GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES SEMINARS

Emerging issues of global public health importance:

Mental health and WHO

Mental disorders are among the most significant global burdens of disease today. However, public health initiatives to combat them and promote mental health are relatively recent. Dr David Wright, Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine at McMaster University, traces the history of such approaches over the last 200 years, from the origins of the public ‘Lunatic Asylum’ to today’s Global Mental Health initiatives.

He looks in particular at the role of Canadian psychiatrist Brock Chisholm, WHO’s first Director-General, in international actions to estimate and combat mental illness. His co-speaker is Dr Shekar Saxena, Director of WHO’s Mental Health Department in Geneva.

Co-organized with University College London and the Wellcome Trust, together with the The WHO Department of Knowledge Management and Sharing (KMS).

Contact: Hooman Momen, Coordinator WHO Press, Department of Knowledge Management and Sharing (KMS)
+41 22 791 1162 (momenh@who.int). Website: http://www.who.int/global_health_histories/en/