



**Irish Social Policy Association**

**Irish Social Policy Association Bi-Annual Conference:**

## **Who Pays? Access and Equity in the Irish Healthcare System**

### **Draft Conference Programme**

**Date: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Venue: Joly Theatre, Hamilton Building, Trinity College, Dublin**

#### **Purpose and theme of conference**

Access to Irish health services has become a growing concern for policy makers as well as service-users and healthcare professionals. The Irish Social Policy's Association's 2008 conference aims to address the issue of access and equity in the Irish healthcare system. The purpose of the conference is to explore the structural, cultural and financial barriers to healthcare in Ireland from a social policy perspective and to identify methods of improving access from research and best practice elsewhere. The conference will bring together some of the best Irish and international experts on healthcare, including Prof Richard Wilkinson, Prof Dale Tussing, Prof Charles Normand, to discuss equity in and access to Irish healthcare services.

The keynote speaker, Richard Wilkinson, is Professor of Social Epidemiology at the University of Nottingham in the UK. He is a leading researcher in social inequalities in health and the social determinants of health in the UK. His most recent book, *The Impact of Inequality: How to Make Sick Societies Healthier*, explores the connection between society and health inequality.

Dale Tussing, Prof of Economics at Syracuse University, has written extensively on Irish health care for 25 years. His most recent book, *How Ireland Cares: The Case for Health Care Reform*, co-written with Maev-Ann Wren, analyses the many problems afflicting Irish health care.

Charles Normand is Edward Kennedy Professor of Health Policy and Management at the University of Dublin, Trinity College. He has published widely on health economics, and, together with Stephen Thomas and Samantha Smith, wrote the report *Social Health Insurance: Further Options for Ireland* for The Adelaide Hospital Society. Prof Normand's paper outlines the benefits of a universal social health insurance system, which would ensure equal access to medical care for every citizen based upon medical need, rather than financial means.

Other speakers include Dr Austin O'Carroll, a Dublin-based GP, who will discuss the issue of access to primary care in Ireland; Dr Vivienne Byers, Lecturer in Health Policy and Management, DIT, who will speak about Participation and Planning in Healthcare. The conference will close with a discussion and question and answer session with all of the conference speakers, chaired by Dr Ruth Barrington, Chief Executive Officer of the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre (DMMC), and author of *Health, Medicine and Politics in Ireland 1900-1970*.



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### Programme

#### Morning Session: Paying for Care

Session Chair: TBC

08.45 – 09.30 Registration

09.15 – 09.30 *Welcome*  
Tony McCashin, Chairperson, ISPA

09.30 – 10.30 *Health Inequalities: Breaking Down the Barriers*  
Prof Richard Wilkinson, Professor of Social Epidemiology, Division of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Nottingham Medical School

10.30 – 10.45 Q&A

#### 10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.00 *Financing the Healthcare system*  
Prof. Charles Normand, Edward Kennedy Professor of Health Policy and Management at the University of Dublin, Trinity College

12.00 – 12.45 *Paying for Health Care Reform: An Alternative View*  
Prof Dale Tussing, Prof of Economics, Syracuse University

12.45 – 13.15 Q&A

#### 13.15 – 14.30 Lunch

#### Afternoon Session: Planning and Developing the Healthcare System

Session Chair: Dr Ruth Barrington, Chief Executive Officer, Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre

14.30 – 15.15 *Access to Primary Care*  
Dr Austin O'Carroll, GP, Dublin

15.15 – 16.00 *Participation and Planning in Healthcare*  
Dr Vivienne Byers, Lecturer in Health Policy and Management, DIT

16.00 – 16.30 *Summary of proceedings, Q&A*



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Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2008

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### Registration Form

(please complete a separate form for each attendee and fill in all sections)

<b>Title</b> (please circle)	Mr / Miss / Mrs / Ms / Dr / Prof / Other (please specify)
<b>First name</b>	
<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Telephone number</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	

### Registration fee (please tick relevant box)

ISPA Non-members*	€95	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISPA Current Members	€75	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unwaged	€30	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Payment method** (please circle)    cheque / bank draft

The fee includes tea/coffee on arrival, morning tea/coffee and a hot lunch.

Closing date for receipt of registration forms is **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2008.**

**As places are limited, early booking is advisable.**

\* Price includes membership of ISPA until December, 2008.

**Conference fees can be paid either by cheque, bank draft or postal order.**

Cheques, bank drafts and postal orders should be issued in Euro, drawn on a bank in the Republic of Ireland and made payable to Irish Social Policy Association.

**Please send completed registration forms and payment to:-**

Eithne Fitzgerald,  
ISPA Treasurer,  
c/o NDA,  
25 Clyde Road,  
Dublin 4

As ISPA is a voluntary organisation, we regret that **it will not be possible to contact the Association by phone**. You can contact the Association about the conference by email at [conference@ispa.ie](mailto:conference@ispa.ie).

**Cancellations**

Cancellations must be notified in writing. We regret that refunds cannot be made if cancellations are received after Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2008. Substitutions can be made at any time but please notify Ciara O'Dwyer at [conference@ispa.ie](mailto:conference@ispa.ie) as soon as possible.