

**Analysis of social determinants of health and health inequities**  
**- a multi country event on approaches and policy**  
12-17 October 2009, Kosice, Slovakia

**Abstracts of key-note lectures**

**Prof. M. EXWORTHY**

**Why policy matters: translating evidence into policy**

Despite increasing volume of evidence about interventions to address the social determinants of health (SDH), there remains little evidence about how to design and implement these policies. SDH presents specific and unusual challenges to policy-makers. This presentation argues that the policy process is a complex activity that is poorly understood, not least by policy-makers and public health practitioners. So, it will introduce key concepts and ideas about policies to address SDH. It will cover: (i) policy learning and drawing lessons, (ii) explanations of the policy process, (iii) understanding equity, and (iv) SDH challenges for health policy including trade-offs. It will then draw conclusions about getting evidence into policy.