

Medact Email Bulletin  
May 2009

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**No news on three Sri Lankan doctors**

At the time of writing there is still no news on the three Sri Lankan doctors who continued to treat the sick and injured and save lives throughout the recent conflict in the north of Sri Lanka; they also kept the world informed about mortality, morbidity and the state of health facilities when there was a complete absence of other sources. They were detained by the security forces on May 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information see [http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news\\_details.asp?NewsID=18216](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=18216) and for an example of a Medact letter please download the document at [http://www.medact.org/hc\\_war.php](http://www.medact.org/hc_war.php) Some contacts that Medact has written to who you might want to contact include:

- Mr Gotbaya Rajapaksa, Secretary of Defence, Public Security, and Law & Order Fax 00 94 11 254 1529 [gotbaya@defence.lk](mailto:gotbaya@defence.lk)
- Mr Suhada K Gamalath Secretary Office of the Ministry of Justice Fax 00 11 244 5447 [justiceminist@sltnet.lk](mailto:justiceminist@sltnet.lk)
- To whom it may concern at [police@police.lk](mailto:police@police.lk)
- H.E. Justice Nihal Jayasinghe, High Commissioner, Sri Lanka High Commission, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2LU Fax 0207 262 7970
- Hon Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Health, Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition, Colombo Fax 00 94 11 269 2913 [secretary@health.gov.lk](mailto:secretary@health.gov.lk) and recently elected head of WHA (May 18th)
- Professor Rezvi Sheriff, President, Sri Lanka Medical Association, Fax 00 94 11 2698 802 [rsheiff@emed.lk](mailto:rsheiff@emed.lk) It would be very helpful if you could let us know of any responses.

**Write to your MP on access to NHS care for refused asylum seekers**

The recent court of appeal ruling has resulted in new guidance from the Department of Health. This guidance makes some welcome concessions however we believe the principle of charging people who we know are unable to pay for treatment is unjust and inhumane.

We are asking you to write to your MP to urge them to support any amendment which would allow refused asylum seekers free access to secondary healthcare.

It is important that your letter makes clear the ethical and practical problems the current regulations place on clinicians, including the impact of refusing treatment to people unable to pay. It is important however that for maximum impact your letter should be personal and express your own thoughts and concerns. A briefing paper on this topic and a guide to writing to your MP are available on the Medact website [http://www.medact.org/article\\_refugee.php?articleID=877](http://www.medact.org/article_refugee.php?articleID=877)

**Medact Annual General Meeting**

**Global Health Watch 2: what's really driving global trends in health?**

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Place:** Garden Chambers

**More information:** [info@medact.org](mailto:info@medact.org)

### **2009 Annual Conference of the InterCollegiate Iraq Liaison Group: Supporting Iraqi Healthcare**

Iraq's Healthcare system – development, modernisation, training and capacity building – look after the people and the people will look after the country. Attendance is free but registration is required.

**Date:** 10am Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2009,

**Place:** SOAS: Khalili Lecture Theatre, School of Oriental and African Studies, Russel Square Campus, Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG

**Further information and registration:** draltayar@hotmail.com

### **Sandwells Healths Other Economic Summit (SHOES)**

Will be examining how local issues can impact on world health and how global issues affect us.

Speakers will include

Anna Coote, Sustainable Development Commissioner Health

Dr Nick Banatvala, Head of Department of Health's International Division

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July

**Place:** Public, West Bromwich

**For further information:** contact Joanne Steventon [shoes@sandwell-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:shoes@sandwell-pct.nhs.uk) or 0121 612 1632

### **'Plutonium and Health and Current Radiation Dose Assessment': a meeting**

The Nuclear Awareness Group (NAG) invites you to 'Plutonium and Health and Current Radiation Dose Assessment': a meeting with Dr John Harrison of the Health Protection Agency. The meeting will be chaired by Penny Henrion, Chair of the Berkshire West Primary Care Trust.

The event is being organised in memory of Wendy McLeod-Gilford.

**Date:** 7.15 pm, Wednesday 15th July 2009

**Place:** Kennet Room, Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 7TD.

**For further information :** [peterburt@phonecoop.coop](mailto:peterburt@phonecoop.coop)

### **Patient, Profits and Primary Care: Health Inequalities, Ethics and Privatisation**

This conference explores in depth the effects of competition and privatisation in primary care on health inequalities and professionalism. The aim of the conference is to help individual primary care professionals, the RCGP, patient organisations and other interested parties to develop professional responses to the challenges ahead.

Confirmed Speakers:

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Chair, the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Dr Iona Heath, London GP and Chair of RCGP International Committee

Dr Rhona McDonald, Lancet Senior Editor

Professor Martin Marshall, Chair of RCGP Medical Ethics Committee

**Date:** Wednesday 15th July 2009

**Venue:** 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London, SW7 1PU

**For further information:** <http://www.rcgp.org.uk/default.aspx?page=3772&eventId=2279>

### **A conference Violent Conflict and Health in a Globalized World**

This conference is being organised by Global Doctors in Denmark and will take place between the 22nd and 25th January 2010 at the Centre for Health and Society (CSS), University of Copenhagen. They have called for abstracts and posters; if you are interested please go to their website at <http://www.global-doctors.org/cms/>

### **Think About Health Conference: Integrity in Health Care: changing roles and relationships.**

*A unique opportunity for service users, professionals and academics to reflect together on integrity and changing roles and relations in health care*

17- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009

For programme and further information

<http://www.thinkabouthealth.org/2008/07/think-about-health-conference-2009.html>