

**Friday 16th October 2009, 10:30 – 12:00**

**Košice, Šrobárova 2, Historical Hall at University Main Building**

**Prof. Niko Speybroeck**

**Measuring and understanding  
socioeconomic inequality in health**

Over the past decades, health conditions have improved in different parts of the world, but inequities in health conditions still exist among countries and within countries. Policies aiming at reducing inequities need to be based on a sound assessment of the nature, magnitude and determinants of the problem. This lecture provides a selection of available health indicators, how to use these with care, and how to investigate the determinants of inequities. This will indicate how information could help shape appropriate policy responses to reduce health inequities. Indeed, the decomposition results that will be illustrated in this course allow policy makers to move from tackling average health problems (the “level approach”) to tackling inequities of health (the “gap approach”). The following sections will be dealt with:

- (i) A selection of indicators which are available for measuring inequities of health;
- (ii) The usefulness and dangers of such indicators in measuring and comparing health inequity patterns in health outcomes across and within countries;
- (iii) An introduction to an advanced approach to analyzing the determinants of inequities of health, which may be used to persuade policy makers;
- (iv) Data needs for conducting health inequities research;

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

*Prof. Niko Speybroeck (1967) works at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp, Belgium), holds a position at the Faculty of Medicine, Université Catholique de Louvain (Brussels, Belgium) and at the University of Antwerp (Belgium). He teaches courses of epidemiology and statistics. Professor Speybroeck holds a Masters of Science in Bio-engineering (Ghent University, Belgium), a Masters of Science in Biostatistics (Hasselt University, Belgium) and a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences (Ghent University, Belgium). He stayed, as a Marie Curie Fellow, at the Environmental Research Centre (UFZ) in Leipzig, Germany. His work is described in more than 60 scientific papers with an Impact Factor and in 2004, he obtained the Merit Award from the Netherlands Society for Parasitology. Between 2004 and 2006, N. Speybroeck worked at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, where he contributed to building up country-level capacities to collecting and analysing data relevant to public health and to use these data to design and implement effective health policies.*



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