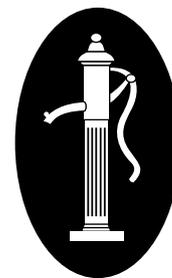




# Broad Sheet

The newsletter of the John Snow Society



SUMMER 2003

## The John Snow Society Constitution

The full John Snow Society Constitution is available for all to view on our web pages at [www.riph.org.uk](http://www.riph.org.uk)

*There are several points which we would like to bring to your attention:*

- Members with “current” membership status are defined as those who have paid any current fee or subscription levied, and whose membership card and mug remain intact.
- A John Snow Society meeting can be declared wherever and whenever at least two card-carrying members of the Society are present. A photographic record of meetings and events may be sent to the Secretary at the RIPH for inclusion in the Society’s archives.
- In commemorating John Snow’s work, the John Snow Society has a serious intent. But, the Society also aims to provide a network for epidemiologists and others trained in the Snow tradition, who may otherwise pine in joyless institutions and forget that epidemiology and anaesthesia should also provide fun, an interest in new ideas and a memory of the rich history left by John Snow and those who followed him. It is the intention that this mixture of serious intent and informality be preserved.

## Pumphandle Lecture 2003

### Epidemics in the 21st Century - The Lessons of SARS

Monday 22nd September 2003, 5.15pm



Mike Ryan

Dr Mike Ryan will give the 11th annual John Snow Society Pumphandle lecture at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, UK on the 22nd September.

Dr Ryan is the World Health Organization’s coordinator for global alert and response and was heavily involved in the global effort to stop the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus earlier this year.

This highly topical lecture will consider how the outbreak of SARS was managed and its implications for the future.

The lecture will be followed by the customary visit to the John Snow public house on Broadwick Street, where the AGM will be held.

(See over for details of last years’ lecture)

### Previous Pumphandle Lecturers

- 2002 Dr David Salisbury
- 2001 Professor David Bradley
- 2000 Professor John Oxford
- 1999 Professor Chris Bartlett
- 1998 Professor Richard J. Evans
- 1997 Professor Hugh Pennington
- 1996 Professor Richard Feachem
- 1995 Dr Sandy Cairncross
- 1994 Dr Spence Galbraith
- 1993 Dr Nick Ward

### Dr John Snow named the “greatest doctor”

In March 2003, John Snow was voted the “greatest doctor” of all time in a survey by *Hospital Doctor* magazine.

We would like to thank those members who brought this poll to our attention and all who voted, ensuring that John Snow received this title that he so richly deserves.

In second place was Hippocrates (460-370 BC) and third place went to Dame Cicely Saunders, who founded the modern hospice movement!



### The John Snow Rose

Mr Douglas Gandy of Gandy’s Roses Ltd. has raised a rose with beautiful large exhibition-type flowers and named it after John Snow. The flowers are white with a delicate shade of cream and the rose has a lovely sweet scent.

The John Snow Rose is available to purchase for £5.30 (please note delivery will not be until the autumn).

**Gandy’s Roses Ltd. Tel: 01858 880398, Email: [sales@gandys-roses.co.uk](mailto:sales@gandys-roses.co.uk)**



## One thousand members!

In July this year, the John Snow Society reached 1000 members! The society was set up in the early 1990s to celebrate the life of John Snow and has attracted public health specialists (from students to experts) across the globe.

Our 1000th member is Professor Michael Alpers, who for many years was the Director of the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research and is now based at the Centre for International health, Curtin University, Perth, Australia. Professor Alpers is well known internationally for his research on kuru. When informed that he was the 1000th member he said, "I am honoured to be accepted as a member of the John Snow Society, and proud to be its 1000th member". Professor Alpers has written a short article for us about his research and how he became a member of the John Snow Society, which can be found on the Latest News section of the Society's webpages at [www.riph.org.uk](http://www.riph.org.uk).



# Pumphandle Lecture 2002

Managing vaccine adverse effects  
by Dr David Salisbury



On Monday 9th September 2002, Dr David Salisbury gave the 10th annual John Snow Society Pumphandle Lecture at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The lecture focused on the public's concern for vaccine safety; where the fears come from and how the Department of Health tackles these problems. Dr Salisbury stressed that in

times of vaccine safety scares, positive responses from authoritative bodies are the key and it is essential to tell the truth and give clear messages.

A full account of this lecture appeared in the Autumn 2002 issue of *Health & Hygiene* (Vol. 23(3)), and also on the John Snow Society web pages at [www.riph.org.uk](http://www.riph.org.uk)

## The making of an epidemiologist: John Snow before the Broad Street pump

Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith, Honorary Secretary to the John Snow Society, wrote an Editorial for *Communicable Disease and Public Health* in December 2002 entitled: "*The making of an epidemiologist: John Snow before the Broad Street pump*".

The article includes an assessment of how Snow's early training and clinical experience influenced his later work and lessons for what

makes a good epidemiologist. The full text version of this Editorial is available under the "Latest News" section on the John Snow Society pages of the Royal Institute's website ([www.riph.org.uk](http://www.riph.org.uk)). This work is reproduced with the kind permission of The Health Protection Agency, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre HPA.

(Communicable Disease and Public Health, December 2002; 5(4): 265-348)

## John Snow Society – Scandinavia: A movement for safer drinking water!



Toril Hofshagen of NORVAR receiving the 2003 Pump Handle Award from Christen Raestad, President of John Snow Society - Scandinavia

JSS-Scandinavia was established in Kristiansund, Norway in 1998. Closely linked to the annual Scandinavian or Norwegian Drinking Water Conferences, the Scandinavian branch of the JSS focuses on drinking water safety and risk communication in connection to drinking water quality.

Every year a Pump Handle Award is presented to a person who has contributed to the safety of drinking water. On May 20th this year the Pump Handle was awarded to Toril Hofshagen during the Norwegian Drinking Water conference in Tromsø, north of the Arctic Circle.

For more information on the activities of the JSS Scandinavia, visit our web pages under the John Snow Society "Latest News" section at [www.riph.org.uk](http://www.riph.org.uk).

## Interesting website!

[www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html)

Professor Ralph R. Frerichs, Chair of the department of epidemiology at the University of California at Los Angeles' School of Public Health, has set up the above website dedicated to Snow's life and the era in which he lived.

In addition to a brief biography of Snow, the site describes Snow's early life, medical education, and death. There are three portraits of Snow, maps and pictures of the houses he occupied in London, and even information on the John Snow pub in Soho, London!

Contact Details for the John Snow Society



Hannah Gregory  
The Royal Institute of Public Health  
28 Portland Place London W1B 1DE  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7291 8359  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7291 8383  
Email: [johnsnowsociety@riph.org.uk](mailto:johnsnowsociety@riph.org.uk)

[www.johnsnowsociety.org](http://www.johnsnowsociety.org)

The newsletter of the John Snow Society