

Welcome to the June 2013 edition of UKIEG News. This newsletter is brought to you by the UKIEG committee to enhance communication between our growing number of members.

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member

Still buzzing from the energy of our recent Annual Conference held in London, supported by the Department of Health and by Public Health England, we hope this newsletter will pass on some of that enthusiasm to all our members!

The 2013 UKIEG Conference proved to be an excellent opportunity for delegates to debate key topics associated with the indoor environments as well as future directions of the UKIEG. The Conference was also an occasion to celebrate UKIEG's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary! This is a testament to the importance of the topics we address, and to the commitment of our members – especially those who have supported the UKIEG for a long time, including UKIEG's co-founder and first Chair, Paul Harrison, who was fittingly present at this year's Conference.

The Committee is happy to report that we now have around 250 registered members from a wide variety of backgrounds and affiliations, including built environment, epidemiology, public health, policy, industry and many others. In order to facilitate cooperation and debate amongst both our newest and long-standing members, we have created a [LinkedIn Group](#) where members can initiate or join discussions. Our [website](#) is also going to be updated and revitalised very soon. In addition, we are strengthening our links with other relevant organisations via our UKIEG Ambassadors, whose contribution is invaluable. We also plan to broaden our perspective on indoor environments matters, by including international research topics in future Conferences and building connections with international organisations.

We are very keen to hear from our members with suggestions about UKIEG's activities and our national/international profile and please feel free to email me at [m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk).

**Marcella Ucci, Chairman UKIEG**

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2013: UKIEG CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

Our conference this year marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of UKIEG, with the first scientific meeting being held in Leicester back in 2003. Paul Harrison was there then as the first Chair of UKIEG as was our secretary Isabella Myers who gave the keynote presentation: it was fitting that both should also be present at this year's conference.

This was another very successful meeting with 10 speakers, 9 posters and around 40 delegates in attendance. We enjoyed an excellent Keynote presentation from Paul Wilkinson, Professor in Environmental Epidemiology at LSHTM, who spoke on 'Health Refurbishment' - including the health impact of 'decarbonising' the UK's built environment, with some remarks based on his personal experiences in attempting to achieve good air quality in an extension/refurbishment of his own home. The other talks were all topical and interesting, covering a diverse range of topics. These formal 20-minute papers were supplemented by a stimulating 'quick-fire' poster session in which authors had a strict two minutes to describe their poster.

The AGM was also very well attended and provoked good feedback from delegates when asked for thoughts and ideas for future conference topics and venues which the committee will consider further. Suggested topics included:

- IAQ monitoring and bio-monitoring; measurement strategies and methods; modelling techniques
- Health impact of building fabrics
- Daylighting: newbuild vs. retrofit
- IAQ in retrofit housing
- How to deal with the conflict of air tightness vs. ventilation
- MVHR vs DCV: pros and cons.
- IAQ and future climate change scenarios
- IAQ success stories

The final discussion session of the meeting was a lively affair with many contributions from the audience, including much debate revolving around the tricky play-off between energy conservation (zero carbon policy) and the achievement of good indoor air quality in buildings.

It became clear that there is often a mismatch between policy objectives and intentions and actual outcomes, due variously to frequent misapplication, misunderstanding and/or mismanagement. The impact of such failures on public health could be considerable but is presently largely unknown. The need for post-occupancy evaluation was stressed, with a focus on whether alleged 'improvements' actually work. One very practical suggestion made was the creation of a UKIEG database of monitoring methods, and this is something the Committee will follow up, possibly via the UKIEG LinkedIn Group.

## UKIEG AMBASSADORS

We'd like to extend a big 'thank you' to our UKIEG Ambassadors. These are members who have connections with groups or organisations that have a more focussed interest in a particular area covered by the UKIEG. If you would like to become a UKIEG ambassador, please don't hesitate to contact Marcella Ucci – [m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk)

Our current ambassadors are:

Lynne Sullivan – Ambassador for RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects)

Jac Fox – Ambassador for CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers)

Frank Mills – Ambassador for CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers) and ASHRAE (American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning) Group

Chuck Yu – Ambassador for international events

Margaret Edwards - Ambassador for Housing LIN (Housing Learning and Improvement Network)

Derek Clements-Croome – Ambassador for BCO (British Council for Offices)

Roger Southcott – Ambassador for GHA (Good Homes Alliance)

## LINKEDIN GROUP AND WEBSITE

If you have a LinkedIn account, you can join our new [UKIEG LinkedIn Group](#)! This is an excellent means of initiating discussions on topics of mutual interest with fellow members. Also, our website is getting a face lift: watch this space! [www.ukieg.org](http://www.ukieg.org).

