

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

Public Health Forum

The Public Health Forum of the Manchester Medical Society held a meeting on **Thursday, 22nd March 2007** in Theatre 4 of the Stopford Building, University of Manchester.

Dr C Birt, the President of the Public Health Forum, opened the meeting and introduced speaker and his topic for the evening as follows:-

Dr G Kowalczyk

(Regional Toxicologist, Health Protection Agency [North West])

“The future direction of contaminated land issues in the North West”

George Kowalczyk is the Regional Toxicologist for the Health Protection Agency's North West Region. In respect of Contaminated Land issues he supports the HPA's response to health concerns at a local level, working closely with HPA's Consultants in Communicable Disease Control (CCDCs), local Directors of Public Health at PCTs and Local Authority Environmental Health Officers.

Prior to moving to the NW in 2002, George was a Senior Toxicologist at the Department of Health and his work included developing the health basis for setting Soil Guidelines Values. He has also worked as a toxicologist for the Coal Mining Industry and the pharmaceutical industry and has also worked in Environmental Consultancy.

Dr Kowalczyk's lecture outlined the history of land contamination in the North West as well as highlighting several recent land contamination incidents that the Health Protection Agency, together with partner agencies, has been involved with recently in the North West. He also outlined many of the environmental, technical, economic and social challenges that are likely to evolve in the years to come.

A lively question and answer session ensued.

The President gave a vote of thanks to Dr Kowalczyk and this was echoed by applause from members and guests of the audience.

Informal drinks were held after the lecture in honour of Dr Kowalczyk.