

PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19 AND RISK - ONLINE SUMMIT

10 November 2020, London

A summit reviewing how reducing one risk to control COVID-19 will cause risk elsewhere. Hosted by The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM), The Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FOM) and the University of Glasgow, the summit will bring together global experts.

To help us to find our way through these different perspectives, Lord Blunkett, Patron of the SOM, will introduce academic, public health and scientific leaders, asking questions such as:

- Does unemployment create a bigger societal risk to health than COVID-19?
- Are scientific approaches to individual and societal risk to COVID-19 challengeable?
- What long-term approach to risk should medical leaders take to the public?
- Do people understand risk and what level of risk can we afford?

Speakers include Dr Oliver Morgan from the World Health Organization and Sir David Spiegelhalter OBE.

A key risk is interruption to NHS routine care. This poses a risk to the health of the nation, and prevents people staying in work. The outcome of this is yet to be seen.

There is also risk from unemployment. Studies have shown a clear link between unemployment and shortened life expectancy¹, significantly elevated risk of suicide² and non-fatal self-harm³. Of the 33 million UK citizens who were working before the COVID-19 outbreak, 9.4 million have been furloughed, and 2.6 million self-employed are claiming financial support. Almost 700,000 jobs have disappeared in the UK, and many are facing long-term unemployment and financial difficulties⁴.

Of course there is the risk from COVID-19 itself. The summit includes a presentation from Dr Tony Williams and Professor David Coggon OBE, who developed the “COVID-age” concept which is an evidence-based way of explaining personal risk. A new QCOVID risk tool from the University of Oxford will also be highlighted by Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot will highlight long-term risks related to inequalities that COVID-19 is creating, including higher death rates for particular ages, occupational groups and areas; with risks associated with unemployment, COVID risk and access to healthcare.

Notes for editors:

Press are welcome to attend the summit – which is live online on 10 November 2-5pm. Speakers:

2pm *Welcome* Lord Blunkett, SOM Patron

Introductory overview - Professor Ewan Macdonald OBE, University of Glasgow - Why is this important?

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4677456/>;
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1733024/>;
<https://academic.oup.com/jpubhealth/article/35/2/313/1544364>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26359902/>

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26655123/>

⁴ <https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3600>

2.15pm Dr Oliver Morgan, Director, WHO Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment *Balancing risk in Health, Economy and Society*
2.30pm Professor Sir Michael Marmot *Inequalities in COVID*
2.45pm Dr Richard Heron, BP *Perspectives from industry*
3pm Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox *The QCOVID clinical risk stratification tool, its development and potential value*
3.15pm Professor David Coggon OBE and Dr Tony Williams *COVID Age - Workplace risk*
3.30pm Professor Trish Greenhalgh OBE *The risks and lived experience of long COVID*
3.45pm Professor Maggie Rae, FPH President *Public Health perspectives*
4pm Sir David Spiegelhalter OBE FRS *Communicating risks*
4.15pm Professor David Heymann CBE *Living with the COVID-19 pandemic: using the tools we have*
4.30pm Lord Blunkett - panel discussion: *Risk and Society*
Discussion with President of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Dr Anne de Bono, and Professor Anne Harriss, President of the SOM
5pm close

About The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) - a multi-disciplinary professional society whose membership includes over 1,700 occupational health doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and technicians. SOM Patrons are Lord Blunkett, Dame Carol Black, and Sir Norman Lamb. SOM is calling for universal access to occupational health. www.som.org.uk

About the Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FOM) - a faculty of the Royal College of Physicians of London, which is the professional and educational body for occupational medicine in the UK and seeks to ensure the highest standards in the practice of occupational medicine. The FOM is a charity committed to improving health at work. www.fom.ac.uk

About the University of Glasgow - established in 1451. Ranked 77th in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2021. 81% of its research judged to be internationally excellent (REF 2014). Seven Nobel laureates connected to the University. www.gla.ac.uk

Contact: Ann Caluori, Communications and Events Manager - ann.caluori@som.org.uk
Tel 0203 910 4535