If you have any suggestions or ideas for the website, please email: [m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.ucci@ucl.ac.uk)

## CONSULTATIONS, NEWS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### 1) Consultation on a Bill to prohibit, in Scotland, smoking in private vehicles while a child under 16 years of age is present

The consultation period for this document closes on the **30<sup>th</sup> August 2013**.

You may want to add your voice to the consultation process and to spread the word to others who may have an interest in contributing to the debate about reducing children's exposure to SHS. The consultation is open to the end of August and there is no reason why those outside Scotland can't add their comments.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/63843.aspx>

### 2) Launch of NIHR SPHR's Public Health Practice Evaluation Scheme (PHPES)

Deadline for applications for this first round: **midday, Monday 29th July**

NIHR SPHR's Public Health Practice Evaluation Scheme (PHPES - pronounced Fez!) enables people working in public health who are introducing innovative initiatives aimed at improving health, to work in partnership with SPHR to conduct rigorous evaluations of their cost-effectiveness. Eligible projects / initiatives should aim to improve population health and / or reduce health inequalities and have the potential to be of benefit in other parts of England. They should have secure funding for the duration of the evaluation, which would normally be no more than 2 years. Full details can be found at <http://sphr.nihr.ac.uk/in-partnership-with-practice/phpes/>

### 3) Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Scientific Impact Paper;

This new Report, 'Chemical exposures during pregnancy: Dealing with Potential, but Unproven, Risks to Child Health', raises awareness of the current issues surrounding chemical exposure during pregnancy and offers advice for women to make informed decisions that will predispose their baby to have the best possible health. The authors explain that under normal lifestyle and dietary conditions, pregnant women are exposed to a complex mixture of hundreds of chemicals at low levels through many avenues, including consumption of food, use of household products,

over-the-counter medicines, as well as personal care products (PCPs) and cosmetics. Recommendations made in the paper include: using fresh food whenever possible by reducing foods in cans/plastic containers, minimising the use of PCPs, avoiding paint fumes and use of all pesticides, and only taking over-the-counter medicines when necessary.

<http://www.rcog.org.uk/womens-health/clinical-guidance/chemical-exposures-during-pregnancy-scientific-impact-paper-37>

**THE UKIEG COMMITTEE NOTED THE CONSIDERABLE MEDIA INTEREST IN THIS REPORT AND REPORTED CRITICISMS FROM SOME SECTORS. INTERESTED MEMBERS MAY CARE TO POST COMMENTS ON OUR NEW LINKEDIN GROUP WHICH OFFERS AN EXCELLENT PLATFORM FOR SUCH DEBATES. MEMBER TO MEMBER**

This is the area in the newsletter where we publish information from members directed at other members – we will circulate these messages as emails should a newsletter not be pending.

## **JOBS**

### **Research Fellow: Ageing and Mobility in the Built Environment**

Mobility, Mood and Place: a user-centred approach to design of built environments to make mobility easy, enjoyable and meaningful for older people, is an innovative, multidisciplinary, UK Research Council funded project, led by ESALA and OPENspace research centre, University of Edinburgh. We are seeking to appoint an experienced postdoctoral Researcher who will also act as Study Manager to take a leading role in the detailed planning and co-ordination of this project and undertake the work to ensure completion of the projects Work Package 1 (WP1), on co-created environments. Deadline 26 June 2013.

[https://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq\\_jobspec\\_version\\_4.jobspec?p\\_id=014287](https://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.jobspec?p_id=014287)

## **CONFERENCES OF INTEREST TO UKIEG MEMBERS**

25th June 2013. 09:15 - 17:00

Climate Change & Overheating: Opportunities and risks for designers and the supply chain  
Building Centre, Store Street, London W1  
Free to GHA members.

<http://www.goodhomes.org.uk/events/138>

3rd July 2013

Environmental Product Declarations:  
Unlocking the Potential (ASBP event)  
University College London, London WC1

**Free event**

<http://www.greenregister.org.uk/events.php>

3rd July 2013

Nearer to Zero: Conference

King Power Stadium, Leicester LE2

<http://www.nearertozero.co.uk/upcoming-conferences/nearer-to-zero-east-midlands/>

4th July 2013. 13:30 - 17:30

Healthy Homes: Preventing Overheating  
(Regional Event)  
Create Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1  
<http://www.greenregister.org.uk/events.php>

19-23th August 2013  
Environment and Health – Bridging South, North, East and West.  
Conference of ISEE, ISES and ISIAQ  
Basel, Switzerland  
<http://www.ehbasel13.org/>

## **UKIEG MEMBERSHIP**

As we have mentioned in the past, UKIEG members make up a broad church of academics, policy makers and practitioners involved in work that relates to the effects of indoor environments on human health. We are always keen to have new members with new ideas, so if you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of the UKIEG, please do direct them to the UKIEG website: [www.ukieg.org](http://www.ukieg.org) where potential members can find out more about the group's aims, past meetings and current work. Membership to UKIEG is free.