

Sir Patrick Geddes  
Commemorative Lecture 2008



RTPI

mediation of space - making of place

# The Biological Consequences of Living in Adverse Circumstances

*Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland*



Wednesday 4 June 2008  
The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

Sponsored by



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**4 June 2008**

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

22-26 George Street

Edinburgh EH2 2PQ

Tel: 0131 240 5000

Nearest station: Waverley

Registration 5.45

## The Biological Consequences of Living in Adverse Circumstances



*A portrait of Sir Patrick Geddes*

### Why you should attend this lecture

The improvement of health and tackling health inequalities are key Scottish Government objectives. There is increasing recognition of the need to integrate health considerations into development planning processes, programme and projects and to establish the necessary capacity and political and institutional commitment to achieve this goal. The plans, policies and initiatives of planners and related professions have important implications for the health, well-being and quality of life of people in Scotland. This was recognised by Sir Patrick Geddes in his early work on regeneration in the Edinburgh Old Town, and remains true today. Planners need to consider the impact of their work on the health and wellbeing of local communities; ensure that health objectives are central to the decision making process; and incorporate principles of equity, cooperation, community involvement and sustainability into the planning system. Dr Burns's lecture will address these crucial issues in the life and governance of Scotland.

### Speaker

**Dr Harry Burns** graduated in medicine from the University of Glasgow in 1974. Over the next 15 years he worked as a general surgeon and for the last six years of his surgical career was a consultant surgeon at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow. He entered health care management and was, for a time, Medical Director of the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow. Since 1993 he was Director of Public Health for Greater Glasgow Health Board which is responsible for organising health care and maintaining the health of one million people in the West of Scotland. In 1999 he was awarded a Visiting Professorship in Public Health Medicine, University of Glasgow and is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Business and Management in the University. He took up post as Chief Medical Officer for Scotland in September 2005. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is the Scottish Government's principal medical adviser; The CMO is also Head of the Scottish Medical Civil Service. The post has direct involvement in the development of health policy in Scotland, including prevention, health promotion, health protection and harm reduction. CMO also has lead responsibility for issues such as clinical effectiveness, quality assurance, accreditation and research, and covers the spectrum of health related issues ranging from public health policy to NHS operations.





# Lecture

- 5.45 Arrival and registration
- 6.00 **Welcome by Roger Kelly,  
Convener RTPI in Scotland**
- 6.05 **Introduction by Stewart Stevenson,  
Minister for Transport,  
Infrastructure and Climate Change**
- 6.15 **Lecture by Dr Harry Burns,  
Chief Medical Officer for Scotland,  
followed by questions**
- 7.15 **Vote of thanks by Cunison Rankin,  
Chairman, The Saltire Society**
- 7.25 Drinks reception

## This lecture has been organised by:

### The Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland

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