

## Message from Dr David McCoy, Chair

I am delighted to welcome you to the Medact Relaunch Conference, filled with inspirational, knowledgeable and thought-provoking speakers and sessions.

Medact is now twenty-one years old.

Since forming at the end of the Cold War, Medact has witnessed an increase in intra-state conflict; severe environmental degradation and a worsening climate; a global economic recession; and the continuing threat of Nuclear War.

Medact speaks out against unjust wars and opposes both state and non-state acts of 'terrorism'. Medact's research and reports have consistently provided a principled and scientific counterweight to the delusional and unsafe thinking behind nuclear deterrence, and challenged the limited and narrow conceptualisation of national security in terms of military security.

As Medact has evolved, it has developed interests and expertise in other areas too. These include concerns about the threat of global warming and the prevailing structures and systems of economic injustice. Medact has worked to stop medical complicity in the practice of torture and advocates on behalf of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers whose rights to health are currently under attack. Such a broad scope of issues is deliberate and important – these issues are inter-connected, and share many common root causes.

Medact exists to harness the expertise, passion and principled integrity of health professionals to speak out and campaign on these non-clinical determinants of health – building on many historical examples of progressive health professionals who have driven forward social and political change. Health professionals have not only a professional mandate to do so; the high level of public trust and scientific credibility they enjoy gives them added responsibility to do so.

As part of its 'Relaunch', Medact is exploring how it can support and enable the wider health community to speak with a less atomised, better informed, and more empowered voice. This will involve growing Medact as an organisation, building networks and alliances with other organisations and initiatives, and developing simple and quick ways to enable busy individuals to campaign and lobby.

You can be part of this journey in various ways: by joining as a member; donating to Medact; participating in one of our various 'activity groups'; or supporting our campaigns, educational activities and research projects. You can also offer to sit on the Board of Medact, or one of its four councils, to help shape and steer Medact's development.

**I hope this Conference will inspire you to help develop Medact as an organisation – as a means of working towards a safer, fairer and better world.**



health professionals for a safer, fairer & better world

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Medact is an affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.  
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## Medact Conference

# Economics, Politics, Ecology, Violence ...

The Wider Role of Health Professionals in Global Health



**A one-day high-level conference examining urgent issues and solutions concerning major health and medical human rights flashpoints across the globe**

**Saturday 9 November 2013 from 09:30 to 17:00 (GMT)  
Queen Mary University London, EC1A 7BE London  
West Smithfield, Robin Brook Centre**



health professionals for a safer, fairer & better world

[www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org)

# Programme

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## 0930 – 1100: Session 1

**Welcome** – Dr June Crown

**The Global Health Crises: Poverty, Inequality, Global Warming and War** – Professor Sir Andy Haines

**The Global Health Crises: What's to be Done?** – Dr David McCoy

**Plenary discussion**

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## 1100 – 1130 Tea

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## 1130 – 1300: Session 2: Working Upstream, Confronting Power and Vested Interests

**Social Medicine and Health Activism: Building on a Fine Tradition** – Dr Richard Horton

**Facilitated Panel Discussion:** Mobilising health professionals, acting upstream and challenging vested interests and power.

**Panellists:**

John Hillary – War on Want and Progressive Development Forum

Tamasin Cave – Spinwatch

Professor Sir Iain Chalmers – James Lind Library

Patti Rundall – Baby Milk Action

John Lister – London Health Emergency

Allyson Pollock – Queen Mary University London

Cameron Stocks – President of Medsin

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## 1300 – 1400: Lunch

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## 1400 – 1545: Parallel Sessions (see opposite for details)

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## 1545 – 1615: Tea

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## 1615 – 1700: Plenary session

Brief feedback from each of four parallel sessions

**Closing speech: Dr Jacky Davis – NHS Consultants Association**

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## Parallel Sessions

### Torture, Detention and Human Rights Abuses

The interface between the health system and the abuse of prisoners and detainees is a space where health professionals can act directly to promote social justice. UK detention centres, Guantanamo Bay, clinical collusion in torture and the potential to work with human rights lawyers will be explored.

**Chair: Jim Welsh, Amnesty International**

*Speakers*

- Cornelius Katona, Clinical Director, Helen Bamber Foundation
- Maya Foa, Reprieve
- Jim Welsh, Amnesty International
- Frank Arnold, Medact

### The Enduring Threat of Nuclear Weapons

This session will explore the enduring threat of nuclear weapons, as well as the broader impact of the military industrial complex on peace and development. The role of multi-national networks of health professionals in preventing war and conflict will be explored.

**Chair: Elizabeth Waterston, Medact**

*Speakers*

- Frank Boulton, Medact
- Peter Burt, Nuclear Information Service
- Patricia Lewis, Chatham House
- Xanthe Hall, IPPNW Germany
- Lynn Barnet, Medact

### Climate, Ecology and Health

This session will cover the new climate politics and discuss how climate change can be reframed as a public health issue. It will also explore the role of ecological social movements.

**Chairs: Dr Robin Stott and Dr Nikki Scott, Medact**

*Speakers*

- Charlie Kronick, Senior Policy Advisor, Greenpeace.
- Prof Jeremy Wight, Director of Public Health, Sheffield.
- Guppi Bola, Campaigner
- Isobel Braithwaite, Climate and Health Council

### Corporate Capture of Health

Corporate power is now a major threat to both democracy and science. This session will explore this phenomenon more widely, and explore the particular manifestations in relation to Big Pharma, Big Food and Big Sugar.

**Chairs: Dr Miran Epstein, QMUL & Dr Sunil Bhopal, Medact**

*Speakers*

- Dr Ben Goldacre, doctor and author
- Professor David Miller, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath
- Geof Rayner, Honorary Research Fellow, City University London

### Political Economy

Poverty and socio-economic inequality underlies many of the problems we face as citizens and health professionals – locally and globally. This session will cover 'economic governance for health' and alternatives to the prevailing neoliberal orthodoxy.

**Chair: Gay Lee, Medact**

*Speakers*

- David Woodward, Peoples Health Movement
- John Hillary, War on Want
- Celine Tan, Warwick University