

Psychology, Health and Medicine 2009

The 6th Annual Conference of the Division of Health Psychology '*Psychology, Health and Medicine 2009*' a joint venture between the PSI DHP and the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Psychology Society's Division of Health Psychology, took place on June 18th at Trinity College Dublin. The first of three keynote presentations was delivered by Professor Mark Conner, Director of Research at the Institute of Psychological Sciences, University of Leeds. Professor Conner's address titled '*Cognitive and affective influences on health behaviours*' considered the role of affective attitudes over and above cognitive factors in predicting health behaviours within the context of traditional social cognition models. In the second keynote presentation, Professor Sheila Greene (pictured below), co-founder and Director of the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin and AIB Chair of Childhood Research, explored the value of epidemiological and survey research on children's physical and mental health in her presentation titled '*Surveys of the health and well-being of children in Ireland: What do they say to psychologists*'.

The final keynote speaker, Professor Ad Kaptein, University of Leiden, considered the contribution of health psychology to patient care for people with respiratory disorders in his presentation titled '*Respiratory disorders and health psychology: road to ruin or highway to heaven?*' The keynote presentations were interspersed with a variety of highly engaging and informative oral and poster presentations delivered by conference delegates.



The oral symposia covered topics such as self-regulation among patients with chronic illness, obesity, health behaviours, interventions, chronic illness and life-span issues in health and illness. The poster presentations similarly covered a wide range of topics, including health services research, mental health, health behaviours, and chronic illness. A research in progress session facilitated early presentation of ongoing research in health and illness. The inaugural prize for best poster was awarded to Madeleine O'Higgins for her research on "*Infant massage as an intervention for postnatal depression*".

The new Division of Health Psychology Committee was elected at the Division AGM which was held on the day of the conference. Sincere thanks were extended to those who served on the 2008-2009 Committee and in particular, to outgoing committee member Andrea Gibbons. The 2009-2010 committee is as follows: Sinead Ni Mhurchadha (Chair), Philippa Coughlan (Secretary), Patricia White (Membership Secretary), Deirdre Desmond (Treasurer), David Hevey, Karen Keogh, Suzanne Allen, Molly Byrne, Anne Hickey, Laura Coffey and Marie Percival (affiliate representatives).

The Division would like to extend thanks to all those who attended the conference, the keynote speakers, session chairs, the scientific committee and conference committee. Sincere thanks also to the NI BPS, Shaun Adams from PSI HQ and the School of Psychology at Trinity College Dublin. The conference committee for the *Psychology, Health and Medicine 2009* were: Suzanne Allen, Molly Byrne, Tony Cassidy, Deirdre Desmond, Melanie Giles, David Hevey (Chair), Anne Hickey, Noleen McCorry, and Sinead Ni Mhurchadha. The 7th Annual

Psychology, Health and Medicine Conference will be held on Wednesday March 30th 2010 and will be hosted by the Department of Psychology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (Dublin). The BPS Division of Health Psychology will hold its Annual Conference in Belfast in September 2010.

Pictured are (l-r):

Prof. Mark Conner, Dr David Hevey, Prof. Ad Kaptein

