

Analysis of social determinants of health and health inequities - a multicountry event on approaches and policy

October 12-17, 2009 Kosice, Slovak Republic



Monday 12th October 2009, 09:30 – 10:00

Košice, Šrobárova 2, Historical Hall at University Main Building

Prof. Sir Michael G. Marmot

Action on Social Determinants of Health

The WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) was tasked with collecting and synthesizing global evidence on the social determinants of health and their impact on health inequity and to make recommendations for action to address that inequity. The CSDH argued that for reasons of social justice, action to achieve health equity is imperative. Health inequity between and within countries are related to levels of social disadvantage and inequality; they are not inevitable. The CSDH outlined how government policies, governance and social and economic forces shape health, even in more developed countries. Tackling health inequities requires action across social, political and economic domains. The evidence to support this approach was documented in the CSDH Report. With few exceptions the evidence shows that the lower an individual's socioeconomic position the worse their health. Attempts to reduce health inequity must therefore be predicated on addressing gradients in the wider social and economic determinants, such as levels of education, economic status, work and power relations. A number of countries and regions are developing whole of government strategies to improve health and reduce health inequities. Reducing health inequalities has been a focus of government policy in the UK for a number of years. Following the report of the CSDH, the Department of Health for England and Wales commissioned the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities Post 2010 (Marmot Review), chaired by Michael Marmot, to report back its findings and advise on strategies in early 2009. In order to monitor and assess performance improvement in achieving health equity through the social determinants, the Marmot Review has been working to identify a framework for establishing potential targets and indicators of outcome, output and process to underpin the areas of action that have emerged from the Review, underpinned by the CSDH conceptual framework. Based on this conceptual approach, the Marmot Review has examined the types of indicators that might be appropriate for monitoring process, outputs and outcomes in reducing the gradient.

Watch online on <http://www.lf.upjs.sk/omek/lectures.html>

Professor Sir Michael G. Marmot (1945) MBBS, MPH, PhD, FRCP, FFPHM, FMedSci, FBA has led a research group on health inequalities for the past 30 years. He is Principal Investigator of the Whitehall Studies of British civil servants, investigating explanations for the striking inverse social gradient in morbidity and mortality. He leads the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) and is engaged in several international research efforts on the social determinants of health. He chairs the Department of Health Scientific Reference Group on tackling health inequalities. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution for six years and is an honorary fellow of the British Academy. In 2000 he was knighted by Her Majesty The Queen for services to Epidemiology and understanding health inequalities. Internationally acclaimed, Professor Marmot is a Vice President of the Academia Europaea, a Foreign Associate Member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), and was Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health set up by the World Health Organization in 2005. He won the Balzan Prize for Epidemiology in 2004, gave the Harveian Oration in 2006 and won the William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research in 2008. He is currently conducting a review of health inequalities at the request of the British Government.



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