

- 3 Bartko JJ. The intraclass correlation coefficient as a measure of reliability. *Psychol Rep* 1966;19: 3-11.
- 4 Prieto L, Lamarca R, Casado A. La evaluación de la fiabilidad en las observaciones clínicas: el Coeficiente de Correlación Intraclass. *Med Clin (Barc)*. In press.

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## NOTICES

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### European Journal of Public Health— volume 7 (2) June 1997

#### Editorial

Balancing state and market in health system reform *R B Saltman*

#### Editorial note

*J Palm, P-G Svensson*

#### Original articles

Use of provocative emotional appeals in a mass media campaign designed to prevent smoking among adolescents. *A Hafstad, B Stray-Pedersen, F Langmark*

Managing the gap between demand and publicly affordable health care in an ethical way. *J A Övretveit*

Measuring performance in hospital care: length of stay in gynaecology. *A H Leyland, FA Boddy*

Adolescent motherhood and socioeconomic factors: an ecologic approach. *M Nebot, C Borrell, J R Villalbi*

Impaired cognitive function in elderly men exposed to benzodiazepines or other anxiolytics. *J Ranstam, J Merlo, G Blennow, B S Hanson, P-O Östergren, A Melander*

Cost-effectiveness of vaccination against pneumococcal pneumonia in the Netherlands. *R M P M Baltussen, A J H A Ament, R M Leidl, R van Furth*

Sick-leave and disability pensions among female assembly workers. *B Pålsson, V Horstmann, R G Attewells, K Ohlsson, S Skerfving*

#### Cancer

Trends in cancer mortality in central European countries: the effect of age, birth cohort and time-period. *T V Evstifeeva, G J Macfarlane, C Robertson*

Socioeconomic group, occupation and incidence of breast cancer and genital cancer among women in Denmark. *B A Rix, T Skov, E Lynge*

Compliance after 17 years of breast cancer screening: factors associated with reattendance for periodic breast screening. *W Scaf-Klomp, F L P van Sonderen, J W A van den Heuvel*

#### AIDS/HIV

Experience with and attitudes towards HIV patients among Italian general practitioners. *A C Bosio, M Cesa-Bianchi*

Public reactions to AIDS in Sweden: less anxiety, less risk taking. *C Herlitz, A Strandell*

Intravenous drug users and AIDS: knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in Calabria, Italy. *M Pavia, A Indovino, C G A Nobile, I F Angelillo*

#### Methods

Severity measurement using a generic instrument: a feasibility study in ambulatory care involving patients with diabetes or asthma. *M Eccles, N Steen, A Hutchinson, C Bradshaw, E McColl*

The development of patient groupings for more effective management of health care. *H F Sanderson, L M Mountney*

The development of patient groupings for more effective management of health care: a comment. *J Hofdijk*

Assuming independence of risk factor prevalences in simulation models like PREVENT: when are the outcomes seriously biased? *P J van de Mheen, L J Gunning-Schepers*

#### Commentaries

Socioeconomic health differences: a commentary. *W W Holland*

Socioeconomic health differences: a reply. *L J Gunning-Schepers, A Gephens*

Perinatal and infant mortality: a worldwide issue: a commentary. *C Akukwe*

#### Obituaries

#### Book Reviews

#### Calendar of Events

#### EUPHA pages

#### Information for Authors

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### 6th International Symposium on Epidemiology and Occupational Risks, 22-24 April 1998, Graz, Austria.

International conference on the role and importance of epidemiological studies in the prevention of and compensation for occupational accidents and diseases. Further information: Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt, Office for International Relations and Conferences, Adalbert-Stifter-Strasse 65, A-1200 Vienna. Tel: +43 1 33 111 537.

Fax: +43 1 33 111 469.

email: presse@auva.or.at.

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## CORRIGENDUM

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Weich S *et al.* Strategies for the prevention of psychiatric disorder in primary care in south London (*J Epidemiol Community Health* 1997;51:304-09). There is an error in the legend for figure 1 of this article. The legend for the upper line indicated by squares should read "Reduction of ICSA-11 score to 0 for all attenders", and that for the lower line should read "1 point reduction in ICSA-11".

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Joint Approaches for a Better Old Age: Developing Services Through Joint Commissioning.** Richard Poxton (Pp 56; £9.95). London: King's Fund, 1996. ISBN 1-85717-114-4.

Responding to the needs of older people probably remains the biggest challenge facing health and social care, to quote the author himself. This report examines the process of joint commissioning of services by health and local authorities in five contrasting local areas. Much of the work of the project has been recorded in a series of previous King's

Fund papers; the present report draws out the key lessons.

Monitoring the process of service development is a slippery task, especially when a multiplicity of agencies is involved. As the report acknowledges, significant changes will take time, often longer than an individual researcher is able to follow them. So here we have an account of work in process, rather than neatly defined historical episodes.

Poxton presents grounds for modest optimism. Achievements differ in the various localities, but rigorous evaluation of planning initiatives is seldom easy, and short term perspectives may be misleading. The qualities of vision and passion, here identified as essential, are particularly difficult to pin down.

One complication to the success of joint commissioning which the report neglects relatively is that of the different occupational settings of the participants. GPs often point out that social services departments have high staff turnover; their own positions are relatively stable, while allowing them considerable scope in deciding the margins of their job. In a primary care led NHS, their contribution to processes like joint commissioning will be increasingly influential.

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**Epidemiology in Old Age.** S Ebrahim and A Kalache (eds). (Pp 436; £59.95) London: BMJ Publishing Group, 1996. ISBN 0-7279-0948-7.

Populations are ageing in almost every country, and this book begins to fill a large void in the literature of health in the elderly. There are 45 chapters with an impressive list of contributors. Two thirds are from the UK and the rest from eight different countries. Many are established authorities on their chosen subject. As Margot Jefferys says in her editorial preface, this should become a standard reference book.

Chapter subjects range well beyond consideration of individual diseases, to encompass, for example, health economics, community care, migration and ethnicity, and iatrogenesis. Its scope aims (and generally succeeds) in being truly international. The editors have succeeded in keeping contributors to a uniform chapter length of about nine pages. They have been less successful in achieving a universal standard of up to date-ness. However, given the explosion of knowledge in the past decade, and the ease with which it can be retrieved, this is a serious point. There are dangers ahead too—volumes like this age quickly in matters of detail.

Nevertheless, *Epidemiology in Old Age* is a splendid achievement. The price is too steep for individuals, but medical libraries will find it of great value. It is extremely well produced with a vivid purple cover. Specialists will find their particular concerns examined in more detail elsewhere, but for those who want to venture into new aspects of geriatric epidemiology, their search begins here.

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