Prof Paul Hunter, Professor of Health Protection, UEA

Has meeting the MDG goal on access to safe drinking water benefited public health?

Abstract

Claims from the UN that the MDG goal on access to safe drinking water had been met ahead of schedule led to relatively short-lived rejoicing before commentators started to question whether or not this was indeed the case. Most particularly questions have been raised about whether or not these improvements in supply have led to improvements in public health. During the course of this presentation we will discuss recent work across a number of domains to answer the following questions

1. What is the burden of disease in low income countries due to poor accesses to safe drinking water?
2. Is water quality or access more important for protecting public health?
3. Why may recent improvements in coverage and water quality not be delivering improved health?

Biography

Professor Hunter qualified in medicine and specialised in Medical Microbiology. He was appointed Professor of Health Protection in the Norwich Medical School in 2001 and has recently been appointed Professor Extraordinaire at Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa. His primary interests are in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of acute diarrhoeal disease and he is most known for his work on Cryptosporidiosis and on the epidemiology and control of food and water borne disease. He has led research projects in Africa, SE Asia and the Caribbean. Professor Hunter’s research has spanned laboratory, field and clinical research. Professor Hunter has been a member of various national and international expert advisory groups and is an advisor to the World Health Organization. He has written or edited 6 books, 31 chapters in books and over 210 articles in the peer-reviewed literature. According to Google Scholar he has been cited 8400 times and his h-index is 47. Over the past 10 years, he has been successful at winning grants totalling about £28million from a variety of sources.