal of Drug Policy* (in press)

## Examples of evaluated practices

**Exchange on Drug Demand Reduction Action (EDDRA)** entries to European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. In the Netherlands, applying the **Good Behavior Game (GBG)** in elementary schools, resulted in reductions of tobacco use from age 10 to 13 years, but alcohol use remained equal (probably due to the very young age of the students). The preventive intervention was a classroom-based game, which encouraged students to manage their own and their team mate's behaviour. Follow-up measurements are necessary to determine longer-term effects. [Read more](#)

**Pathways to Prevention** is a report on practice based perspective of substance use prevention in the UK. [Read more](#)

## Upcoming Conferences

**Our Members' Conference:** The first EUSPR conference / members' meeting will take place as a pre-conference session (Wed. 10 November 13:30–16:30 and Thurs. 11 November 9:00-12:00) during the [European Public Health Conference](#) in Amsterdam. Cost: 100€

**Undertaking a PhD in substance misuse: a one-day national symposium** – Monday 19 July, at Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, UK. [More information](#)

**The International Society of Addiction Medicine** will host their annual meeting in Milan, Italy - 2-7 October 2010. [More information](#)

**National Drugs Conference Dublin, Ireland** – 4-5 November 2010 at [The Radisson Blu Royal Hotel Golden Lane Dublin 8](#). will include national and international speakers from across the spectrum of service provision and policy arena available within the response to the drugs issue i.e. this is not a Harm Reduction Conference or an Abstinence Based Conference; this is an all inclusive Drugs Conference. [More information](#)

**Society for the Study of Addiction Annual Symposium 2010** – 11-12 November 2010, at the Park Inn, York, UK: 'Implementing addiction research into policy and practice' and 'Addictions and commonly associated problems'. [More information](#)

## Member's News

**Marie Curie Actions** finance experienced researchers (either in possession of a doctoral degree or having at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience) by the European Commission. The [EMCDDA](#) is interested in hosting researchers wanting to establish a 'Personal Career Development Plan' under the IEF scheme comprising his/her training needs (including complementary skills) and scientific objectives in fields of drug-related research. The EMCDDA is prepared to assess the potential of any related proposal and to work together in preparing an application with the researchers whose proposals are considered to be eligible and feasible for a Marie Curie IEF application. [More information](#)

The [Mentor Foundation](#) offered five poster sessions at the Society for Prevention Research Conference in Denver, USA. The programmes presented were:

- The Mentor "Unplugged" Project in Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Romania and Russia
- The Mentor Colombia prevention/adolescent development programme "Learning to live and co-exist"
- The "Peer to Peer" programme from Uganda which is now being extended to other parts of East Africa by the Ugandan Youth Development Organisation (UYDEL)

- The work of Mentor with respect to adolescent brain development reflected in the resources available on the Mentor website and the recent “Drugs and the Developing Brain” resource
- The “Prevention Smart Parents” project which is an online 10 session basic course for parents who wish to develop their confidence and competence as agents of prevention.

The contribution was well received as was the potential for Mentor to work with the international prevention community to help in the development of awareness and dissemination of evidence based practice to help promote more effective prevention around the world. Please contact Mentor at [info@mentorfoundation.org](mailto:info@mentorfoundation.org) further details on the content of this information.

**European Drug and Alcohol Studies (EMDAS), MA** is the first European masters in drug and alcohol studies. It is designed for those who want to expand their knowledge of drugs and alcohol issues, policies and interventions within a European context. It offers a high quality Masters programme relevant to policy makers and practitioners, and to students working in the field of alcohol and drug use/addiction. Recruitment to the masters had started and the first group of students will begin September 2010. [More information](#)

### **Special Report from the US Society for Prevention Research Conference, Denver, Colorado, June 2010** by Gregor Burkhart, EMCDDA

The United States Society for Prevention Research Annual Meetings brings together around a 1000 prevention researchers, almost all from the US. The interesting aspect for those coming from Europe is that the focus and content is very much aetiological and on the effectiveness of programmes, with drug prevention the major area. There are practically no policy makers or practitioners. Topics are mostly about universal prevention and some indicated prevention but, unusually from a European perspective, environmental strategies are under-represented.

**The keynote speaker** Thomas McLellan, the US Drug Czar, provided a very well-founded presentation, which sounded almost “European”. He underlined that prevention should focus on the neuro-biological risk period for addiction: from early childhood up to the early 20s. He noted that risks have common antecedents, so single effective interventions can have multiple effects on several areas. As a solution, combined community based interventions can provide enhanced impact and should be implemented via multiple channels such as parents, environmental strategies and during longer interventions in schools. In addition brief interventions (5-10 Minutes) by health care professionals can provide lasting changes and savings (e.g. \$8 million/year in the State of Washington).

Most of the other plenary sessions were on the link between genetics and environment asking the key question of epigenetics: e.g. why have homozygote twins different disease liabilities, i.e. the nature / nurture question.

**The EU-SPR led a roundtable** focused on the possibilities for EU-US cooperation, structural differences and the prevention research resource centres set up recently in the UK and at Karolinska in Sweden.

## **Special Report Continued. . .**

The roundtable noted that prevention in Europe is much more tied into existing or ongoing societal challenges and services, whereas the programmes in the US are stand-alone interventions funded to address specific and often emerging problems. The paradigm of prevention in Europe is more closely aligned with the importance of reducing the effects of social inequality on behaviour and health, whereas social, income and health inequality was not a concept that is at all prominent in US prevention policy and practice.

Rosaria Galanti highlighted the need to establish partnerships to overcome the problem of "right truncation" in the continuum of prevention research. For example the tendency to privilege research at the stage of identifying the causes of disease or health problems and possible models to apply to their solution. Much less effort is dedicated to test, evaluate and investigate the implementation of real packages. Fabrizio Faggiano proposed a model for developing effective prevention interventions analogous to pharmacological research, and that which strongly emphasised phase II studies: to test all intervention components beforehand, one by one, and only then combine them into programmes, or use them alone. This is similar to the concept of "evidence-based kernels" proposed by Dr Dennis Embry. David Foxcroft talked about the importance of context (cultural, social, economic and structural) when considering how prevention programmes might transfer from one country, or setting, to another, and that it is essential to research which concrete aspects of "context" are responsible for effectiveness (success factors) of transcultural implementations, identify and map them, and then apply them in the planning of new implementations. He argued that this knowledge would be useful for knowing when *not* to undertake lots of expensive replication trials!

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## **The E-Newsletter**

The EU-SPR Newsletter is sent six times a year. If you have information that you would like to feature for the September 2010 issue please [contact us](#).

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*For more information contact the European Society for Prevention Research by visiting [www.euspr.org](http://www.euspr.org)*